The Coordinadora para la Prevención de la Tortura, is made up of 44 associations and groups in the Spanish State. It was born in November 2004 with the double objective of firstly to denounce the persistence of torture and ill-treatment in the Spanish State and secondly to obtain the ratification and implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and whatever mechanism that could help to prevent or to end with this reality. Since its creation, the Coordinadora has presented annual reports on Torture. It is from this viewpoint that we present the following Report:

I.- TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENTS IN THE SPANISH STATE ACCORDING TO THE U.N. INTERNATIONAL COVENANT:

1.1.- Art. 3: EQUAL RIGHTS OF MEN AND WOMEN:

Sexual tortures and aggressions under State custody are one of our main worries: in an on going sexist society, as the Spaniard is, being a woman implies a gender distinction on torture and ill treatment situations. Thus, torture is sexually applied to women, as it happened to AMAIA U. P., arrested in Bilbao, by the Guardia Civil, in 2003 October 29th, who testified to have been raped with a gun during her incommunicado detention.1

There have been denounced several situations of sexual aggressions and rapes against women detained in Policía Nacional and Policía Local police stations and in Centros de retención de Inmigrantes and in Centros de Menores and, at least four women imprisoned in Nanclares de la Oca Prison (in Álava) had denounced one prison guard for sexual pursue in 2005 (the judicial proceedings are still waiting for trial).2

1.2.- Art. 4: ANTITERRORIST LEGISLATION:

Incommunicado detention applied under the Antiterrorist Legislation is a physical and judicial space of impunity for torture and ill-treatments. Incommunicado detention also can be, by itself, a Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as it was pointed out buy the Special Rapporteur on the question of Torture, Theo van Boven in his Report on Spain.3 During the 2004-2007 period, the Coordinadora Reports have compiled 165 torture denounces under Incommunicado detention.4 Antiterrorist Legislation has been historically applied to Basque origin people, thus, the TAT has compiled 465 denounces in its 2000 to 2007 Reports.5

We must add to this that since 2001 September 11th and, in Spain, specially since 2004 March 11th, Antiterrorist Legislation has been also applied rigorously to Islamic people, some of whose have denounced tortures: Yagoub G., arrested by the Policía Nacional in 2005 June 15th, in Barcelona, denounced to have been tortured during the 5 days that he was incommunicado till he singed the police prepared statement of guilty.6

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2 Diligencias Previas 840/05 Juzgado de Instrucción nº 2 de Vitoria/Gasteiz. You can also see Coordinadora para la prevención de la tortura. Informe 2005; pp. 60-61, 117 y 120-121; Informe 2006; pp. 272-273 y 280.
4 All the Reports of the Coordinadora can be consulted in: www.prevenciontortura.org and in www.nodo50.org/tortura
5 All TAT Reports can be consulted in: www.stoptortura.com
There have also been torture denounces by several arrested people within the “Operación Nova II” in 2004 November (Summary 6/2005), in “Operation Tigris” in 2005 June (Summary 18/2007) and in the 2006 January Vilanova i la Geltrú detentions (Summary 21/2006).

I.3.- Art. 7: TORTURE AND ILL TREATMENT:

Speaking on torture and ill-treatment denounces known by the Coordinadora in the last years and compiled in the Annual Reports, we find the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of situation</th>
<th>2.001</th>
<th>2.002</th>
<th>2.003</th>
<th>2.004</th>
<th>2.005</th>
<th>2.006</th>
<th>2.007</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affected persons</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>747</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>689</td>
<td>5.032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It must be stressed, as it happens with the incommunicado detention, that there are spaces with a special impunity as the Isolation regime applied in the Spaniard Prisons. In Quatre Camins Prison (Barcelona) after the 2004 April 30th revolt, there were systematic beatings against inmates, as the own Catalan Government (the Generalitat) recognised in 29 cases, though they had still not been judged being the officials on service. In this 2008 year, 8 imprisoned men from the Módulo VII (isolation) in Villanubla Prison (Valladolid), have denounced Tortures. Thus, in the 2004-2007 period our Reports compiled 354 tortures and ill-treatment denounces in prison, the majority of them came out from the Primer Grado (isolated regime).

There have also been police abuse cases especially worried. We want to point out the Roquetas de Mar case in Almería, where a citizen that went to the Guardia Civil police station to put a complaint, was finally killed by the agents after a torture session in the street. Though the existence of such evidences as security video records, in the trial was settled that this death was not caused by the tortures. This kind of situations has inspired an International Amnesty Report on police brutality in Spain titled La sal en la herida.

We want to point out too the existence of torture denounces coming out from Minors centres. In 2004 and 2005 we published several denounces from Valle Tabarés Centre (Tenerife) about several irregularities, ill-treatments, sexual abuse (one minor was raped), and the death of a minor in strange circumstances. These situations finally ended in a Judicial Commission that found illegal punishment material as chain and iron fetters and shackles.

Finally we want to speak about the Pardons to those few officials condemned by tortures or ill treatment. As an example we can see the case of 4 policías locales from Vigo (Pontevedra), condemned for illegal detention and sticking of the Senegal citizen Mamadou K., in 1.997 March 9th. They were condemned to 3 years of prison and 8 years of incapacitation. None of the officials got within prison; they were temporally separated from their jobs, but come back to them after 2005 Pardons (confirmed in 2007).

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7 Diligencias Previas 9327/2006 del Juzgado Central de Instrucción núm. 5, Madrid.
8 Diligencias Previas 2411/2006 del Juzgado de Instrucción núm. 12 de Madrid.
9 Transact in the Juzgado Central de Instrucción núm. 5, Madrid.
14 Coordinadora... Informe 2005, pp. 63, 74-75, 112-113 y 135.
15 Coordinadora... Informe 2007, p. 117.
In fact, some Torture condemned officials have been rewarded as it happened in 2006 October with Manuel Allué Pastor, an Officials’ Union leader rewarded by the FSP-UGT Union “on recognition to his personal trajectory” (in an act where there were members of the Catalonian Government). Aullé has been denounced several times by torture and ill treatment, and has been condemned once by “unnecessary rigor” against an imprisoned man.16

I.4.- Art. 10: PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY:

Independently of torture cases in prison, we also want to denounce some questions in reference to the Spaniard penitentiary system that attack the dignity of the persons deprived of Liberty, against Covenant art 10. Firstly the “Dispersal policy”: this reality affects the collective of Basque prisoners: only 19 of the whole 570 Basque prisoners are within Basque prisons.17 In parallel as a secondary effect of this policy, many other prisoners are removed from their communities: as an example, for each Basque prisoner carried to the Canary Islands, there is a Canary prisoner carried to Basque prisons, though there are 2.300kms from one region to the other. Furthermore, “Remoteness” from the origin community is against the Spaniard Penitentiary Legislation,18 against the Spaniard Constitution Order (art. 25) as well as against the European Penitentiary Rules of the Council of Europe,19 as it implies a double punishment. About Basque imprisoned women (so for political or social imprisoned women) some Associations have been years denouncing that 95% of them are imprisoned out of their community and if they are mothers 100% of them are out of their communities because there are no prisons with mother’s areas in the Basque Country.20

Other worrying question is sick prisoners. On the Spaniard Legislation is established that seriously sick or terminal patients must be released,21 but there are many cases of prisoners that are not released or they are liberated hours before dying. In fact, the own Spanish Government has recognised 720 deaths in prison in the last 4 years. We do not accept this figure as a low one, and we believe more credible the Catalan Government Penitentiary Service that recognised 243 deaths for the same period.22 If we considered that imprisoned people in Catalonia is a 13% of the total Spaniard prisoners, we could suppose that death people within the Spaniard Penitentiary System is twice or three times the figure recognised by the Government.23

Deaths in prison are the most serious of the many sanitary problems of the Spaniard prisons. Close to a 12% of those deaths are suicides, what carry us to the mental health question. The General Secretary of Penitentiary Institutions, Mrs. Mercedes Gallizo, has recognised to the press that a 25% of imprisoned people have mental health problems.24 On this issue, the APDH-A in a 2007 Report denounced that a 48% of imprisoned people in the Andalucía prisons have mental diseases, and an 8% with serious mental diseases.25

On the Health question, the main problem is that the Prison Sanitary System is not the same that for the rest of the Spaniard population, what put in question the general right to health of imprisoned population. In this way we have an opposite view from point 62 of the Spanish Government Report which says “special mention is required to the sanitary assistance, because it is guaranteed to all imprisoned people a sanitary assistance equal to that of the whole population”.

16 www.elpais.com/articulo/cataluna/UGT/condecora/sindicalista/condenado/maltratar/preso/elpepiautcat/20060929elpep 12/Tes/
17 See the Report from BEHATOKIA: www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/BOHRSpain93.doc
18 Art. 12 from LOGP (General Penitentiary Law) and art. 110c from RP (Penitentiary Regulation).
19 European Penitentiary Rules of the Council of Europe (1987), arts. 65c, 67.3 y 68.
20 Asociación SALHAKETA. Mujer y cárcel en Euskal Herria año 2007.
21 Arts. 104.4 y 196 of the Reglamento penitenciario y art 92 of the Código penal (Penal Code).
23 The CDDT esteem in 1.900 the number of deaths under custody between years 2004 and 2007.
25 www.apdha.org/media/saludmental07.pdf
Penitentiary overpopulation is another alarming point, which affects every daily life aspect of imprisoned people: accommodation, hygiene, health, personal relations with other prisoners or officials, violence, etc. On its last July Report the APDH-A denounced overpopulation on the base of the 69,156 imprisoned people of that moment (a ratio of 150 prisoners for each 100,000 inhabitants). We not only accept completely this Report but also refresh its figures to worse as on September 26 there were 72,171 imprisoned people (a ratio of 160 for each 100,000 inhabitants). We do not exactly know the number of prison effective places, but taking the last official figures (from 2004) and adding the two new prisons built up since then, we could speak about 48,000 real places. Thus, the occupation ratio could be 150%. Some Officials Union reports that 5 prisons would surpass a 300% occupation ratio. In fact, the Spanish state is the first among the Europa-15 in its imprisoned population figures, what invites us to think about the populist Legal reforms in a more punitive way.

Finally we also criticize the statement of paragraph 62 of the Spanish Government Report: “there has been developed an opening process of prisons toward society that implies bigger demands on participation and penitentiary activity in contact with out prison reality (…) and through cooperation with public and private entities relatives to prisoners’ assistance”. We have to examples to deny this position: The Observatorio del Sistema Penal y Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Barcelona, which has an historic trajectory in the Research of the Penitentiary System, has been forbidden within Catalonia prisons since 2007. Other case was the denial of authorization to the lawyer Valentín Aguilar to get within the Alcolea Prison (Cordoba) after a revolt in 2007 November, when several prisoners asked for his presence to denounce ill treatment.

I.5.- Art 13. ALIEN EXPULSIONS:
Other situations in which we know about administrative irregularities and ill-treatments are immigrants’ expulsions. Several times it has been denounced the use of tranquilizer drugs, without the affected person’s authorisation, during the expulsion process. In one case, the use of adhesive tape to cover the mouth of an alien during his expulsion supposed his death by asphyxiation, in Elche (Alicante) in 2007 June. In the same way, several Non-Accompanied Minors (MENAS) have been expelled in an irregular way to Morocco where they were ill treated by Moroccan security officials.

I.6.- Art. 19. FREEDOM OF EXPRESION:
A less know reality in the Spaniard state, that has enlarged in the last years, is the one of the risks and difficulties that implies the development of a Human Rights defence work (for individuals as for collectives), specially in those cases of torture and ill-treatment complaints. The importance of the work of this people and associations, as well as their vulnerability, has forced the UN and other International Institutions to study this topic.
Thus, in 2000 August, Mrs. Hina Jilani is appointed by UN General Secretary as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders to stress this question. Our Coordinadora has compiled in the last years 24 cases of disqualification, obstruction and criminalizing of social and professional activities of Torture denounce in Spain. These cases are those that affect to members and associations of the Coordinadora, and we have classified then in several groups: a.- insults, threats and disqualifications; b.- obstruction of activities (aggressions, not allowing access and economic penalties); c.- penal or civil charges; and d.- terrorism accusations. It must be specially mentioned (based on the gravity of the case) the Summary 33/01 against Gestoras Pro Amnistía / Askatasuna, Basque anti-repressive organizations. In this trial 27 people were accused of “Belonging to an armed band” because they were militants in those organizations, publicly and legally, supporting Basque prisoners. In the final sentence, made public on 2008 September 17th, 21 people were condemned to 8 and 10 years of imprisonment.

Other examples could be those of penal charges and denounces against individuals or associations for denouncing tortures. These denounces come out from the public prosecutor, the officials accused of torture or others. Some of the denounced Defenders are the APDH-A Huelva, ASAPA from Zaragoza, ACT from Madrid, Fran Buey (from PRESOS-Galiza), Aiert Larrarte (TAT) and Julen Larrinaga (from Askatasuna).

II.- NON-FULFILMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RECOMENDATIONS:

The Spaniard state has been systematically non fulfilled the majority of the recommendations made by the International groups or Institutions what supposes, in fact, the breach of its obligations with the international Covenants. Thus, in the Final Observations of the Human Rights Committee of U.N. after the1996 visit to Spain, were done several recommendations:

a) [...] establish transparent and equitable procedures for conducting independent investigations into complaints of ill-treatment and torture […]

b) […] the legislative provisions, which state that person accused of acts of terrorism or suspected of collaborating with such persons may not choose their lawyer, should be rescinded.

c) [...] to abandon the use of incommunicado detention […] to reduce the duration of pre-trial detention.

None of these suggestions have been fulfilled. Even more, incommunicado detention has been enlarged and between police station and prison it could length now 13 days. Pre-trial imprisoned people are a 25’03% of total prisoners. The same happens with Special Rapporteur on the question of Tortures Report after his 2003 visit, where Theo van Boven did the following recommendations:

a) […] the Government should draw up a comprehensive plan to prevent and suppress torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

b) [...] the incommunicado regime should be abrogated.

C) All interrogation sessions should be recorded, preferably video-recorded, and the identity of all persons present should be included in the record.

d) Complaints and reports of torture or ill-treatment should be investigated promptly and effectively.

e) […] to ensure that victims of torture or ill-treatment obtain redress and adequate reparation ….

f) In assigning prisoners from the Basque country to prisons, due consideration should be given to maintaining social relations between the prisoners and their families ….

g) […] to ratify, at an early date, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture […]

35 For more information see Descalificación, obstrucción y criminalización de las actividades de organismos sociales y profesionales que denuncian torturas en el Estado español, http://acat.pangea.org/publica/Informe-defensores.pdf

36 CCPR/C/79/Add.61, 1996 April 3rd.


From all these recommendations only the last one has been fulfilled by the Spanish Government, but in a way that associations and collectives do not agree with, as we will show later. On the other 6 recommendations we can only say that its non-fulfilment by the Government has been total, though to recommendation “c” has been a partial advance by two regional Governments (in Basque country and Catalonia).

Equal recommendations have been made by the Council of Europe Human Rights Commissar, Mr Alvaro Gil-Robles in his 2005 Report;\(^{39}\) by the European Committee for Preventing Torture after its 2001 July visit to Spain;\(^ {40}\) or the U.N. Committee Against Torture.\(^ {41}\) All these recommendations have had a similar end: they have been systematically ignored by the Government when they have not been contradicted.

About the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention that the Spanish State did on 2006 April 3rd, we have denounced its neither no-fulfilment nor implementation. Further more, though we, as Coordinadora, with other civil society groups have had several meetings with Government representatives. But we can not speak about “having a negotiation” either about “having real information” on the National Mechanism on Torture Prevention implementation. Even more, breaking with the confidentiality of these meetings, Spanish Government representatives made public a “non-existing” agreement between them and civil society on last June. We denounce on the one hand that there is no agreement, and on the other that this position shows the Government intention to impose his viewpoints.\(^ {42}\)

**III.- CONCLUSIONS:**

From these facts, in the Coordinadora para la Prevención de la Tortura we come to the following conclusions, which are our main worries:

**III.1.- TORTURE PERSISTENCE IN THE SPANISH STATE:**

Torture and ill-treatment are an on-going reality in the Spanish state prisons, police stations, minors’ centres or alien centres, as well as in the streets and public spaces. This violence is a Spanish state exclusive responsibility. The more than 5.000 complaints compiled during the last 7 years show us the size of this problem.

And to the general impunity that surrounds this topic, it must be added the “special impunity areas” as the incommunicado detention under Antiterrorist legislation or the prison isolation which are more worrying and grave.

**III.2.-“NON-PROTECTION” OF IMPRISONED PEOPLE’S DIGNITY**

Penitentiary overpopulation and the lack of resources make impossible to the Spaniard Penitentiary System to guarantee efficiently the imprisoned people’s Dignity.

This problem is especially worrying on those persons who suffered physical or mental Health problems. Though they should be released, not only they are not, but also have to spend more time in prison.

**III.3.- ESPECIALLY AGGRAVATED SITUATIONS:**

General cases get aggravated in those situations in which Antiterrorist Legislation is applied (what use to mean to be Basque citizen or Muslim), or when the affected people belongs to an ethnic minority (aliens or gypsies), or by gender or sexual orientation issues (as being woman, homosexual or trans-gender people).

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\(^{39}\) ComDH (2005) 8, visit to Spain from the 10th to the 19\(^{th}\) of March, 2005.

\(^{40}\) CPT/Inf (2003) 22.

\(^{41}\) CAT/C/XXIX/Misc.3, 2002 November 19\(^{th}\).

\(^{42}\) Statements of the Foreign Affairs and Justice Ministries during the “2º Jornadas sobre la aplicación del Protocolo Facultativo a la Convención de Naciones Unidas contra la Tortura”, in the Instituto Universitario Francisco de Vitoria from Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, 2008 June 11\(^{th}\).
III.4.- LACK OF POLITICAL WILL TO RECOGNIZE AND SOLVE THESE QUESTIONS:

Finally, we want to point out the lack of political will as origin of these problems: firstly, there has not been recognition of the torture and ill-treatment existence by the authorities, which try to systematically hide this reality. It is from this position that we can understand the hardening of the Anti-terrorist legislation (with the extension of the Incommunicado detention), or the worsening of the Penitentiary system (with the dispersal and remoteness policies, the isolation regime and the hardening of penal and penitentiary legislation) or the no negotiation on the Optional Protocol.

Definitively, from the Coordinadora para la Prevención de la Tortura, we understand that this situation is directly a State responsibility and that it is the Spanish state lack of political will to abolish and prevent torture and ill-treatment the main cause of its persistence.

**COORDINADORA PARA LA PREVENCIÓN DE LA TORTURA, FORMED BY:**

- Acció dels Cristians per l’Abolició de la Tortura (ACAT)
- Alerta Solidària
- Asociación APOYO
- Asociación EXIL
- Asociació Catalana per la Defensa del Drets Humans
- Asociación Contra a Exclusào pelo Desenvolvimento
- Asociación Contra la Tortura
- Asociación para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Infancia
- Asociación Libre de Abogados
- Asociació Memòria Contra la Tortura
- Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de Andalucía
- Asociación de Solidaridad y Apoyo a los Presos de Aragón (ASAPA)
- Behatokia (Observatorio Vasco de Derechos Humanos - Euskal Herriko Giza Eskubideen)
- Centro de Asesoría y Estudios Sociales (CAES)
- Centro de Documentación Contra la Tortura
- Comissió de Defensa del Col.legi d’Advocats Barcelona
- Comité Anti-Sida de Lugo
- Concepción Arenal
- Comité de Solidaridad con Euskal Herria de Madrid
- Coordinadora Antirrepressiva de Gràcia
- Coordinadora Contra la Marginación de Cornellá
- Coordinadora de Barrios de Madrid
- Coordinadora Estatal de Solidaridad con las Personas Presas
- Esculca (Observatorio para a defensa dos dereitos e liberdades)
- Eskubideak (Euskal Abokatuen Elkartea)
- Etxerat (Euskal Errepresaliatu Politikoen Elkartea)
- Federacion de Asociacions de Loita contra a Droga
- Federación Enlace
- Fundación Érguete
- Gurasoak
- Grupo de Solidaridad con Euska Herria en Madrid
- Grupo 17 de mayo, Sociedad Andaluza de Juristas para la defensa de los DD.HH.
- Institut Drets Humans de Catalunya
- Justicia i Pau
- Movimento polos Dereitos Cívics
- Observatori del Sistema Penal i els Drets Humans de la UB
- PreSOS Galiza
- Rescat
- SalHaketa (Bizkaia)
- SalHaketa (Araba)
- Sos Racisme Catalunya
- Torturaren Aurkako Taldea
- Santurtziko Torturaren Kontrako Taldea
- Xústicia e Sociedade