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## The Guardia Civil Raids Several Catalan Newsrooms

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

**PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ**

The Spanish Guardia Civil raided the offices of five Catalan newspapers on 15 September 2017 in relation to media coverage of the Catalan referendum on self-determination due to take place on 1 October. The Guardia Civil presented a judicial ruling prohibiting the targeted media (NacioDigital, El Punt Avui, Vilaweb, El Nacional, Raco Català, Libertat.cat) from publishing any institutional advertisement in favour of the referendum viewed illegal by the Spanish Constitutional Court. The Guardia Civil then proceeded to identify the journalists present. Several journalist organizations, such as the Union of Journalists of Catalonia (SPC) and the Ethical College of Journalists of Catalonia, denounced the intervention of the Guardia Civil. The SPC issued a statement on 18 September condemning "police intimidation" and recalling the freedom to comment on current events. On 20 September, the information portal Vilaweb, which refused to stop the dissemination of institutional advertising in favour of the referendum, was threatened with closure by the Guardia Civil.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ▼

- ➦ Statement by the Union of Journalists of Catalonia (SPC) : "Las acciones judiciales y el respeto a los derechos fundamentales"
- ➦ Statement by the Ethical College of Journalists of Catalonia : "El Col·legi de Periodistes denuncia a la Sindicatura la dificultat d'exercir el periodisme"
- ➦ Statement by the Federation of publishers of Catalonia (in Spanish)

### STATE REPLIES ▼



29 Nov 2017 | Reply from the Spanish authorities



Letter from the Permanent Representation of Spain to the Council of Europe