

PROXY OBSERVER

SEÑALAMOS A LOS CULPABLES DE LA VIOLENCIA

Spot Report on Protest against Spanish “Gag Law” at Government Delegation (Madrid)

Prepared for:

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Reference: Protest against new “gag law” (ley mordaza)

INTRODUCTION

This is a brief “Spot Report” on a protest which took place at the main government delegation building in Madrid where Cristina Cifuentes is based.

THE ORGANISERS:

The protest was organised by two social groups known as @Nosomosdelito and @Coordinadora25S and was scheduled for the 27th November 2014.

The protest was legal and well within the Spanish Constitution which allows citizens to gather in peaceful protest, without notifying the authorities.

THE EVENT:

The objective of the protest was to gather in front of the government delegation and call for the government’s gag law to be dropped.

Protestors wore “blue gags” over their mouths to signal the end of basic civil liberties such as the right to free expression, which the ley mordaza (gag law) will put an end to.

Candles were lit in mourning as several manifestos were read out calling for the law to be halted immediately.

POLICE PRESENCE:

Police presence was low key throughout the event with no attempt to interfere with the protest. At one point Spanish UIP police officers crossed the road to where the protest group was located and appeared to ask someone for their ID creating a moment of tension.

After a few moments of loud cheering from protestors calling for an end to Spain's police state, police officers known as "antidisturbios" (riot police) backed off and allowed the peaceful protest to continue unhindered.

INJURIES and ARRESTS

No injuries or arrests were reported. No searches or mass ID checks were carried out.

THE AUTHORITIES

It worth noting that despite deep concerns from the international community with regard to the ley mordaza (gag law), the Spanish government continues to push forward with this repressive piece of legislation which is due to be approved in the Spanish parliament (El Congreso de los Diputados) on 11th December.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend the OSCE contact Spanish authorities and call on the government to respect basic freedoms as guaranteed by international treaties to which Spain is a signatory.

In particular, we ask the OSCE to investigate whether the part pertaining to the treatment received by immigrants at the border in Ceuta and Melilla, is legal and in line with international Human Rights treaties.

Report dated: 7/December/2014

Relevant Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwXTWDeCFEk&feature=youtu.be>