



Anti-Islamic reactions in the EU
after the terrorist acts against the USA

A collection of country reports from RAXEN
National Focal Points (NFPs)

12th September to 31st December 2001

SPAIN

Movimiento por la paz, el desarme y la libertad (MPDL)
(Movement for peace, disarmament and liberty)¹

¹ This report covers the period from the 12 September to the 19th October and it is based on national and regional media reports and on information provided by the following organizations:

- Association of Immigrant Moroccan Workers in Spain (ATIME). ATIME's delegations in Spain, ATIME Andalusia and ATIME Almeria
- The Iman Ryay Tatari of the Mosque of Madrid.

Following the terror attacks in the USA on 11th September the EUMC found that there was a pressing need to closely follow the possible negative repercussions on racial and xenophobic attitudes and events in civil societies in Europe. On the basis of national reports drafted by its RAXEN network of National Focal Points (NFPs), the EUMC produced a first short-term report on anti-Islamic reactions in all countries of the European Union on 9th October 2001.

In order to have a longer term and regular monitoring on attitudes/incidents towards Muslim/Islamic communities and other vulnerable groups, the EUMC decided to follow up the first report and continue to closely monitor the situation at least until the end of the year 2001.

It therefore asked the RAXEN NFPs to produce additional reports, monitoring the situation on a monthly basis until the end of the year; in addition, it asked for a final report analysing the overall developments from 11th September to 31st December 2001.

According to the EUMC request, the reports have addressed in particular the following issues:

- acts of violence or aggression and changes in the attitude of the EU population towards ethnic, cultural or religious minorities (especially Muslim/Islamic communities but also other vulnerable groups or new types of victims), related to the recent terrorist attacks in the USA;
- good practices and positive case studies established in order to reduce prejudice and violence;
- reactions by politicians and other opinion leaders including initiatives to reduce polarization and counteract negative national trends.

In addition to the summary report written on behalf of the EUMC by Prof. Nielsen and Mr. Allen of the University of Birmingham, the following pages contain the original reports submitted by each NFP for the whole period.

Not all reports have been made available from all countries, but the coverage is however complete. The reports are quite varying in size. It should be considered that the Member States have different systems in collecting data: some have implemented a rather elaborated and comprehensive approach, while others have done what they could to get information about the situation in the Member State.

The task of the RAXEN network is to collect reliable and comparable data (including examples of and models for “good practices”) at the European level on the phenomena of racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism in order to help the EU and its Member States to take measures or formulate courses of action. For further information please visit the EUMC homepage <http://eumc.eu.int>

Vienna, 23 May 2002

First short-term report

Verbal and physical attacks

The NFP Spain has contacted ATIME, an immigrant NGO (Asociación de Trabajadores Marroquies en España, association of Morocco workers in Spain) in order to know how Islamic/Muslim communities are feeling and seeing the situation after the terrorist attack to the US.

As to attacks against Islamic/Muslim people, they had no notice of such attacks so far, but they reported attacks to mosques in Madrid and in Cordoba. In the first case, eggs of blue, red and white colour were thrown at the building. In the second case, a racist inscription was written on the mosque.

Attitudes

Concerning the attitudes towards the Islamic community, ATIME reports that the influence of media becomes bigger. Some media try to establish the belief that all members of the Islamic community are potential international terrorist. They are very worried about this case. They think that occidental citizens are led to believe that a civilization war is about to happen, and all what means Muslim or Islamic people will be a potential enemy.

20th September 2001

Report on anti-Islamic and anti-Arabic reactions in Austria after the terrorist acts in the USA – Reactions from 25th September to 19th October

1 - Acts of violence or aggression and changes of attitude towards the Muslim communities

None of the organizations which we have contacted has reported any racist acts of violence against members of the Muslim communities they represent.

Below press articles related to the topic of violence and racism towards the resident Muslims in Spain are listed in details:

13/9/01. El País newspaper reports that a young man of Moroccan nationality without papers was shot by a hunter in the municipality of Tolox, province of Malaga. The victim was hurt by three shots in the shoulder, the thigh and the knee. The description of the aggressor led the Police to the detention of a neighbour, though he initially claimed his innocence. The reason for the aggression is still unknown.

16/9/01. El País newspaper reports on the fear of the Muslim community in Spain of possible racist outbreaks as a consequence of the attacks in the USA; the article recalls that eggs were

thrown at a mosque in Madrid on September 14, 2001. The article also includes declarations of the Iman of the mosque, of the President of ATIME, Abdelhamid Beyuki, of a counsellor of the Moroccan embassy, Faris Yasir, and some Moroccan residents in Spain. They all express their fear of the possible reprisals for the attacks in the USA and stress the difference between the terrorist and the Muslim community.

16/9/01. The newspaper El País reports in an article "Do not blame all the Muslims of the world!" An analysis on the origin of the attacks in New York. The author tries to clarify that "this is neither a war of religions nor a struggle among cultures or nations, but it is a battle among fanatics, for whom objective - any objective: religious, nationalistic or ideological - justifies the way selected, and the rest of us, for whom life is a value in itself".

19/9/01. The newspaper El País reports on the situation of Islam in Spain: number of religious communities, situation, trends, problems, etc..

20/9/01. El País newspaper publishes an article in which the NGO Granada Acoge denounces that certain bars of Zafarraya's village (Granada) prevent Maghrebians from the entrance to the bars. Fifty agricultural temporaries have signed the denunciation. Zafarraya is a village of 2.300 habitants that receives, between May and June, approximately 1.500 temporary Maghrebians; there are also immigrants that have been living there for ten years. The mayor of Zafarraya declares that "*the owners of the establishments have denied the entry to persons who were going drunk and who previously have disturbed and bothered the customers*" and that, except a few disputes that happened in the beginning of this summer, in the village there have not been registered incidents of racist. For the president of Granada Acoge (NGO) "*the incidents do not limit itself to a certain case and it is sure that connivance exists between the owners of the bars and the local authorities*".

23/9/01. The newspaper El País reports on the opinion of three resident Muslims in Spain, that show their worries after the attacks in the USA.

28/9/01. The newspaper ABC reports on the declarations of the Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi in which he proclaims the superiority of the Christian civilization.

28/9/01. El Diario de Sevilla, a newspaper of Sevilla reports on the detention of a presumed collaborating terrorist of the organization led by Osama Bin Laden in the town of Lepe (Huelva). In this locality there are almost 500 Moroccan residents, in addition to the great number of immigrants who work during the season of the strawberry collection. In different declarations the pacific coexistence that reigns in the town and the absence of the terrorist movement in the rest of the Muslim population is underlined.

30/9/01. The newspaper El País reports of another image of the Muslim world related to peace. The article gives basic information on the Muslim religion and its sacred book, the Corán, and of the subjective interpretation that the Islamic fundamentalists do of its verses.

30/9/01. The newspaper El País informs about the coexistence of the three monotheistic religions in the city of Melilla, the Catholicism, the Islam and the Judaism.

30/09/01. La Vanguardia: "Alert police officer to protect the Islam". To that date insults against Islamic representatives, especially of the Arab group, but no physical aggressions have been detected in Barcelona and other Catalan cities. It was reported that the number of controls in front of mosques in the city has remarkably increased.

3/10/01. The newspaper El País reports on the ideological and religious tendencies, to be separated clearly from fundamentalism, of the French Muslim community, the most important one in Europe.

3/10/01. The newspaper El País reports on some repercussions from the attack in the USA in the province of Malaga, where 10,000 Muslims live.

- The National Day of Saudi Arabia, which has been organised annually by the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Malaga, has been suspended.
- Four congresses of North American companies have been postponed and this has caused the cancellation of more than 300 reservations in luxury hotels.
- The building of the ‘Sea Palace’ of king Fahd, who has spent more than 32,000 million pesetas, remain interrupted although it was predicted that the works were to be started again after the summer.

4/10/01. The newspaper El País reports on the attack against a mosque in Marbella, Malaga, to which fire was set to the main door of the building. Nevertheless, the Iman of the mosque, Mofaddla Mohamed Ali, has denied that the attack relates to the attacks in the USA, since it is the third time in the last years that the doors of the mosque were set afire. The delegate of the government in Malaga, Carlos Rubio, declares that investigations have begun to determine if the aggressors belong to some violent or racist group and that they will be persecuted.

11/10/01. La Vanguardia: "Fear and condemns in the Catalan Islam". The Muslims struggle between the rejection of the bombings and the fear to speak. They fear that their words are misinterpreted and the majority refuses to speak openly. The Pakistan Muslims are most sensitive to what is happening.

17/10/01. El País: headlines “A mosque in Malaga exhibits a pro-Taliban manifesto on its facade.” The writing emphasizes that Afghanistan has protected the honour, the life and the properties of women, "who can now leave their houses without fear to be kidnapped, to be robbed or violated". The text indicates that the country applies "a serious and effective" Islamic educative program to improve the “precarious” situation.

19/10/01. La Vanguardia: "Squabble by a mosque". Moderate Muslims denounce that a group of integralists occupied a mosque in Malaga. There are several fractions of the Islamic community of Malaga with different interpretations from the Islamic religion. A group of Muslims of integralist tendency assumed the control of the mosque that has been occupied for about six months. The controversy was ignited by planks placed in the outside of the mosque with a document that justifies the application of measures of restriction of women’s freedoms in Afghanistan. This action was criticized heavily on the one hand and more moderately on the other hand by the community.

Not only acts of violence against Muslim communities have been reported, but also acts of violence against Christian and Jewish buildings and symbols have taken place; especially in the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, as following press articles report:

16/9/01. The newspaper El País reports on the attacks on the church of San Jose, located in the Ceutí district of Hadu, and the commerce of a Jewish Ceutí. The church, located in a district of the city of Ceuta inhabited to equal parts by Christians and Muslims was attacked

by several non-identified individuals that threw an incendiary bottle with gasoline through one of the windows of the building. Also a shop belonging to a Ceuti of Jewish religion was attacked with stones. The delegate of the government in Ceuta, Luis Vicente Moro, avoided to tie the fire with the terrorist attack in the USA, but he did not excluded that the attack on the church and the commerce have been caused by groups that try to destabilize a border city with the Maghreb. One third of the population in Ceuta is of Muslim religion.

30/9/01. The ABC newspaper dedicates a special article to the last events that happened in Ceuta and Melilla:

- in Ceuta, several minors threw a bottle with gasoline into the interior of the church of San José and burned its archives and additionally they appeared to have painted Jewish buildings in several points of the city;
- in Melilla also a church and a synagogue have been attacked and a Jewish cemetery has been profaned.
- Additionally the article reports on a small racist bud that took place in a bar in Ametilla del Mar between an American and several Muslims. As a result of this small fact posters against the Arab world have appeared.

In the news article the normal atmosphere of the otherwise pacific coexistence in the two multicultural cities is reflected. The article also includes declarations of people in the street, the Iman Hamid Liqid, Maxima Muslim authority in Ceuta, the advisor of Social welfare, Mohamed Chaid, the president of the Hebrew community of Melilla, Jacobo Wahnnon, the president of the Islamic commission of Melilla, Abderramán Benyaya, ex- Eurodeputy of Izquierda Unida, Abdelkader Mohamed Ali, and of the delegate of the government in Melilla, Arturo Estebal Albert.

The representatives of the Muslim communities which we have contacted are worried about the anti-Islamic language that they have detected in some mass media, and make explicit reference to the wireless social gatherings of the audience of the two Radio leaders like CADENA SER and ONDA CERO, and the newspaper of general information El País the most read of the Spanish newspapers.

As a result of the events of the 11 of September and to prevent possible reactions towards the immigrant population of Muslim religion, the Coordinator of Organizations for Immigrations (CEI) of the Baix Ebre (Catalunya) has organized a series of interventions in the mass media of the region:

- A program of debate in the local TV (Channel 21) with participation of leaders of the CEI and Islamic representatives (11 of October of 2001).
- Articles to be published in local press (an article already published)
- Small explanatory press notes on concrete aspects of the culture and Islamic and Moroccan religion, to be published in the local press.
- Interviews on radio.

Report on anti-Islamic and anti-Arabic reactions **after the terrorist acts in the USA** **19 October – 23 November 2001**

Introduction

The change of attitude towards Muslim communities in part of the Spanish population has become noticeable as a result of the September 11th terrorist attacks on the U.S.

On the Islamic communities side, there exists a widespread resentment towards the “high-handed” attitude that they consider the U.S. have shown towards the Islamic world. Nevertheless solidarity and condolence to the victims of the attacks were clearly shown by the Islamic world. In a unanimous way they have condemned the terrorist attacks of September 11th as well as any type of terrorist act and underlined the difference between Islam and terrorism.

On the other side, the change of attitude in the Spanish population about the Islamic communities is reflected by a few violent acts or assaults. But this change of attitude is also visible in the commentaries of people.

The mass media have also spread positive ideas about Islam and the Muslim world. There are also many opinion leaders (writers, university teachers) that have defended the idea of a tolerant Islam. An Islam which, as claimed by Islamic communities in Spain, is integrated in a modern European society.

A good example of this is an article written by Eugenio Trias, philosopher and member of “El Mundo”; “The spiritual Islam”, published in the daily paper “El Mundo”, on November, 19th, 2001 or the interview published in “El Correo” (Bilbao Edition), on November 22nd with Pedro Martínez Montávez, professor in Arabian and Islamic studies at the Autonomía University from Madrid, called “It is a dangerous daring to bring up a conflict among civilisations”.

The Report

This report deals with three aspects in the period from October 19th to November 23rd:

- Acts of violence or aggression and changes in the attitudes towards Muslim communities
- Examples or actions considered as good practices in favour of integration of these communities in society or issues to reduce the negative attitudes towards them
- Reactions by politicians and other opinion leaders on this matter.

The following sources have been used:

- National, regional and local press analysis from October 19th to November 23rd; some news before that period are included for their importance.
- Institutional Contacts: Interview with the vice-president of the Cultural Association independent immigrants collective, Mr. Adul Jaló in Seville,
- Reports from NGO and immigrants organisations:
 - Association of Immigrant Moroccan Workers in Spain (ATIME). ATIME's delegations Spain, ATIME Andalusia and ATIME Almeria.
 - Workers' union of the Field (SOC).

- Association Pro Human Rights (APDH).
- Association of Immigrant Women Moroccans (AMAL).
- Sevillian platform of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

1. Acts of violence or aggression and changes in the attitude of the EU population towards ethnic, cultural, religious minorities, especially Muslim/Islamic communities but also other vulnerable groups or new types of victims, related to the recent terrorist attacks in the USA

Introduction

In general terms, during the last month there has been a decrease in the interest of both the mass media and the public opinion about the Islam after the 11 of September's events.

The press has no longer included in front page news related to the Afganistan war and the search for Bin Laden. Although these subjects are still the topic of a great number of leading articles (editorials, opinion articles, reports), they do not longer take the central space they practically monopolised during September and the first half of October.

Such a lower presence of the "Islamic" affairs in the press is also detected in the street, where the people we have contacted stress that those comments and suspicious glances which show a scarcely reflective identification between the events that the press qualify as Islamic terrorism and the individuals, typically migrants, whose looks may lead them to be considered as Muslims, although still to be heard, are less intense than they used to be only one month ago.

In Spain most of the aggressions tracked mix racism towards Maghribian migrants (the "Moorish") with the fear directly arisen from the 11 of September's events, so it is difficult to measure the real influence that such events have had in the emergence of those aggressions.

What can undeniably been seen is a greater mistrust by the native population towards all those individuals whose look may lead them to be taken by Muslims. In Spain, the arrests of Muslims who have been linked with Al Qaeda have increased this atmosphere of distrust, which is detected for instance in the difficulties that Maghribian migrants encounter when trying to rent a flat. It must be said, however, that this distrust was already the norm even before the 11 of September.

Press news

During the last month we have not detected any press news about violent or racist actions which can be directly linked to islamophobia feelings derived from the 11 of September's events.

In spite of this, we know of examples of violent actions or rejections which are related to migration as a whole phenomenon or specifically addressed to the Moroccan population.

This is the case, for instance, of the opposition by a number of neighbours to the creation of a Moroccan Consulate in Almeria. This opposition was qualified as racist by the judge (EL PAÍS, 19 November 2001).

In Navarre, the press has informed of the apparition of stickers in front of a centre for migrants' reception and training in the municipality of Olite with sentences such as "stop migration" or "stop invasions". These stickers were signed by the extreme right party "Democracia Nacional" (Diario de Navarra, 22 October 2001).

Other violent actions refer to quarrels or aggressions by "skinheads" against people from Gambia in Girona (EL PAÍS, 23 October 2001), to the death of a Lithuanian in Alicante or to

the aggression of a Venezuelan in the same city. None of these actions seems to have a direct relation with the Islam or with the 11 of September's events.

On the contrary, the denunciation by the Red Cross of an increase in the checks in the Las Palmas airport, which were hampering the exit of irregular migrants from the Canary Islands towards the Iberian Peninsula after the attack to the USA, seems to be more linked with these facts. This denunciation appeared in EL PAÍS (23 October 2001).

Two other news featured in EL PAÍS (19 November 2001) are more linked with islamophobia. Both of them concerned the protests of a number of citizens of Vic (Catalonia) against the creation of a Muslim centre in this town. This is also the case of another information which appeared in LA VANGUARDIA (26 November 2001), which collected the declarations of the Muslim representatives present in a conference organised by the United Nations Organisation in Madrid concerning Education in Religious Rights. These persons referred to an increase in islamophobia registered in Spanish schools after the 11 of September's events.

Racism in schools, aggravated by these events, appears repetitively in other press articles. An editorial of EL PUNT (21 October 2001) stressed that "the 11 of September's attack... have left nobody indifferent. Some teachers have noticed in the classrooms a mutual mistrust between some native students and some migrants of Muslim religion".

NGOs' news

The information we have collected from our contacts with the NGOs which work directly with migrants show a general feeling of fear among the Muslim population in spite of the very low number of violence and physical or verbal aggressions detected. In contrast, comments and conversations between the native population concerning the 11 of September's facts in which prejudices and distrust are extended to all the individuals whose looks may assimilate them to the Islamic religion are quite common. Anyway, these attitudes have moderated in the last month.

An organisation located in the South-East corner of Spain, which prefers to preserve its anonymity, let us know that one of its workers of Maghribian origin received direct and email threats. This organisation is currently working to discover the source of these menaces to lodge a claim.

ACISI (another organisation) informs of two quarrels between Spanish and Moroccan youngsters in the North of Spain related to the 11 of September's events. These quarrels occurred in a bar and a disco.

We also have heard of some police investigations around mosques, particularly concerning their Imams.

Other organisations (ACISI, Ibn Batuta) have let us know about graffiti against the Islam in front of shops owned by Muslims and mosques. We have also heard of disputes between native and Moroccan children and youngsters in some primary and secondary schools.

Conclusions

It can be said that in Spain islamophobia overlaps the xenophobia arisen in the native population as a result of the gradual increase in the number of migrants coming from different countries but particularly from Morocco. Significant violent actions which may be attributed to the 11 of September's events have not been detected, although it is not less true that there is a greater mistrust of the individuals whose looks resemble those of Muslims. Such mistrust is basically denounced by the Moroccan (the biggest foreign population in Spain) and is shown in glances, conversations or comments which link the Islam and Muslims with terrorism,

religious intolerance or women's ill treatment. In the last month, however, social stress has decreased, which can be partly explained by a lower presence of this subject in mass media. We have maintained contacts with some institutions that took part in the first part of the project; The Mapping Exercise (such as La Coruña University, The University Institute of studies about Migrations from the Pontificia University of Comillas or the Center of Studies about Migrations and Racism from the Complutense University of Madrid) though no concrete answers have been received, possibly because some of them have not observed the subject or because they have not known about any concrete fact.

2. Good practices for reducing prejudice, violence and aggression

La Consejería de Gobernación de la Junta de Andalucía organizes "Meeting on Racism" in the city of Seville which attends, between other personalities, the Spanish ex prime minister Felipe Gonzalez. The guests analyse the consequences of the cultural conflict generated after the attacks in USA and the war in Afghanistan.

In the city of Seville the Platform against the War formed by the following organizations: PRT, CGT, Youths Andalucistas, Andalusian Left, PSA, Group of Defense of the Human rights of the Hospital Virgen del Rocio, Women's coordinator, Education Without Borders, Algarive, Caravan for the Peace, Entrepueblos, Platform of Solidarity with Palestine, APDH, RCADE, Alternative Action, MRG, Association of Friendship with Cuba Bartolomé de las Casas, ATTAC, IU's Provincial Council, Ecologists in Action, Latin-American Summary, Libertarian Cultural Club, SOC, Jaleo, JCA, USTEA, CC.OO., New Left, House of the Peace, IR and The Green, summons a demonstration with the motto "Another World is Possible" for October 24 for the streets of the center of Seville; and a round table in the Civic Center "The Columns" (Seville) with the title "You Think about peace".

The Association of Immigrant Women Moroccans (AMAL) organizes the meeting "Situation of the Immigrant Woman in the European Union" during the 9th and 10th of November, in the city of Seville. The round table addresses the situation of the immigrant Moslem women in the European Union.

The Foundation Three Cultures has organized in Seville during the 23rd and 24th of November the Women's first Meeting Mediterráneas coordinated by the euro parliamentary Emma Bonino. During the inauguration there were references to the new scene that arises after the attempts of September 11, especially in the interventions of the princess Sarvath El of Jordan and of Emma Bonino.

18/10/01 – The newspaper El Diario de Sevilla gathers a few declarations of the Spanish ex prime minister, Felipe Gonzalez, produced in "Meeting on Racism" celebrated on October 17 in the city of Seville, in which he thinks about the repercussions of the attack of September 11 in USA.

29/10/01 - The newspaper El Mundo gathers a photo of a wedding link between an American catholic citizen and a Moroccan citizen of Moslem religion celebrated in Agrón's municipality (Cadiz) titling the foot of photo since like "message of cultural living together".

1/11/01 - The newspaper El País reproduces a few declarations of the king of Morocco Mohamed VI differentiating the terms terrorist and Moslem and denying to the fundamentalists the right to give lessons on the Islam.

10/11/01 - The Country edits in its cultural supplement Babelia, a monography entitled "Books against the Intolerance". Across eight pages several writers, critics and thinkers analyze some books which topic is the integration or the struggle against the intolerance. The texts are deal with the cultural conflict that is developing in the world in these moments.

13/11/01 - The Newspaper La Opinión de Malaga publishes an article "A tolerant province with the world of the ISLAM".

13/11/01 - In the web page www.nosaltres.com, "El cercador de Vilaweb" appears information on "The Second edition of the Seminar on the Islamic world in Sabadell". On November 13 begins in Barna (Sabadell), organized by the League of the Laws of the Peoples, the second edition of the Seminar on the Islamic World: the keys to understand the Islamism. The aim of the seminar is to lay the foundations of that one that is defined as Islamism, to facilitate the necessary tools to analyze the information that comes to us and to be able to extract proper conclusions.

The newspaper El País publishes an article about the meeting Women of the Mediterranean celebrated in Seville during the 23rd and 24th of November and organized by the foundation Three Cultures; there are extracts of the interventions of the princess Sarvath El of Jordan, the euro parliamentary Emma Bonino and the Consejero of the Presidency of the Junta de Andalucía Gaspar Zarrias in which they refer to the situation generated by the attacks of September 11.

3. Reactions by politicians and other opinion leaders including initiatives to reduce polarization and counteract negative national trends

September 15th, 2001.

Daily paper El Mundo. Catalan Edition: "El Personaje de la semana: Jordi Pujol":

This article refers to conference by the President of the Catalan Autonomous government, Mr. Jordi Pujol, on 14th September, in the Catalan Institute of Mediterranean, entitled "Challenges in the new international context: An answer from Europe"; among some other subjects, Pujol referred to the Muslim immigrants.

September 23rd, 2001.

Daily paper El Correo. Bilbao Edition: "The Islamic population in Spain demands their idea of peace facing barbarism":

"Not all Muslims are fanatics" claim spokesmen of the 400000 islamics that live in Spain. They consider that mass media give an evil idea of Islam and at the same time they have transmitted an unreal image of this religion, that condemns any type of terrorist act. It also tells how the spanish police and the Intelligence services are investigating a large group of islamic fundamentalists that live in Spain, before the possible reaction of this group of Muslims called "The Afghans" in case there is a US attack on Afghanistan.

October 4th, 2001.

Press release from Amnesty International in Spain: "Human Rights in danger all over the world, after the attacks on september 11th"

In a report published on October 10th, Amnesty International in Spain documents the opposite reactions registered in at least ten countries against Muslims and people with arabian origin. The report emphasizes also the first worrying indications that the fight against terrorism can be used in an opportunist way to repress civil freedom and human rights. Amnesty International has declared; "The horror caused by September 11th must not be translated in a way that other communities from the world became victims in the name of fight against terrorism".

October 19th, 2001.

Diario de Sevilla. En Portada Section: "Nuñez asks for deeper contact with arabian world"

The Partido Andalucista spokesman in the "House of representatives" (Congreso de los Diputados español), José Nuñez, asked the president of Spain, Mr. José María Aznar to reinforce the contacts with the Arabic world. Nuñez said that even if he supported in a total

way the international coalition that prosecutes the acts of terrorism from the attacks of September 11th “we solicit from the president of the government to keep the agreements with the arabian world and to give a more important role to Spain as bridge between the “first world” and the Islamic world”. At the same time he mentioned the contradictory words from Ben Laden, referring to an intransigent Al Andalus, for “the splendour of the Al Andalus culture meant a peaceful cohabitation and the tolerance among three monotheist religions: Jewish, Muslims and Christians”. The article also reflects the differences existent among the different political parties in Spain in the reactions against terrorism and the relations with the Muslim world.

October 24th, 2001.

El Mundo Diary. Society section: “Taken out of a ceremony with Prince Felipe, a Moroccan NGO leader”

The fact happened, from the news, on the day the Autónoma University of Madrid celebrated the Solidarity day. The president of the Association for social and labour integration of the immigrants denounced he had been expelled from a ceremony presided by Prince Felipe, just for being Arab. The meetings were celebrated to ease integration.

October 26th, 2001.

El Pais Diary. Madrid Edition: “Islamic community claims a greater attention from Aznar”: Representative from the main Muslim organizations in Spain claim for a larger attention from the president of Spain, J.M^a Aznar, after the September 11th terrorist attacks. The president of Association of Moroccan immigrant workers in Spain (ATIME), Abdelhamid Beyuki, assured that, “there is a big concern among Muslims” but he underlined that they cannot be paranoid about this and also denied that there is a dangerous situation.

Last week of October

El Pais Diary. Internet Edition; “Riay Tatory-President of the Union of Islamic communities in Spain”

Representatives of the main Muslim organizations in Spain have claimed for a gesture from the Spanish government because they feel ignored after the September 11th attacks in the U.S. Riay Tatory, president of the union of islamic communities of Spain and general secretary of the islamic Commission of Spain, will chat with the Internet users about these matters on Tuesday at 17:30. Chat in Internet (This can be considered as an example of good practice)

November 10th, 2001.

Report broadcasted on Spanish National Television programme: “Weekly report”, called “Muslims in Spain”

Directed by Baltasar Magro and presented by Almudena Ariza, about the Muslims in Spain. They are 600.000 people and are already the second religion in Spain. The Muslim population in Spain feels ignored and victim of apprehension that after the lost international events have only grown.

November 19th, 2001.

El Mundo Diary. Catalanian Edition: Report “Muslim Catalonia”, number 4. Interview to Najem Alhassan. From Sirya to Barcelona. By Silvia Taulés; “They ask us to forget language and religion; would a Catalanian do it?”:

Najem Alhassan is the imam from the mosque of Barcelona, with Syrian origin, declares that “since the attacks against the U.S., people’s opinion has become worse and we suffer all this. We have received threatens and insults, which shows that the occident though it is supposed to be modern and advanced, is really behind time in culture and mentality”. He criticizes the demagogy existent in Spain, about the subject of immigration and pleads for an equalitary cohabitation and respect among all the religions. The lack of places to pray in Catalonia is now more evident than ever, when begins the religious celebration Ramadan, and the Muslim

community must set all of their struggles to keep praying without having to stay out of their temples.

November 21st, 2001.

Independent daily of Asturias: "Ismail Fernández Martínez, president of the Islamic Centre of Asturias; "We are not terrorist, only Muslims":

The president of the Islamic Centre of Asturias, is afraid an isolated fact may be misunderstood and taken to place under suspect the Muslim community after media have published several press releases from Association *Ibn Taymiyyah*, collective presided by Yusuf Galan, one of the eleven arrested by judge Garzón in the "Dátil Operation". The contents of these texts related the Association to Asturias. Ismail Fernández, explains the relation of *Ibn Taymiyyah* and Yusuf Galan with Asturias, and denies any connection between asturian Muslims and terrorism. In the interview, Mr. Fernández, a Spaniard converted to Islamic religion a few years ago, says that since the 11th september attacks the population in general confuses the terms Muslim and terrorist, which is making cohabitation even more difficult than before. He also considers that the xenophobic attitudes have always an economic root. When he is asked about his opinion about Ben Laden, he considers that he represents the worst damage that has been done to Islam; an option that degenerates Islam and it is not shared by the majority of the Muslim people.

Interview with the vice-president of the Cultural Association independent immigrants collective, Mr. Adul Jaló, about the impact of the terrorist attacks on September 11th on the Muslim and Arabic communities in Spain (by Yolanda Fernández) 22/11/01, Seville

Adul Jaló is the vice-president of the Cultural Association independent immigrants collective and assistant manager of the paper with the same name. He is a Muslim and he defends the multicultural cohabitation and the tolerance towards a variety of cultures and religions in an interview at this paper (number 46).

Could you talk to us about any of the subjects which you refer to in your interview for the paper "El Colectivo"?

We referred to the fact that there is a noticeable lack of perception about the difference that exists between being Muslim and being terrorist. People easily confuse these two words, over all since the terrorist attacks occurred on september, 11th.

Through what facts have you become aware of this?

It is something you can breathe in the air and it is commented. Everybody knows it. To have an example, there are now many more detentions of Muslims since the attacks occurred. Anyone who looks like being a Muslim is searched by the police, in airports, for example, it is now usual. Not long ago I was in the Santa Justa train station in Seville, with a group of Muslims and police man walked towards us, asking for our identifications, while there were many other people in the place and they didn't ask anyone else. This does not only happen at a policial level, but also in the streets: a Muslim enters any place and people dislikes him

How does this affect the Muslim community?

It affects it from the point of view that islamic communities and the persons that practice this religion, which is a respectable as any other, feel frightened, more when we talk about a community that means a minority in the whole population.

It is obvious that there is also a big risk that is not only a matter of perception, for example, on September 13th, just two days after the terrorist attacks, it was published in the Diary of Jerez, number 45 (a town in Cádiz-Andalucía) a wall poster from a group from Jerez, called "Civiled Occident" which was threatening the islamic community, completely racist and

xenophobic. How can we not expect them to be afraid? People are supposing any Muslim is also a terrorist, and that is why we have to fight against it.

What are the deep problems?

There is no tradition of living with Muslims, that is why it is difficult. There isn't either any preparation for multiculturalism and however multiculturalism is already today a reality in Spain, a reality that we should begin facing. We must think about a series of mechanisms to try to ease the cohabitation, from the outcoming immigrants as well as the ones that are already here. The thing is that we have to know how to accept the diversity, to adapt to it. We also have to start mechanisms for education about this subject, though intolerance towards others is not a generation's topic, or dependent on age. Sometimes younger people are more intolerant than old people.

Don't you think it is a problem of mutual adaptation? Spanish people don't assume differences sometimes, but do Muslims adapt to Spanish culture, customs, etc, do they know how to coexist in tolerance respecting our culture?

Immigrants that come to Spain, come from small towns, villages or countries that have been colonized by Occidental countries, that is why they know Occidental culture as well as their own. It is, however, the Occidental world the one that does not know or hasn't bothered in knowing cultures from other countries that have been colonized, which are less developed.

What do you think about the attitude of politicians about this subject?

Referring to the effect of the September 11th attacks, especially in the Islamic communities here in Spain, I consider that politics has not had a meaningful concrete reaction. They have had it about the war in Afghanistan, but in any case, I believe we shouldn't have to wait for a reaction from the political world. We have to start doing things from now, because the changes in the population ideas are evident. There is tension.

I consider meaningful the declarations that Silvio Berlusconi made from Italy, referring to Occidental civilization as being superior to Islamic. Of course, I would never consider my religion as superior, I accept diversity.

What mechanisms have you used as example of good practices to fight against this phenomenon or which ones do you know from other sources?

The Association El Colectivo, started on October 5th and 6th of the present year the "Meeting among immigrants associations in Andalucía" that was celebrated in Jaén.

This meeting among associations is celebrated every year, but especially this year has been addressed to sensitize about how the Islamic world is being treated from the attacks on September 11th, and to ask the governments to control their actions, for example, about the police detentions of Muslims, that don't benefit integration at all. We also called press conferences at this meeting.

Also in the 5th meetings about "Internationality and Human Rights", on November 16th and 17th this year in Seville and promoted by El Colectivo, the Junta of Andalucía and Seville city hall, addressed this subject.

Report on anti-Islamic and anti-Arabic reactions
after the terrorist acts in the USA
November 24th to December 31st, 2001

General Introduction

The Muslim community situation today, especial for those who come from Morocco, is bit worse than before the twin tower attack, which added to an already present xenophobic attitude.

The attention of the mass media to this event is getting lower; however, opinions, editorials, informative articles, etc. have consolidated prejudices and attitudes in our society that will be very difficult to change, in the context of an increasing social and political debate on immigration. That is the conclusion after analysing the press and mass media

Because of the war against Afghanistan, the 11th September attacks are not anymore front-page in newspapers or the main subject of debates, compared to one month ago. Still they have a high importance and social repercussion; immigration and Islam have now become for most people in Spain a social reality.

From 24th November to the year-end 2001, racist violence connected to the 11th September has decreased.

The present report deals with two aspects:

- Good practices for the social integration of these communities or measures to prevent negative attitudes
- Politicians' and other opinion leaders' comments related to Islamophobia.

The press analysis, at national, regional and local level has been the source used for the processing of this report.

We have also contacted:

- *Association of Immigrant Moroccan Workers in Spain (ATIME). ATIME's delegations Spain, ATIME Andalusia and ATIME Almerý.*
- *Workers' union of the Field (SOC).*
- *Association Pro Human Rights (APDH).*
- *Association of Immigrant Women Moroccans (AMAL).*
- *Sevillian platform of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.*
- *Follow-up of the national and regional press.*
- *ACISI (Association for the Cooperation, the Social Insertion and the Interculturalidad)*
- *Association of Inb Moroccans Baton*
- *CEPAIM (State Partnership For the Integral Action with Migrantes)*
- *USE (Working Union Union)*
- *CGT (General Confederation of Workers)*
- *Akwaba Association*
- *ACCEM (Association Catholic Commission of Migrations)*
- *SOS Racisme.*

1. Acts of violence or aggression and changes in the attitude of the EU population towards ethnic, cultural, religious minorities, especially Muslim/Islamic communities but also other vulnerable groups or new types of victims, related to the recent terrorist attacks in the USA

Introduction

During the last month the media pressure toward Muslim community has decreased. There are no more front pages related to the Twin Towers attack, the Afghan war or the Bin Laden search, but there are still commentaries, editorials, etc.

Our contacts inside Muslim community report about growing mistrust toward this community or people who seem to belong to it, because an Al Qaeda structure (human and technical resources) has been detected in our country. Housing problems have increased for this reason.

Press news

DIARIO DE NAVARRA (Newspaper 10-12-01) Graffitiists against a Welcome and Information Immigrants Centre have appeared in Oite (Navarra), with sentences like "Stop to immigration" or "Stop invasion" written by right wing extremist party National Democracy.

EL PAÍS (10-23-01) The Red Cross denounces that the tougher controls in Las Palmas airport are blocking the immigrants exit to Spanish peninsula after the NY attack.

EL PAÍS (11-19-01) Neighbourhood protest against a Muslim Centre in Vic (Catalonia).

LA VANGUARDIA (11-26-01) Muslim delegates in the UN conference on Education and Religious Rights make a statement about the increase of Islamophobic acts after the 11th September events in Spanish schools.

EL PUNT (21 October 2001) Editorial, "The 11 of September's attacks ... have left nobody indifferent. Some teachers have noticed in the classrooms a mutual mistrust between some native students and some migrants of Muslim religion"

NGO news

The information we have collected from our contacts with the NGOs which work directly with immigrants show a general feeling of fear among the Muslim population, in spite of the very low number of violent acts and physical or verbal aggressions detected.

In contrast, comments and conversations among the native population concerning the 11th September's facts, in which prejudices and distrust are extended to all the individuals whose looks may assimilate them to the Islamic religion, are quite common. Anyway, these attitudes have moderated in the last month.

An organisation located in the Southeast corner of Spain, which prefers to maintain its anonymity, let us know that one of its workers of Maghrebian origin received direct and e-mail threats. This organisation is currently working to discover the source of these menaces to file a complain.

ACISI (another organisation) informs of two incidents between Spanish and Moroccan youngsters in the North of Spain related to the 11 of September's events. These incidents occurred in a bar and a disco.

Other organisations (ACISI, Ibn Batuta) have informed us about graffiti against the Islam in front of shops owned by Muslims and in mosques. We have also heard of incidents between native and Moroccan children and youngsters in some primary and secondary schools.

2. Good practices for reducing prejudice, violence and aggression:

According to our own observation and the opinion of our contacts in Muslim community there is a lower activity in the good practice field.

Muy Interesante (Magazine, December number) Publish a monography about the Islam culture.

Sevillian Solidarity platform with the Palestinian People organizes during the 26, 27 and 28 November a series of conferences about “Conflicts in the Arab world: Right or international disorder?”

5th to 23d November of 2001. Euskal Herriko Egunkaria GARA (Basque Newspaper GARA). The Arab, African, Latin and gypsy cultures are an opened window for the young people. The 6th SOS Racism Intercultural Hall joins near two thousand students. The representation of a roma wedding, African dances, writing names in Arab or a slide-show of the Latin American landscape were part of the event contents.

14 of December of 2001 – Diario de Catalunya.

TV-3 analyses the social repercussion of the 11-September. The terrorist attacks have marked the life in the western world. For this TV-3 (independent TV channel) proposes today, in a new thematic night titled *Després l'impacte*. (After impact), to analyse the changes produced by these dramatic events.

18th December 2001. – Periódico de Tarragona

Muslim community foments its integration. The Social and Cultural Centre dels Musulmans de les Terres de l'Ebre (Muslim Centre from Ebro river lands) is a new organisation aiming at the integration of Muslims; it has more than 100 members, including Catalan Muslims. They will celebrate the end of the Ramadan and the proximity of Christmas.

3. Reactions by politicians and other opinion leaders including initiatives to reduce polarization and counteract negative national trends:

12-12-01 EL MUNDO. Catalunya Edition

Islam is plural. Islam experts request social changes for Muslim adaptation. Islam plurality tries to show a non-monolithic system, which we assimilate with integralism, fanaticism.

12-12-01 EL PAÍS.

Cultural differences. An article by Ludolfo Paramio, researcher in the Comparative Politics Unit, CSIC (National Scientific Investigation Centre), about cultural and religious differences after the 11th September events.

12-12-01 El Mundo.

Peace Messengers (NGO) joint representatives of five religions. Three months after terrorist attacks in NY, Muslims, Jews, Buddhist, protestant and catholic request peace. It was in a hotel in Madrid during an event promoted by the organisation.

12-10-01 El comercio.

Life continues as always after the 11-September. Life conditions for the Iranian and Pakistan people that live in Spain have not changed. They are worried about the international situation, and about the USA attitude toward the Muslim world.

Conclusions

Islamophobia in Spain overlaps with the xenophobia already present in the native population because of the gradual increase in the number of immigrants coming particularly from Morocco.

Significant violent actions that may be attributed to the 11 of September's events have not been detected, although it is not less true that there is a greater mistrust of the individuals whose looks resemble those of Muslims.

Such mistrust has been denounced by the Moroccan (the biggest foreign population in Spain) and is shown in glances, conversations or comments that link the Islam and Muslims with terrorism, religious intolerance or women's ill treatment.

In the last month, however, social stress has decreased, which can be partly explained by a lower presence of this subject in mass media.

SYNTHESIS – September-December 2001

As conclusion on anti-Islamic and anti-Arabic reactions after terrorist acts in the USA, what follows can be said:

During the first month after the attacks, very few good practices have been developed in the whole Spanish territory. This was due to the logical reaction time, waiting to see which real consequences of the attack there would be in Spain.

After the first month, several initiatives and activities were oriented to distinguishing between Muslim and fundamentalism concepts. These activities have been developed in different levels of the social environment: media, opinion leaders, associations and NGO's, governmental departments....

In the second half of November, coinciding with the Afghanistan war, the tension towards the Islamic communities has decreased and the relationships are again almost like before the attacks. However, something has changed: information on the Islam has increased and many people have more data to judge in an objective way; on the other hand, many people have acquired prejudices, topics and stereotypes about Muslim and Arab world that will make the social integration for this communities more difficult.

Like we have said in all our reports it is difficult to separate the previously existing xenophobic attitude from the reactions to the 11th September. In any case, the violence and racist acts toward the Muslim community have increased along this three months. The distrust by the natives to those who looks like Muslims has not disappeared at all. It has resulted in big problems related to housing and travelling for the Muslim community and it is stopping the social integration.

This pressure can be seen in schools where there have been problems between immigrant and native students. It can be seen too in public debate, where in the beginning integralism, Islamic fundamentalism and Islamic terrorism were referred to as if they were the same concept.