

Amnistia I Libertad

Thank you Madame President. My name is [inaudible]. I speak on behalf of the Catalan association Amnistia I Libertad. This association has advocated since its founding for the need for amnesty for all reprisals related to the organization and support of the 2017 referendum on self-determination. We consider that an amnesty law is the best tool towards solving the political conflict between the democratic self-determination of Catalonia and the Spanish state. Amnistia I Libertad believes that an amnesty law is the best path towards the normalization of the relationship between Catalonia and Spain, moving politics away from judicial codes and back to parliaments. Doing so will help advance the negotiation process to address the nature of the conflict and find political solutions. Amnesties are instruments recognized in international law and in European Union law, with the only limit of human rights violations. The European Court of Human Rights and the Court of Justice of the European Union have recognized amnesty as a useful democratic and effective instrument to resolve conflict. They have been used globally to reduce tensions and create an environment to resolve conflicts in a democratic way. In the case of Catalonia, where there have not been gross violations of human rights, the law respects the Spanish constitution, the democratic principle, and the rule of law. For all of the above, we call on the international community to support the amnesty law that is being processed in the Spanish congress as it will contribute to social peace and stability in both Spain and Europe. Thank you so much.