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END INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION IN SPAIN



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Did you know that Spain has one of the strictest detention regimes in the European Union?

Spanish law allows terrorism suspects to be held incommunicado for up to 13 days. Incommunicado detainees have no effective access to a lawyer or to a doctor of their choice. Their family is not informed that they have been detained.

Many detainees held incommunicado report that they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated. Their allegations are rarely investigated by the authorities.

Mohammed Fahsi was arrested near Barcelona in 2006 on suspicion of terrorism-related offences. He was held incommunicado for four days, during which time his family had no idea where he was. He was visited once by a state-appointed lawyer who was not allowed to speak to him. The doctor who examined him refused to believe that he was being ill-treated.

Neither the judge nor the prosecutor ever investigated his complaints of torture.

YOUR SIGNATURE CAN HELP TO END INCOMMUNICADO DETENTION!

Please sign this postcard and send it to the Spanish Minister of Justice.

Bleak cell block at abandoned jail in Arizona.
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Dear Minister,

I am deeply concerned about incommunicado detention in Spain, which is one of the strictest detention regimes in the European Union.

Incommunicado detention violates rights of detainees that are essential to a fair trial, such as the right of effective access to a lawyer of one's own choice. It also facilitates torture.

Mohammed Fahsi was arrested in January 2006 and held incommunicado for four days, during which time he says he was tortured. His allegations have never been properly investigated.

I urge you to take action to abrogate legislation permitting incommunicado detention, specifically Articles 509, 520bis and 527 of the law of criminal procedure, and to investigate the torture allegations of Mohammed Fahsi.

Name: _____

Country: _____

Attach post stamp

Minister of Justice
Mr Francisco Caamaño Domínguez
Ministerio de Justicia
Calle San Bernardo, 45
28015 Madrid
Spain

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Image taken from a reconstruction of events as described by Mohammed Fahsi.

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