

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0644/03
by Koldo Gorostiaga Atxalandabaso (NI)
to the Council

Subject: 2002 annual debate on an area of freedom, security and justice

On February the 12th, during the 2002 annual debate on an area of freedom, security and justice, I asked the Council Office and Commissioner Vitorino the following questions, without receiving any response from them.

In the Kingdom of Spain on 13 February 1981, that is to say 22 years ago, Joseba Arregi, a Basque political prisoner, died under torture while he was in police custody.

In 2002, 634 politically motivated people were arrested. 127 of them subsequently claimed in court that they had suffered ill treatment or torture.

Has the Council received clear information about this issue from the Spanish Government?

Does the Council consider that the transparency principle has been respected by the Spanish Government?

Last year the Spanish Government proposed banning several social organisations - media and cultural associations - that had denounced the political repression suffered by Basque dissidents. As a result of a Spanish initiative, the European Union has drawn up a black list of associations and individuals accused of specific or tacit support for terrorism. The accused have neither legal means of defence nor effective access to the courts.

Does the Council consider there has been real enforcement of the democratic control principle with regard to Spain?

Will the Council put forward a judicial instrument, in the new texts being drafted, for those included on the European Union's black list?