

## CONCLUSIONS

Currently, and for few years time now, ETA is the main source of violation of human rights in the Basque Country and the whole of Spain. They have committed 845 murders, 3000 terrorist attacks with thousands of variably injured, 48 kidnappings. We also have to take into account that more than 42.000 people only in the Basque country and Navarre, out of a population of 2.600.000, are considered a target for the terrorist band. Many of them have to adopt security measures that restrict their liberty or have to accept a permanent police escort. They are under a similar pressure to those who suffer psychological torture, which is in many cases reinforced with material attacks, burning their properties for example, or different physical aggressions. An uncountable amount of inhabitants have decided to abandon their homeland in the last 25 years to get away from this brutal persecution.

Torture was undoubtedly a common practice before 1979 (year the Spanish Constitution was approved) and was scarcely persecuted until round about 1985-86, but from this date onwards important efforts have been made to eradicate this, investigating the grounded accusations and punishing the people responsible. Furthermore, intolerance against torture and ill-treatment has been linked to an incredible improvement of law-enforcement efficiency, which can be proved by the huge amount of detainees that are found to be ETA collaborators or activists, recognised by the band who describes them as “prisoners and political victims of reprisal” .

ETA activists who secluded in Spanish and French prisons (round about 696 including pre-trial prisoners) have a similar penal regime to the rest of the prisoners. None of their legal rights has been violated, despite ETA’s systematic campaigns against their reclusion conditions and the “dispersal”. They have the same access to sentence redemption and social rehabilitation as common prisoners. Reported accusations of ill-treatment in prisons and inhuman reclusion regimes are absolutely incredible.

Nevertheless, ETA has exploited the benefits achieved with routine torture reports, however unfounded these reports may be. They have instructed their militants on how to make these systematic accusations, and they justify police achievements as a product of torture. ETA also mobilises a huge network of lawyers in means to achieve these goals, apart from the associated press and organisations which are supposedly dedicated to watch over human rights in the Basque country, and that ignore completely the numerous aggressions ETA is responsible for, which really attempt against Human Rights. Some Human Rights organisations are too credulous with these reports and tend to ignore the explanations and information coming from other circles, especially those coming from Basque civil groups or the organisations of victims of terrorism.

The result is that ETA continues to obtain important advantages in routine reports, however unfounded these might be, in certain circles people believe them. ETA manages to justify partially or totally its barbaric crimes as a way of “defensive violence” against a state that systematically violates Human Rights, and in this way they enjoy a certain status which is completely unacceptable, raises the morale of their own people, above all, because it reduces the credibility and legitimacy of those who ETA defines as “enemies of the Basque people”, in other words, those people who are threatened because they peacefully and legally fight against ETA’s totalitarian aims