

# PROXY OBSERVER

SEÑALAMOS A LOS CULPABLES DE LA VIOLENCIA

## Press Release

Dated: 11/December/2014

RE: Spain's new gag law (Ley Mordaza)

Today, Thursday 11th December 2014, Spain's parliament (El Congreso de los Diputados) approved a dictatorial new "gag law" designed to restrict individual freedoms and rights, including the right to report on police violence or abuse against citizens during protests.

The new "Citizen Security law", known as the Ley Mordaza, (gag law) now classifies the publication or distribution of videos and photographs of police officers assaulting or violently injuring members of the public, as a "severe offence" against the "honour" of police officers.

This undemocratic change to the law, means that our attempt to inform the OSCE on the actions of Spanish police during protests, will soon be illegal and punishable with a fine of up to 30,000€.

It goes without saying that it is impossible for us to obey this law. No law-maker has the right to stop anyone from informing the international community. Likewise, no law is above democracy or the rights of citizens to collect the proof needed for a trial against a violent police officer.

The photographs, reports and videos in this site are proof that Spanish antidisturbios (riot police) use excessive force against peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators for no reason, and the OSCE, Spanish courts, foreign media and international community have the right to see this evidence.

We cannot accept the argument that because this attack on our fundamental freedoms is now "the law", that we have to obey and accept police abuse without question. Our Human Rights are above this law. Democracy is above this law. Our dignity is above this law.

Spain's new gag law not only allows police officers to target defenceless citizens with total impunity, but it also criminalises any attempt by the victims of police abuse to report on police crimes.

With this gag law, Spain has taken a step further towards dictatorship, confirming that the OSCE was right to include this country on a list of nations "without freedoms".

For that reason, we have no choice but to break this law and continue publishing, photographs and videos of Spanish police officers who are committing criminal acts, to draw attention to the impunity which exists in Spain against state violence and the torture of innocent people.