

Key Finding 10

Title of the program/project name

Press article : From jihad to prison, from prison to jihad (10/09/2017)

Level of dissemination

National

Short Summary (important points)

- In Spain there are **128 people convicted of jihadist terrorism between 1996 and 2016**. Based on data provided by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the RIE's studies(Real Instituto Elcano) , between 1996 and 2016, those convicted of jihadism were 128. Only in 2016, up to 25 individuals were sentenced to prison terms. To these numbers 14 terrorists who died in action must be added, seven in Leganés in 2004 and others in the context of the attacks of 17-A in Catalonia.
- Like ETA prisoners, those **convicted of jihadist terrorism** are under a policy of penitentiary dispersal around 40 prisons.
- These prisoners (**around 275**)**are part of the Special Monitoring Inmates File (FIES) regime** and closely monitored by specialized officials of the Monitoring and Control Groups to prevent their radicalization from spreading to other inmates
- FIES regime has been put into practice **since 2014**; ever since then, the **number of inmates under special surveillance has continued to increase**. This program, applied throughout the State except in Catalonia, which has transferred powers and applies other plans, divides the inmates into three groups: in group A, those condemned by jihadism are framed; in B, those that show attitudes of leadership and recruitment; and in group C, prisoners who show an incipient or consolidated process of radicalization (*see KF 7*).
- **In July 2014, there were 81 inmates who were under the FIES regime; last July there were 271. That is, the number of inmates monitored has tripled in just three years.**
- The authorities show a special concern that Spanish prisons are fertile ground for already convinced jihadists to propagate their ideology, but also for inmates locked up for other crimes to be attracted by the flame of jihad: drug trafficking, crime and alcohol.
- At the end of June 2017, the prison population in Spanish prisons was 51,901, of whom 13,312 were foreign. The data of Penitentiary Institutions of the end of 2016 report that the most represented nationality was the Moroccan, with 4,107 inmates.
- However, investigations by the Real Instituto Elcano (RIE) indicate that **among those detained in Spain between June 2013 and May 2016, only 6.7% were radicalized in prisons**. "We see that penitentiary centers are sensitive areas of radicalization, but the phenomenon is much less compared to other countries like France. In Spain, private homes are much more common places in the processes of radicalization, "says Carola García Calvo, RIE researcher. Although another quantitative study of that institute shows that **28% of those condemned or killed by suicide bombings in Spain between 2004 and 2012 became radicalized in prison**.

- Many prison officials talk about lack of resources and lack of coordination with the State Security Forces and Corps to implement the Violent Radicalization Intervention Program with Islamist inmates that Penitentiary Institutions launched in 2016 and which follows the guidelines of the Prevention Network of the Radicalization (RAN) of the European Union.

- Prison guards lack the training and sophisticated means to better observe the processes of radicalization. They and the social workers working in the prison obtain valuable rough-and-ready information, but "there is no well-regulated protocol to share it with the police forces and to transform those data collected in intelligence to combat jihadism." Another crack in the system is that civil servants are being replaced by employees of private security companies.

- Experts advise it would be positive to invest "in a sufficient body of trustworthy and well-formed imams to work with radicals". In Spain, the reality is that the investment in "trustful imams" is scarce, as much as 9,000 euros budgeted in 2017 to pay the salary and the expenses derived from the visits to the prisons of 16 Islamic religious attendants who come to cover neither the fifth of the 93 existing prisons. The agreement that has been in operation since 2007 was signed by the Ministry of the Interior and the Islamic Commission of Spain (CIE). Resources are insufficient, but "dialogue is fluent with penitentiary institutions and there is more sensitivity than a few years ago." (President of the Islamic Commission in Spain).

- Prison sources point out that the majority of Muslims, especially the radicals, do not agree to meet with the imams imposed by the Administration. They add that in detention it is very difficult to de-radicalize and reintegrate: "How can you do that work with walls six meters high?". "We have to talk to the jihadists because "what we do is lock them in cells and there we throw them, but the problem continues behind bars." (Imam assisting in prisons).

Countries involved

Spain

Duration of the project

The website (if it exists):

https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2017-09-10/yihadismo-radicalizacion-prisioneros-espana_1441155/

