

Mrs. Theresa May
Prime Minister
United Kingdom

Lledoners Penitentiary Center, Catalonia, December 17, 2018

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

We call for your attention on the very serious situation going on in the Kingdom of Spain and that directly affects the rules, principles and foundational values of the European Union.

We are nine people - the ex-president of the Parliament of Catalonia, 6 ex-members of the Government of Catalonia and two leaders of civil society - in jail without trial, and some of us have been in prison for more than one year. We stand accused of rebellion and the general prosecutor of Spain demands from 16-17 years in prison for having promoted a peaceful referendum in Catalonia on October 1 of last year.

We suffer from a judicial process that severely violates our fundamental rights, including the right to presumption of innocence, the right to freedom of expression, the right of political representation, and the right to a judicial process with all guarantees.

In addition, one of the most serious consequences of this situation is the legal blockade imposed on us by the Spanish Constitutional Court and which prevents us from accessing European justice. It does so through undue delays in the resolution of our appeal demands. The Spanish legislation and the legal acquis of the Constitutional Court establish a maximum period of 30 days to resolve appeals against the pre-trial prison orders. The first protective appeal filed with the Constitutional Court is November 22, 2017. On December 1, 2018, 370 days later, the Spanish Constitutional Court had not responded to any of our resources.

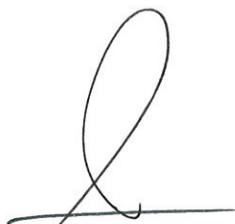
This unfair situation has prompted us four to start a hunger strike from December 1 in order to raise public awareness on this conscious inaction from the Spanish Constitutional Court that blocks our access to European Justice. It is at the European Court of Human Rights where we have deposited our hopes of Justice and protection of our fundamental rights.

The politicization of the highest judicial organs and the Spanish Constitutional Court is a known problem and in recent years they have repeatedly deserved recommendations from the Council of Europe, through the GRECO group, urging the Kingdom of Spain to modify structures, behaviors and procedures in the highest organs of the judicial branch that have not been dealt with. These demands have not been fulfilled.

With our hunger strike - one of the few political actions of denunciation that can be carried out peacefully from a prison - we feel we are directly defenders of the rules and principles and foundational values of the European Union.

This letter does not intend otherwise than updating you on this grave situation that in 21st century Europe we truly believe that should not occur in any case.

Many thanks for your valuable attention, with kind regards,



Joaquim Forn



Josep Rull



Jordi Sánchez



Jordi Turull