

Quim Torra i Pla

131è president de la Generalitat de Catalunya

Marija Pejčinović Burić

Secretary General of the Council of Europe

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Courtesy translation

Dear Secretary General,

On behalf of myself and the former vice president of the Parliament of Catalonia, Josep Costa, we are writing to you to bring to light the obstructionism and unwillingness of the Spanish judiciary and the Spanish government to investigate and contribute to the clarification of the cases of political espionage with the Pegasus software that occurred against the two of us and a few dozen more politicians and activists from Catalan civil society.

In view of the report published by Citizen Lab, from the University of Toronto, which exposed the facts and evidences of this espionage against people taking part on the Catalan independence movement, we filed a lawsuit against the Spanish government through the contentious-administrative process to obtain reparation as victims of this action that is completely against the law: spying on political opponents for strictly ideological reasons. Therefore, that means the persecution to an objectively identifiable group of persons such as the Catalan independence supporters.

From the beginning, the attitude of the Spanish judiciary and the Spanish government as a defendant, in its position represented by the State attorney and public prosecutor, has been a denial of the facts and a refusal to study our demands. The Spanish government did not cooperate by providing the files requested at first and, when it did, it was to deny an evidence recognized by the director of the Spanish National Intelligence Center (CNI), who said that they had indeed spied on Catalan pro-independence politicians.

Whether the spying on the two of us was within the framework of the secret authorization of the actions under the legal protection of the CNI or not, the Spanish judiciary has (in accordance with the doctrine of the European Court of Human Rights) the obligation to review actions that,

due to their massive and secret nature, have led to the restriction of a large number of fundamental rights that it is the duty of the public authorities to protect. But this is not currently the attitude or the will of the Spanish justice system or the Spanish government, which to date have not responded to the demands of transparency, accountability and clearance of responsibilities.

We wanted you to know our case and the difficulties - not to say direct impediments - we are encountering in facing a scandal that in any democratic state would have caused an institutional crisis of extraordinary dimensions. Finally, we would like to ask you for your protection due to the proven fact that Spain does not behave as a State of Law in relation to Catalonia.

Yours sincerely,



Quim Torra i Pla

131st President of Catalonia



Josep Costa

Former Vice President of the Parliament of Catalonia

Girona, 3th February 2023