



Policy Brief

The Terrorism situation in Spain

DISSEMINATION LEVEL PUBLIC

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1. Introduction¹

Terrorism is one of the greatest threats to national and global security today. Throughout history, Spain has been one of the countries most affected by terrorism, both from separatist groups and jihadist terrorism. This report will analyse the situation of terrorism in Spain in 2021, including its evolution and threats.

2. Jihadist terrorism²

A total of 39 suspected jihadists were arrested in 2021 in Spain as a result of law enforcement investigations. The figure is slightly higher than that recorded a year earlier. If we had to summarise the most relevant features of these investigations, we would have to point out the reiteration of terrorist radicalisation focal points in prisons, as well as the use of illegal immigration circuits by jihadists who want to enter Europe, sometimes after having participated in terrorist activities in conflict zones.

Four police operations against released prisoners or former prisoners were recorded in 2021, a number equivalent to those recorded in the previous three years. As a result of these four operations, a total of nine persons were arrested, six inside prisons and three outside prisons. The names of the operations "Triangle", "Jardín Najla", "Graffiti" or "Altamira" join others from previous years such as "Escribano", "Timón" and "Kafig", developed by the security forces against inmates or former inmates. From 2018 to 2021, both included, a total of 33 arrests related to jihadist radicalisation in prisons have been carried out.

The development of these investigations highlights something that had already been detected years ago in other European countries: that prisons can become the core of terrorist radicalisation. Prisoners who are incarcerated for common crimes are the focus of attention of other inmates who are imprisoned for terrorism, who seek to attract the former and recruit them for jihadism.

Sometimes these attempts at recruitment and radicalisation begin with pressure from the more extremist inmates on Muslim inmates to apply religious practices in accordance with their rigorist views. Sometimes it is those affected by such pressures themselves who report the situation to prison officials.

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The detection of these cases of radicalisation and the development of subsequent investigations also show that in Spanish prisons there is an effective system for monitoring inmates that allows for the early identification of these radicalisation processes and the taking of measures to stop them. The control mechanisms implemented many years ago by Penitentiary Institutions, which were explained in Notebook no. 11th April 2021, have enabled sufficient evidence to be made available to the police forces so that formal investigations can then be carried out.

Police actions were carried out in 2021 in the prisons of Daroca, Murcia, Cordoba and A Coruña. In addition, arrests were made in Melilla, Pasaia (Gipuzkoa) and Ceuta of former prisoners who had become radicalised in prison and who, on their release, remained under the radar of the police services until the necessary evidence was found to bring them to justice.

In November 2021, the number of prisoners registered in the FIES (Ficheros de Internos de Especial Seguimiento) systems was 213, twenty fewer than at the end of 2020. A hundred of them were in the FIES-Group A regime, which includes those prosecuted for membership or collaboration with terrorism. FIES-B, which registers prisoners for ordinary crimes who have also been subsequently implicated in terrorist activities, accounted for 40 inmates, while the rest were in FIES-C, who are prisoners involved in incidents generated by a radical interpretation of religion.

2.1 Terrorist Financing

Investigations into the financing of jihadist terrorism resulted in three police operations and six arrests in 2021. The most relevant action in this field took place in March and was a continuation of "Operation Wamor", which had been carried out in 2019 with the capture by the National Police of a group of people of Syrian origin accused of channelling funds to the Al Qaeda branch in Syria.

The importance of this operation stemmed from the relevance of two of the three people arrested in it, as they were the president of the Islamic Commission of Spain and the treasurer of the Union of Islamic Communities of Spain. The arrested men, also of Syrian origin, were accused of financing Al Qaeda activities in their home country by providing funds to an NGO linked to the terrorist group founded by Bin Laden. The president of the Islamic Commission, who was released on grounds of age, was arrested shortly after travelling to Saudi Arabia to seek funding.

In July, the Guardia Civil arrested an Algerian national in Mallorca on charges of running a human trafficking network and financing terrorist activities with funds obtained through criminal activities. In November, two brothers, with a long residence in Spain, were arrested in the province of Alicante on charges of sending money to terrorist groups.

2.2 Structures

Most of those arrested in 2021 carried out activities for the recruitment and recruitment of new jihadist terrorist sympathisers, but there was also a significant proportion of those arrested whose actions revealed their willingness to carry out attacks, as can be seen in table 1. below.

Many of those arrested on suspicion of jihadism carried out a variety of activities, so it is not easy to differentiate between them and place them in a single category. Just as it is relatively easy to distinguish those involved in terrorist financing activities or those who take the step of carrying out attacks, it is more complex to draw clear lines between propaganda activities, glorification of terrorism, recruitment of new sympathisers or self-radicalisation.

Activity	%
Advertising/glorifying	7.7%
Financing	15.38%
Preparation of attacks	25.64%
Recruitment	35.9%
Others	15.38%

Table 1: Activities of those arrested on suspicion of jihadism ??

2.3 List of operations

- 8th January, Barcelona. "Operation Arbac". The National Police arrested three Algerian nationals accused of being members of Daesh, including one who had been fighting in Syria and had arrived in Spain the previous Christmas using illegal immigration routes. This individual, identified as Merouane Benouare, was travelling accompanied by a subordinate.

Both arrived in Almería by boat from the coast of Oran and from there they travelled to Barcelona, where they were taken in by the third of the detainees. The police believed that they were in a position to commit an attack in Europe. The operation was carried out in collaboration with the CNI and Algerian intelligence services.

- On 12th October, a second part of the operation, 'Arbac-II', was carried out, with the arrest in Barcelona and Madrid of five other individuals, also of Algerian nationality. One of them, aged 28, had entered by boat in March via Almería, as had two of those captured in January. He was the one who had provided the contacts in Spain to those arrested in January. He was a Daesh recruiter who had also settled in Barcelona. He had been arrested in 2016 in Turkey and convicted of terrorism in his home country. In Barcelona he had recruited four people, who were captured at the same time as him. One of the arrests took place in Madrid, where the suspect was in a detention centre for foreigners. Those arrested were trying to buy a Kalashnikov rifle.

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- 24th February, Pamplona. "Operation Barmad. The National Police arrested a Moroccan citizen in Pamplona for the crimes of indoctrination, glorification and recruitment. The detainee, who identified himself with Daesh, carried out propagandistic activities via the Internet.
- 28th March, Pasai Antxo (Gipuzkoa) and Córdoba. "Operation Graffiti. The Guardia Civil arrested a 28-year-old Moroccan citizen accused of jihadist indoctrination and membership of a terrorist organisation. The detainee had been released from prison in 2020 after serving his sentence. He had been arrested in 2016 by the Ertzaintza and convicted of glorifying terrorism. Part of the sentence was replaced by deportation to his home country with a ban on returning to Spain, but in 2019 he returned illegally, so he re-entered prison to serve the remaining sentence.

After his release in 2020, he could not be expelled to Morocco because of the closure of borders due to COVID. In the same operation, another Moroccan citizen residing in Melilla was arrested, who was incarcerated in Cordoba prison for belonging to a cell that recruited members for Al Qaeda. These two arrests are linked to the one made in Melilla on the 12th.

- 29th March, Basauri (Bizkaia). "Operation Paibah. A Moroccan citizen, but of Saharawi origin, aged 44, was arrested by the National Police for a terrorism offence, accused of promoting attacks against Moroccan targets and, in particular, against pro-Moroccan Saharawi citizens. He managed numerous social media accounts with more than 20,000 followers. In November, the detainee, who claimed to be sympathetic to the Polisario Front, was deported from Spain by court order. The Moroccan authorities sentenced him to two years in prison.
- 27th April, Granada. "Operation Fursan". Agents of the National Police arrested three Moroccan nationals accused of the crimes of self-education, threats and terrorist glorification. The arrested men promoted through social networks the carrying out of attacks against people and French institutions for the publication of caricatures of Mohammed in the weekly Charlie Hebdo. Through videos, they advocated jihadist terrorism and made threats against French interests. In their internet activity, they managed accounts with 19,000 followers.
- 28th April, Mazarrón (Murcia). "Operation Hooligan. A resident of Moroccan nationality was arrested by the Guardia Civil for a terrorism offence. The suspect was wanted by the Italian authorities for common crimes.
- 12th May, Murcia, A Coruña and Ceuta. "Operation Altamira". Two inmates held in prisons in Murcia and A Coruña and a former inmate residing in Ceuta were arrested by the Guardia Civil on charges of proselytising, recruiting and disseminating jihadist postulates in prisons.

The detainee in Murcia, a Spanish national, was serving a sentence for terrorist offences, while the inmate in Teixeira (A Coruña), a Moroccan national, was accused of robbery and had been radicalised in prison. The one arrested in Ceuta, also a Spaniard, had carried out proselytising activities while in prison. All three identified with the Islamic State.

3. Separatist terrorism in Spain

Separatist terrorism has been one of the greatest challenges to national security in Spain for decades. In particular, the terrorist group ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna) has been responsible for thousands of victims throughout its more than 50 years of terrorist activity. Although ETA declared a permanent ceasefire in 2011 and disbanded in 2018, there are still small separatist groups active in Spain, such as the Committees for the Defence of the Republic (CDR) in Catalonia.

In 2021, the CDRs have continued their protest and civil disobedience actions in Catalonia, including road blockades and sabotage actions. Although these actions have not been considered terrorist acts by the Spanish government, they have been investigated by state security forces. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, separatist groups have taken advantage of the health crisis to push their political agenda, as has been the case with the CDR in Catalonia. Moreover, the pandemic has generated a climate of uncertainty and discontent that has been used by these groups to increase their activity.

3.1 Investigations into ETA

Four years after ETA announced that it had handed over its weapons to the Spanish or French authorities, forgotten hideouts containing weapons or materials for the manufacture of devices continue to be found, showing the lack of control that has existed in the terrorist organisation.

In 2021, an old ETA hideout was located in a cave in the town of Ataun in Gipuzkoa. The hideout, found by a mountaineer in October, contained components of three submachine guns, hand grenades, ammunition, a radio transmitter, number plates and material for the manufacture of explosives. The Ertzaintza took charge of the contents of the hideout and the investigations related to the hideout.

On 6th June 2021, David Urdín Pérez, who had been placed in positions of responsibility in ETA and who had been on the run since 2013, voluntarily turned himself in at the National Court. Urdín, who had a trial pending for acts of *kale borroka*, reached an agreement with the prosecution and was sentenced to two years in prison, which spared him from prison. The accused admitted that he had committed attacks against railways and government buildings in Navarre between 2006 and 2007. The agreement reduced the prosecutor's request for a 24-year prison sentence for the crimes of terrorist damage and possession of explosives.

On the other hand, the Guardia Civil continued with "operation Kabat", relating to the investigations opened to clarify the structure of the nationalist left wing in charge of organising acts of homage to ETA prisoners released from prison.

This action came to light in January 2020, with the capture of José Antonio López Ruiz, Kubati, and three other former ETA members and the appearance at the Audiencia Nacional of another eight people under investigation. In a second part, in June 2021, two other former members of the terrorist group, "Pipe" San Epifanio and Carlos Sáez de Eguilaz Murguiondo, were arrested by order of Central Examining Court no. 6, for their alleged involvement in the organisation of tributes or *ongi etorris* to ETA prisoners. Both were released after several hours.

Those arrested in the framework of "Operation Kabat" have been accused of an alleged continuous crime of humiliation of the victims of terrorism and glorification of terrorism. These two offences continued to be at the centre of public controversy during 2021, as in previous years.

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In May, the National Police arrested a 48-year-old man in Pamplona accused of these offences for graffiti painted on a school in Ermitagaña. Meanwhile, in September, the head of Central Examining Court no. 6 of the National High Court ordered the temporary closure of the magazine Kalera Info and the website of the same name, belonging to Sortu, on the grounds that they were guilty of glorifying ETA and its members. The publication was aimed at prisoners of the terrorist group and had been published since 2007. The Guardia Civil drew up a report on this publication, on which the prosecutor's office and the court based their decision to close it.

Covite (Collective of Victims of Terrorism in the Basque Country) denounced that during 2021, 282 acts of support for ETA were recorded, although only five ongi etorris or receptions for ETA members leaving prison. The figure represents 46% more than those recorded in 2020 by the victims' association.

A curious fact about the crime of apology for terrorism was the arrest of a couple on 23rd July in Torremolinos (Malaga) for having painted "Gora ETA" (which means: "Up ETA") on a wall of a local leisure centre.

Some sectors of Basque society continue to be involved in acts of violence and intimidation, as evidenced in June when the son of the Basque PP president, Carlos Iturgaiz, was harassed and threatened by a group of radicals while playing a football match in Gernika (Bizkaia). The extremists insulted him, threatened to burn him and his father and tried to attack him on the pitch at the end of the match, which was prevented by a group of friends, the referees and the coach of the home team, who supported Mikel Iturgaiz at all times.

3.2. Episodes of street violence

Throughout 2021, both the youth groups of the nationalist left and dissident sectors carried out a sustained campaign of harassment against the Ertzaintza and its agents. Sometimes this campaign took the form of graffiti, posters and statements against the police, but there were also violent attacks.

In April, an Ertzaintza patrol was stoned in the town of Usurbil in Gipuzkoa. The attack caused material damage to the vehicle, although the officers in it were not injured. In Lezo, a Basque police van which had gone to the area after a call had been received announcing the existence of containers stuck in the road, was set up. On arriving at the place indicated by the caller, a group of radicals attacked the officers by throwing flares and then fled.



Harassment campaigns were also directed against the municipal police in some towns, as was the case in Pasaia and Mondragón. The campaigns against the Ertzaintza were also reflected in graffiti on PNV headquarters, in addition to those on various police premises.

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In 2021, acts of violence similar to those committed in the years when ETA was active were recorded as a complement to the terrorist group's violence. The targets of these violent episodes are sometimes different from the traditional ones, but sometimes closely resemble those committed in the 1990s. Among the latter is a sabotage perpetrated on 27th February on the railway track near the town of Izarra in Alava. A group of individuals wearing orange waistcoats cut the catenary counterweights and set up a burning barricade. The perpetrators released a video linking the attack to the anniversary of the events of 3rd March 1976, when five workers were killed in Vitoria by police gunfire.

Solidarity with ETA prisoners or protest against judicial decisions, such as the sentencing of Galder Barbado Bonilla and Aitor Zelaia Ibarreta for the crime of depositing elements for making explosive and incendiary devices, was the cause of a string of incidents in different parts of the Basque Country and Navarre.

This campaign included an attack by throwing eggs and red paint at the court in the town of Amurrio in Alava. Banners were also placed in urban areas; streets were crossed with chains and graffiti was painted in support of the two accused. Most of the actions in support of Barbado and Zelaia took place in January and February.

Other attacks perpetrated in 2021 were not motivated by the usual motives, although they were the result of campaigns promoted by certain sectors of the nationalist left. For example, in April, wind measurement towers were knocked down on a mountain in the town of Ribera Alta (Álava). In the previous two years, four other similar sabotages had been recorded against these installations, which are used to study the potential of the winds with a view to setting up wind farms. The rejection of these farms has been accompanied by the destruction of the study facilities.

Ernai, Sortu's official youth organisation, disseminated a video on its social networks in which a security camera located in a street in Portugalete was destroyed with hammers and graffiti was painted in rejection of "social control". This organisation also claimed responsibility for the demolition of the Cruz de la Peña, in Lemoa (Bizkaia), on the eve of 12th October, Spain's bank holidays. Three members of the same organisation were arrested by the National Police on suspicion of being involved in the destruction of a games room in the Biscayan town of Sopela.

In the report drawn up in 2021, the Public Prosecutor's Office of the Audiencia Nacional points out that, once ETA has disappeared, "it is the different collectives, platforms and groups that make up the Basque radical pro-independence network that constitute the main threat vector in this context, although with less damaging capacity and with a reduced scope of action, limited to the Basque Autonomous Community and the Autonomous Community of Navarre". It adds, with reference to the 2020 data, that, "in terms of the activity deployed, it could be reduced to the commission of sabotage against railway infrastructures, political party headquarters and bank offices; calls for demonstrations and rallies with disturbances of public order and graffiti with the demand for freedom for ETA prisoners".

The prosecutor's office also referred to acts of street violence carried out "by individuals or groups related to Basque pro-independence radicalism", indicating that the authorship of the most serious acts of sabotage can be attributed to "the most radicalised individuals of the youth groups".

4. Right-wing terrorism

In addition to separatist and jihadist groups, there has also been growing concern in Spain about right-wing extremist terrorism. In recent years, there have been a number of violent incidents involving right-wing extremist groups and individuals in Spain.

In August 2021, National Police officers arrested an individual in Madrid on hate crime charges after he was recorded on a security camera spray-painting a Nazi swastika in front of a synagogue in Madrid's Chamberí district.

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The ESF has also investigated several episodes involving extreme right-wing individuals, such as the Nazi graffiti on the sculpture dedicated in Coslada (Madrid) to Francisco Javier Sauquillo, one of the labour lawyers murdered in 1977, or the attack on a PSOE headquarters.

The investigations into the extreme right also had an international dimension, with the capture, on 17th August, of an Italian citizen linked to this ideological sphere who had fled to evade justice in his country and was hiding in Fuengirola (Malaga). The detainee was wanted for the crimes of illegal possession of weapons and breach of precautionary judicial measures.

On 14th June, the suspect had caused an explosion in the Italian city of Brescia by handling an explosive device. He was arrested, but took advantage of his provisional release to escape. Collaboration between the Spanish and Italian police enabled them to locate him in the town of Malaga, where he was arrested and subsequently imprisoned. This arrest was one of three in Spain in 2021 of people linked to the extreme right and wanted by courts in other countries.

5. Left-wing and Anarcho-insurrectionist violent extremism

In addition to separatist, jihadist and extreme right-wing terrorism, Spain has also seen terrorist activity related to the extreme left. In recent years, groups such as the Coordinated Anarchist Groups (GAC) or the Committees for the Defence of the Republic (CDR) have carried out violent actions.

In 2021, at least 29 acts of violence committed by individuals or groups that fall within the so-called anarcho-insurrectionalist sphere were recorded. A year earlier, 32 attacks by these ideological sectors had been recorded. Electricity companies and banks have been the main targets of these attacks, which have concentrated in Barcelona and Madrid. The violent activities of these groups are comparable in their modus operandi to the episodes of *kale borroka* in the Basque Country, characterised using homemade devices, arson attacks or acts of destruction by blows, as well as graffiti.

Another of the characteristic elements of anarcho-insurrectionalism is the international involvement, both in the militants and in the causes they defend. The arrest of foreign nationals in the groups of this ideological space is frequent, as is the carrying out of campaigns in support of anarchists from other countries. Last year, police forces arrested three people against whom there were international arrest warrants issued by courts in other countries.

Anarchism also frequently overlaps with the squatting world, so that judicial actions against squatted premises end up generating violent responses, as happened in Barcelona.

A relevant episode in 2021 was the imprisonment of the rapper Pablo Rivadulla, known by his stage name Pablo Hasel, on 15th February, which provoked numerous protests in various cities that sometimes developed violently and led to clashes with the police. In Pamplona, one of the places where serious incidents were recorded, a dozen arrests were made.

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Among the violent episodes recorded in 2021, the following should be mentioned:

- On 15th January, two offices of the electricity companies Naturgy and Iberdrola, located in Madrid, were attacked with paint throwing and graffiti. In addition, a vehicle used by Iberdrola was set on fire.
- On 26th January, some thirty people, armed with hammers, stones and blunt objects, paraded along Carrer Gran de Sant Andreu, in Barcelona, and caused damage to windows, ATMs and the façades of two branches of Banco Sabadell, and others of CaixaBank, BBVA, Santander, a real estate company, Endesa and three other buildings. The attacks were in response to the eviction of the squat known as La Seka.
- The Mossos d'Esquadra, in the course of the incidents of 26th and 27th February, arrested a Polish citizen, six Italians, a Frenchman and a Spaniard as allegedly involved in the disturbances and members of an anarchist cell.
- On 19th February, offices of the company Elecnor and the delegation of the Ministry of Industry in Barcelona were attacked by throwing red paint in remembrance of the death of a Mexican militant and in protest against the construction of a power station in Morelos.
- Members of an anarchist group claimed responsibility in March for placing incendiary devices in four electrical boxes of 5G repeaters in Barcelona.
- An Iberdrola office in Madrid suffered a broken window and graffiti justifying the attack in solidarity with Chilean prisoners on hunger strike. In April, as part of the same campaign in support of Chilean prisoners, Iberdrola offices in Madrid and CaixaBank offices in Alsasua (Navarra) were attacked.
- In June, anarchist groups claimed responsibility for several attacks on Endesa branches in Barcelona as part of a "Week of agitation from 14th to 20th June against the devastation of the Earth and the rise in electricity prices".
- The headquarters of the Socialist Party of Catalonia in Ciutat Vella and Rubí (Barcelona) were attacked in September and October, as part of a campaign against the rise in electricity prices and in favour of squatters.

The Attorney General's Office considers, as in previous years, that the main threat in Spain in the field of anarchist terrorism is constituted by individuals and groups adhering to the Anarchist Federation Reports International Revolutionary Front (FAI/FRI), "the international paradigm of insurrectional anarchism".

In its 2021 report, it mentioned that the targets attacked were mainly ATMs of banks, broken windows and graffiti of banks, vehicles of real estate and security companies, vehicles and electric motorbikes rented by companies, headquarters of political parties and churches. Madrid and Barcelona faced the highest number of attacks.

In 2021, it was detected that groups in Madrid linked to this movement had invited a former ETA member and another GRAPO member, Manuel Ramón Arango, to give lectures on the amnesty. Arango, in fact, had been released in 2021.

GRAPO activity continues to be marginal, limited to propaganda activities within the anarchist and squatter milieu, where they seek to recruit new members and extend their ideological influence. The Public Prosecutor's Office considers that there is no evidence of operational reactivation of this group, which, moreover, has not renounced terrorism.

6. International terrorism

On 15th February, the National Police arrested Luis John Castro Ramírez, alias "El Zarco", in the town of Benissa, Alicante, considered to be a former member of the Colombian terrorist group National Liberation Army and a collaborator of members of the Colombian Army in the murder of almost twenty civilians. The Audiencia Nacional, both at first instance and in response to the appeal lodged by the person concerned, agreed to grant the extradition of El Zarco to the Colombian authorities.

In another case, the National Police arrested on 12th August in Gandia (Valencia) a Dutch citizen wanted by the authorities of his country for the crimes of terrorism and incitement to violence.

In October 2021, the police also arrested at Barajas airport a member of the Peruvian terrorist organisation Sendero Luminoso, who was wanted by the Peruvian authorities and for whom a search and arrest warrant had been issued for extradition. The fugitive had tried to enter Ecuador, but was refused entry and took a flight to Spain, where he was arrested and placed at the disposal of the Audiencia Nacional.

7. International cooperation in the fight against terrorism

Spain's fight against terrorism has also required effective international cooperation. Spain has participated in the fight against terrorism at the international level, especially in the fight against jihadist terrorism in the Sahel.

In addition, Spain has cooperated closely with other European countries in the fight against terrorism. In September 2021, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior participated in a meeting of EU interior ministers in Paris, where issues related to the fight against jihadist terrorism and security cooperation were discussed.

Bilateral cooperation agreements on security and the fight against terrorism have also been carried out, such as the agreement signed between Spain and Morocco in February 2021 for the fight against terrorism and organised crime.

8. Challenges and future threats

In 2021, several terrorist actions have been recorded in Spain, indicating that the terrorist threat is still present in the country.

Jihadist terrorism remains a major threat in Spain, and is likely to remain so in the future. Terrorist groups such as Daesh maintain an interest in Spain, and are likely to continue to try to carry out attacks in the country. In recent years, there have been several terrorist attacks in Europe by jihadist groups, and Spain has been an important target due to its history and relationship with Islam. In addition, the situation in some African and Middle Eastern countries has led to an increase in the number of immigrants and refugees in Spain, which increases the risk of radicalisation. Although the National Plan to Prevent and Combat Radicalisation aims to prevent radicalisation, further work is needed on prevention and early identification of individuals susceptible to radicalisation.

Despite this, the Spanish government has taken measures to prevent and combat jihadist terrorism. In particular, it has strengthened laws and security measures to prevent radicalisation and terrorist recruitment, and has increased international cooperation to identify and arrest terrorists before they can act.

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Another major threat is far-left and far-right terrorism. Although these groups do not have the same capacity and reach as jihadist groups, they still pose a threat to security in Spain. In recent years, there has been an increase in the activity of far-right groups, and there have been several terrorist attacks by these groups in Europe. And while the terrorist activities by small separatist and extreme left-wing groups is limited, it can still have a significant impact on national security.

To further strengthen the fight against terrorism, attention needs to be paid to new trends and technologies used by terrorist groups. In recent years, terrorist groups have increasingly used social media and other online platforms to recruit new members and spread their ideology. It is therefore necessary to strengthen the capacity of security forces to monitor and respond to online threats.

Finally, international cooperation will continue to be a key element in the fight against terrorism in Spain. Cooperation with other countries and international organisations needs to be strengthened to ensure an effective fight against terrorism.



References

1. This Policy Brief was prepared by the Guardia Civil of Spain, as part of T10.5..
2. The data used for this brief was taken from the report Balance del terrorismo en España en 2021, published in the Cuaderno del Centro Memorial de las Víctimas del Terrorismo N° 12, May 2022, at: <https://fundacionvt.org/catalogo/estudios-informes-y-otros/balance-del-terrorismo-en-espana-2021/>