By gathering 39 local scholars, experts, and civil society activists specialized in racism and human rights, the fourth edition of the European Islamophobia Report addresses a still timely and politically important issue. All 34 country reports included in this book follow a unique structure that is convenient, first, for comparing country reports and, second, for selected readings on a particular topic such as politics, employment, or education with regards to Islamophobia across Europe.

The present report investigates in detail the underlying dynamics that directly or indirectly support the rise of anti-Muslim racism in Europe. This extends from Islamophobic statements spread in national media to laws and policies that restrain the fundamental rights of European Muslim citizens. As a result, the European Islamophobia Report 2018 discusses the impact of anti-Muslim discourse on human rights, multiculturalism, and the state of law in Europe.

This fourth edition of our report highlights how European societies are challenged by the rise of violent far-right groups that do not only preach hatred of Muslims but also participate in the organization of bloody terror attacks. The rise of far-right terrorist groups such as AFO (Action of Operational Forces) in France or the network Hannibal in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland confirms EUROPOL’s alarming surveys on the growing danger of right-wing terrorism.

This year, SETA worked in cooperation with the Leopold Weiss Institute, an Austrian NGO based in Vienna dedicated to the research of Muslims in Europe. In addition, the European Union has funded the European Islamophobia Report 2018 through the program “Civil Society Dialogue Between EU and Turkey (CSD-V)”.

About SETA
Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) is a non-profit research institute based in Turkey dedicated to innovative studies on national, regional and international issues. SETA is the leading think tank in Turkey and has offices in Ankara, Istanbul, Washington D.C. and Cairo. The objective of SETA is to produce up-to-date and accurate knowledge and analyses in the fields of politics, economy, and society, and inform policy makers and the public on changing political, economic, social, and cultural conditions. Through research reports, publications, brainstorming sessions, conferences and policy recommendations, SETA seeks to guide leaders in government, civil society, and business, and contributes to informed decision making mechanisms.
EUROPEAN ISLAMOPHOBIA REPORT
2018

ENES BAYRAKLI • FARID HAFEZ (Eds)

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Disclaimer: Statements of fact and opinion in the national reports of the European Islamophobia Report are those of the respective authors. They are not the expression of the editors or the funding institutions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Directorate for EU Affairs.

Executive Summary

In the political area, the year 2018 will be written in the history of Spain as the year that welcomed a new president of the government, Pedro Sánchez Castejón, after the motion of no confidence that ousted Mariano Rajoy. However, in relation to Islamophobia, the most relevant fact was the burst on the political scene of VOX, a far-right party born at the end of 2013 that grew exponentially after the independence issue in Catalonia and the weakening of the Popular Party. In its political programme, VOX states its intention to close the so-called radical mosques, the preference for immigrants whose way of living is compatible with “our” traditions and culture, i.e. Hispanic immigrants are preferred over those of Muslim origin, and the rejection of the historical era of Al-Andalus. Such an explicit message has never before been seen in the Spanish political arena in the democratic era. On another note, several important problems affecting the Muslim community remain unsolved such as the building of Muslim cemeteries and the religious assistance to inmates or members of the army. The teaching of the subject of Islamic religion has been implemented gradually even though occasionally it met some rejection by parents’ associations who see this as the exclusion of Christian principles. The physical attacks were mainly vandalistic acts to mosques and, except in a couple of cases of physical violence, the most frequent aggressions were verbal either in face-to-face communicative acts or, above all, insults via social media against Muslim citizens. The regulation of hate speech crimes is still an important issue that demands a solution together with the control of fake news that creates social alarm in a large sector of Spanish society prone to becoming Islamophobic mainly due to ignorance on the topic and the manipulation of the media.
Resumen Ejecutivo

En la esfera política, el año 2018 quedará escrito en la historia de España como el año en el que se invistió a un nuevo presidente de gobierno, Pedro Sánchez Castejón, tras la interposición de una moción de censura a Mariano Rajoy. Sin embargo, en relación con el problema de la islamofobia, el hecho más relevante fue la irrupción en el panorama político de VOX, un partido político de ultraderecha que nació a finales de 2013 y que ha crecido de manera inusual a partir del conflicto de Cataluña y el debilitamiento del Partido Popular. En su programa político, VOX declara su intención de cerrar las mezquitas radicales, la preferencia por los inmigrantes de habla hispana en relación a los de origen árabe, así como su rechazo al reconocimiento y capital importancia de la época histórica de Al-Andalus. Un mensaje tan explícito de desaprobación del Islam no se había visto en el panorama político español tras la instauración de la democracia. Por otro lado, continúan sin solucionarse problemas como la construcción de cementerios musulmanes o la asistencia religiosa a reclusos y soldados. La asignatura de religión islámica se sigue implantando de manera gradual en los centros si bien es cierto que, en ocasiones, ha encontrado rechazo por comunidades de padres que ven en este hecho la exclusión de los principios cristianos. Los ataques físicos fueron, sobre todo, actos vandálicos a mezquitas y salvo algún caso de violencia a ciudadanos musulmanes, las agresiones más frecuentes fueron verbales bien en actos de comunicación cara a cara o a través de insultos en las redes sociales. La regulación de los delitos relacionados con el discurso del odio sigue siendo la gran asignatura pendiente junto con el control de las noticias falsas, grandes potenciadores de alarma social en parte de un sector de la población propenso a convertirse en islámófobo fundamentalmente debido a la ignorancia sobre el tema y a la manipulación de los medios de comunicación.

Country Profile

**Country:** Spain  
**Type of Regime:** Social and Democratic State of Law  
**Form of Government:** Parliamentary Monarchy  
**Ruling Parties:** PSOE (Partido Socialista Obrero Español) (Socialist Party)  
**Opposition Parties:** PP (Partido Popular), Ciudadanos, Podemos  
**Last Elections:** On 2 June, 2018, Pedro Sánchez Castejón became the president of the government after a non-confidence vote ousted Mariano Rajoy who had been the head of the government from 2011 to 2018.  
**Total Population:** 46.7 million (according to the census of 2018).  
**Major Languages:** Spanish. In 6 other autonomous communities there are other co-official languages: Catalan (Catalonia and Balearic Islands); Valencian (Valencian Community); Euskera (Basque Country and Navarra); and Galician (Galicia).  
**Official Religion:** No official religion (Secularism)  

**Statistics on Islamophobia:** In their 2017 report, the NGO Ciudadana contra la Islamofobia (Citizen Platform against Islamophobia) reported 546 Islamophobic incidents with an outstanding increase in the cyber hate crimes that make up 70% of all incidents. Other aspects are the political and institutional Islamophobia with mosques as the preferred target of Islamophobic attacks (by attacking the existing ones or preventing new ones from opening), and gendered Islamophobia (attacks on Muslim women stood for 21% of all incidents). The Observatory of Islamophobia in the Media reported that 48% of the news published in Spanish newspapers on Muslims and Islam was Islamophobic.

**Statistics on Racism and Discrimination:** N/A

**Major Religions (% of Population):** According to the data from July 2018 published by the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas (Centre for Sociological Investigations), the percentage of Catholics in Spain was 67, agnostics stood at 5.5%, non-believers at 16.1%, and atheists at 10.7%. Members of other religions constitute 2.9% of the population. The remaining 2.7% did not know or did not answer.

**Muslim Population (% of Population):** 1,993,675, almost two million, according to the Estudio Demográfico de la población musulmana de 2018 (Demographic study of the Muslim population). This is approximately 4% of the Spanish population.

**Main Muslim Community Organisations:** Unión de las Comunidades Islámicas de España, Observatorio Andalusi.

**Main NGOs Combating Islamophobia:** Plataforma Ciudadana contra la Islamofobia, Red Islamofobia, Musulmanes contra la Islamofobia, Asociación de Jóvenes Musulmanes de España, Observatorio de la Islamofobia en los medios.

**Far-Right Parties:** VOX, Demokracia Nacional  
**Far-Right Movements:** Hogar Social
ISLAMOPHOBIA IN SPAIN

Far-Right Terrorist Organisations: N/A

Limitations to Islamic Practices

- Hijab Ban: Schools and educational centres usually have legislation preventing any student from covering their head with caps, hats, or any other accessory. This has come into conflict with the veil in several cases in the last years. However, educational centres finally allowed Muslim students to wear the veil. In 2018, this was the case in a high school in Murcia. The incident in 2017 regarding a woman working at the airport of Palma de Mallorca who was dismissed for wearing the veil led to a sentencing as an indirect act of discrimination. According to the legislation, any private company can ban the hijab if there is a conflict with the professional activity carried out by the Muslim worker.

- Halal Slaughter Ban: No
- Minaret Ban: No
- Circumcision Ban: No
- Burka Ban: No
- Prayer Ban: No
Introduction

The demographic study of the Muslim population published at the end of 2017 by the Observatorio Andalusi (Andalusí Observatory) stated that the Muslim population in Spain was nearly two million (1,946,300), which means that 4% of Spanish citizens are Muslim. Once again, the biggest settlement is found in Cataluña (522,113), followed by Andalusia (314,980), Madrid (285,993), and Valencia (206,315). The significant presence of Muslims in Spain entails different attitudes towards them by the rest of the citizenship. In this report, several problems on specific areas will be pointed out; many of them were already stated in former studies but remained unresolved by the different governments in power.

A very meaningful fact, without doubt, is that Islamophobia lacks the status of hate crime for the Ministry of Home Affairs. While anti-Semitism is recognised independently from other generic categories of hate crimes such as xenophobia or racism, Islamophobia is included in the more generic category of “hate crimes for religious beliefs”; a fact that seems striking considering the number of Muslims living in Spain.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Judge Grande Marlaska, held several meetings with different associations to design a plan to fight hate crimes in the near future and finally decided to keep the current taxonomy of hate crimes.

Discussion of Islamophobic Incidents and Discursive Events

Physical and Verbal Attacks

The year 2018 was another year in which physical and verbal attacks against Muslims or Muslim institutions took place. In relation to individual citizens, the most explicit act of physical violence was suffered by two young Moroccan men who were attacked by a group of neo-fascists in Denia. Verbal violence, however, was much more frequent and several videos in which Muslims were insulted or denigrated were made public. Those verbal attacks were addressed to average citizens and recorded by videos that became viral exposing the daily samples of racism members of the Muslim community experience.

Muslims well known in public life were also subjects of attacks, especially on social media such as the journalist Amanda Figueras when she published her last book or the politician Nadja Driouech who was harshly criticised on social media after her comments on VOX.

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As usual, the physical attacks on institutions mainly targeted mosques. Examples include the islamophobic graffiti on the mosques of Carrús, Hernani4, or the vandalism of a mosque in Japó Street in Barcelona by a group of neo-fascists5 the images below show some of these vandalistic acts. Both pictures highlight a frontal rejection of Muslims and the second an explicit wish to expel them.

The building of a new mosque found strict opposition in RioSeco (Valladolid) and Pilar de la Horadada (Alicante). In Murcia and Badalona, Muslim organisations complained about the campaigns of fear among the citizens that were carried out by political groups.

**Employment**

As with other sectors of daily life such as renting a flat, the Muslim community complains about the discrimination experienced when they seek employment. The case is especially outstanding for women wearing the hijab. That was the case of Laila Ferroukh who brought to light her negative experiences when looking for a job. Laila’s case was reproduced6 in the media, became viral, and gave origin to the Twitter hashtag #unapersonacomoyo (a person like me) through which (mainly) Muslim women shared their discriminatory experiences when trying to find a job. An area in which unemployment is very high for Muslims is definitely the field of education since 95% of Muslim teachers are still unemployed.

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5. Jesús Hierro, “Investigan a 7 neonazis por amedrentar a musulmanes ante la apertura de una mezquita”, ABC, 8 March 2018.
Education
In 2018, only 5% of Muslim students had access to the subject of Islamic religion. This unacceptable fact led the Islamic Commission to tell the government of Catalonia they would sue them if the policy continues.

In the autonomous community of Navarra, the provision of classes on Islam occurred in 6 educational centres to students from 3 years old onwards. The same is true in Extremadura where more than 400 students could study the Islamic religion from last September.

Another persistent problem related to Muslims and the field of education is the lack of halal menus in schools. In Valencia, the centres were given the possibility to deny halal menus to Muslim students because they have a different legal framework which is independent from the central government in certain areas. The autonomous government finally committed to offering a pork-free menu to Muslims (even if not halal). As usual, controversy arose in some schools such as the public school Rocafonda in Mataró when it stated that all the meat would be halal. After the protests of some mothers, they offered two alternative menus: a halal and a non-halal one.

The problem of female Muslim students wearing the veil affected a student from Murcia who was not allowed access to high school because the centre’s rules did not allow any student to attend classes with their head covered.

Politics
In the political field, the exit of Mariano Rajoy and the weakening of the People’s Party (Partido Popular) due to the continuous cases of corruption and the internal divisions looking for power were the perfect circumstances for more extreme right-wing parties - among which VOX is the most outstanding representative - to attract...
the part of the conservative voters who felt somehow disappointed by what they considered the bland policy of the PP.

In relation to Islamophobia, Santiago Abascal, the president of VOX, argued the need to ban “radical mosques” and shared his opinion that Islam is incompatible with Spanish traditions, distinguishing a more preferred group of immigrants (South Americans) rather than Muslims. While the political campaign for the Andalusian elections was taking place in Córdoba, VOX said they will fight those who want to turn the cathedral into a mosque.

VOX usually talks about the “Reconquista” (Reconquest) of the country from the illegal immigrants and those who plan to defeat Spain as a nation.

After VOX’s great and unexpected success in the last Andalusian elections with 12 seats in the parliament, Santiago Abascal made very harsh comments against the Catalan independentist politician, Najat Driouech, a Muslim woman wearing a hijab who called VOX “male chauvinist” in the Catalan Parliament. Abascal’s reaction on Twitter was quick and inappropriate. He told her in a very rough language (using ‘this’ to refer to Mrs. Driouech rather than addressing her in a polite way), to look first at ‘home’ (meaning obviously her religion, not her city or hometown) before qualifying them as male chauvinists.

![Figure 3: Tweet in which Abascal, leader of VOX, replies harshly to the comment made by Najat Driouech: “And this calls us male chauvinists… let her look first at her home”.

Xabier Albiol, former candidate for the city hall of Badalona and the relevant member of the PP in Catalonia, made other anti-Muslim statements when he said that the neighbourhood of Artigues did not need another mosque and opposed its construction.\footnote{Jesús García, “Albiol agita a los vecinos contra una mezquita paquistaní”, El País, 17 May 2018.}

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{image.png}
\caption{Tweet in which Abascal, leader of VOX, replies harshly to the comment made by Najat Driouech: “And this calls us male chauvinists… let her look first at her home”.}
\end{figure}


\footnote{Jesús García, “Albiol agita a los vecinos contra una mezquita paquistaní”, El País, 17 May 2018. Albiol is a reoffender; he displayed the same kind of attitude in 2009. The current mayor of Badalona replied that she was going to sue him for hate speech.}
Media
In 2018, El Observatorio sobre la Islamofobia en los Medios\(^{18}\) (Observatory for Islamophobia in the Media) launched a report on 1,600 articles analysed in 2017, concluding that 6 out of any 10 articles that were related to Islam or the Muslim community had Islamophobic traits in an active or passive way. The results of the analysis of the first three months of 2018 showed that 48% of the news were Islamophobic.

The TV documentary series España mira hacia la Meca (Spain looks at Mecca) was also very controversial. Certain Muslim communities did not feel they had been well portrayed or represented. This was enhanced by the fact that journalists try to show the negative side of the coexistence of several ethno-religious groups in Spanish cities.\(^{19}\) After the first episode aired, the Observatory for Islamophobia in the Media also highlighted that even though there were some positive aspects in the series, most of the content was Islamophobic.\(^{20}\) The reaction of plenty of Muslims on Twitter was loud since they considered the documentary did not represent them in a fair way.\(^{21}\)

Justice System
There were some controversial sentences in 2018. Once such case was that of a 19-year-old Moroccan woman shot at her home in her hometown of Oria as she witnessed a burglary. The fact that the accused told his friends he had shot a ‘mora’\(^{22}\) (moor), a word that the Royal Academy of the Spanish language admits as a common term for ‘Muslim’ but that usually has a negative connotation, was not a factor strong enough to persuade the judges of the racism underlying the action.

The lack of Muslim cemeteries in the country is still a very serious matter to be solved. Ninety-five per cent of the Muslim communities lack a cemetery to bury their dead. The Islamic communities of Badajoz and Tuy have been demanding this

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\(^{18}\) Since 2017, Spain has an organisation that watches out for Islamophobia in the media, namely El Observatorio sobre la Islamofobia en los Medios (Observatory for Islamophobia in the Media). It is made up of several organisations from civil society and the University of Murcia. Their methodology is well stated on their webpage [http://www.observatorioislamofobia.org/](http://www.observatorioislamofobia.org/) and they focus on the analysis of news related to Muslims and Islam reported by Spanish journalists or the editorial team of Spanish newspapers. The six national newspapers analysed are La Vanguardia, El Mundo, La Razón, 20 Minutos, El País and El Diario.es.

The news is classified following the traffic light code. Hence red colour is for news that is actively Islamophobic; yellow indicates the passive Islamophobic news; and green is for news that is not Islamophobic. They also write quarterly qualitative and quantitative reports based on the statistics from the results.


right for a long time even though it was guaranteed by the Cooperation Agreements of 1992.

According to the Demographic Study of Muslims in Spain from 2018 the religious assistance to Muslim inmates in Spanish prisons is a very insufficient 20 imams for all the number of Muslim inmates in Spanish prisons and 7 for the centres for foreigners.23 Similarly, the number of military imams is zero for all the national territory even though there are some military units that are mainly made up of Muslim soldiers such as the Unidades de Regulares that used to have a military and alfaqui imam. Similarly, there is still not even one imam in any hospital in the national territory.

Internet
As Esteben Ibarra, president of the NGO Movimiento contra la Intolerancia (Movement against Intolerance), stated in their work from 2017 the attacks on the Internet raised in the last year and 70% of the cases reported happened on the web.24

Most of the Islamophobic pages on Facebook and Twitter refer to the ‘invasion of Muslims’. The supposed progressive implementation of Islam is repeated by the following tropes: access to a halal menu in schools, the ‘imposition’ of the subject of Islamic religion in schools, or the opening of new mosques. The images frequently contain a medieval Christian knight conveying the image of a New Crusade against Islam, while historical heroes such as ‘El Cid’ are usually mentioned. Several accounts asking for the ban of Islam in Spain are very active such as Stop Islamización de España (Stop the Islamization of Spain) with more than 3,000 members or Los españoles primero (Spaniards first) with more than 7,000 members.

Figure 4: Image from a Facebook account ‘Don Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar y Mendoza. Islam out of Spain’

Figure 5: Picture from the Facebook account Stop Islamización de España: “Rejecting Islam is not racism, it is patriotism”

23. The religious assistance was regulated in the Agreements of 2006, 2007, 2008 (for Catalonia, a community with transferred competences on this matter) and 2015 for the regulation of religious assistance to centres for foreigners.
On Twitter, Islamophobes tend to tweet news in which Muslims, usually of Moroccan origin, are involved in crimes against Spanish citizens. The hashtag #defiendeEspaña (Defend Spain) targets both Muslims and the supporters of the far left in a way equating them as enemies of Spain. Some such news are old or did even happened in Spain but are recycled in order to create social alarm.25

Central Figures in the Islamophobia Network

Aside from the names mentioned in other sections already, there have been other central figures in the Islamophobia network, mainly the directors of webpages or news sites devoted to spreading fake news on Islam.

The type of news they spread follows the pattern of either inspiring fear among citizens or making up situations in which Muslims impose their traditions on the Spanish ones and, therefore, giving the wrong impression they are successfully and progressively ‘taking over’ Spain. One example is reproduced below in which the heading states that pork has been forbidden in Andalusian schools in order not to offend Muslims and the rest of students are forced to eat halal food.

25. The most popular hashtags on Twitter leading to Islamophobic comments are #Stopislamización (Stop Islamization); #defiendeEspaña (defend Spain); #losespañolesprimero (the Spaniards first); #stopimigrantes (stop immigrants); #stoprefugiados (#stoprefugees).
Among the numerous examples that proliferate on the web, I will mention the websites *Caso aislado*, *Sevilla Digital*, *Alerta Digital* and *Mediterráneo Digital*. The director of the website *Alerta Digital* Armando Robles, also known as ‘the Spanish Trump’, was arrested and accused of the crime of hate speech against the Muslim community.26

Organisations such as *Maldito Bulo* (bloody unfounded rumour) work to unveil the fake news concerning, among others, Muslims.

**Observed Civil Society and Political Assessment and Initiatives**

The initiatives of civil society, mainly organisations, NGOs, associations and communities, academics, artists, and some political groups, have been directed at three main areas: education, preservation of memory, and knowledge.

In relation to preventing current and future Islamophobia through education, different campaigns in schools and high schools were organised and launched to raise the youngest in more egalitarian and fair principles, like the workshop on cyber hate and Islamophobia organised by Jardín de Málaga High School in May.

To protect the preservation of the Muslim legacy in Spain in order to fight against the policy of denial of the historical and central role of Muslims in the history of Spain, many academic events were organised to show citizens (Muslim and non-Muslim) the amazing heritage of eight centuries of Muslim presence in Spain. To give a couple of examples, I will mention the project *Balansiya* which spreads the knowledge of Valencia in the Muslim period and the Foundation of Islamic Culture (FUNC) through the history of Muslim Madrid initiatives which foster knowledge on Muslims and Islam so that the non-Muslim sectors of society get to know the Muslim community first-hand via social media campaigns or via local events in which Muslims can share their experiences, beliefs, and way of living.

A core task in fighting Islamophobia was the monitoring of hate crimes. In this sense, organisations such as *Musulmanes contra la Islamofobia* and *Plataforma Ciudadana contra la Islamofobia*, which is made up of three different organisations namely the Islamic Cultural Centre of Valencia, *la Junta Islámica* and *El Movimiento contra la Intolerancia*, worked extremely hard with a team of volunteers who checked the web looking for cases of Islamophobia and also collected the complaints of citizens. This is an essential role in two ways: to offer support to victims of hate crime and to record hate crimes that later crystallise in an annual report which offers a picture of the real state of the problem.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

In the current delicate socio-political situation Spain is experiencing with the increasing presence in the political scene of parties of the extreme right and their explicit references to their immigration policy, the government should pay attention to the basic rights guaranteed by the law that many Muslims still cannot enjoy such as the possibility to bury their beloved or to be taught their religion at schools. Even though the latter aspect is being progressively addressed, the former is still a very serious issue totally neglected by the government institutions irrespective of their political orientation.

The monitoring of hate crimes that NGOs carry out should continue with special attention to hate speech online where the offenders find the easiest way to harass, offend, insult, and threaten individual Muslims or the whole community. Furthermore, the government should be strict with the prosecution of individuals with an agenda to spread fake news and propagate fear to a large sector of society, which due to misinformation, ignorance, and manipulation start to reject Muslims.

An essential aspect, without doubt, is the fact that Islamophobia lacks an independent status as a hate crime (and consequently more visibility) and falls under the more generic category of “hate crimes for religious beliefs”\(^27\) - a striking fact considering the number of Muslims living in Spain.

In the long run, hope rests in investing in education. It is necessary that the government implements certain educational programmes for both future teachers of primary schools as well as for young children. It is essential that children grow up with respect for each other in order to have responsible citizens in the future.

Chronology

- **09.01.2018**: Fascist slogans are painted on a mosque in Carrus (Elche).\(^{28}\)
- **17.01.2018**: Controversy in Río Seco about the building of a mosque. Some citizens organise a signature collection to prevent its construction.\(^{29}\)
- **19.01.2018**: Controversy about a letter sent to schools to prevent potential "Jihadist radicalisation". Muslim associations qualify the document as Islamophobic.\(^{30}\)
- **03.02.2018**: The Islamic community of Badajoz has been demanding a cemetery for 18 years.\(^{31}\)

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• **26.02.2018:** The imam of Badajoz reports fake prejudices about his demand for a cemetery.32

• **03.03.2018:** Islamophobic graffiti appears on a mosque in Hernani.33

• **08.03.2018:** Seven neo-Nazis are under investigation after the intimidation of Muslims during the opening of a new mosque.34

• **12.03.2018:** Neo-fascists protest in front of the mosque in Japó Street, Barcelona.35

• **06.04.2018:** Muslim women have problems renting flats in Bilbao.36

• **10.04.2018:** The court of Almería does not see any racist motivation in the man who killed a young Moroccan man in his home.37

• **19.04.2018:** Neighbours from Barcelona complain neo-fascists daily pester a mosque.38

• **29.04.2018:** Sour debate about the opening of a mosque in Pilar de la Horadada (a town with more than 4,000 Muslims).39

• **29.04.2018:** The mosque on Japó Street in Barcelona opens despite neighbours’ protests.

• **10.05.2018:** The City Hall of Barcelona warns that the far right is growing in the city.40

• **11.05.2018:** Muslims from Murcia accuse the political party Ciudadanos of frightening the neighbours about a new mosque.41

• **18.05.2018:** The leader of the fascist organisation Hogar Social is prosecuted for her Islamophobic discourse.42

• **18.05.2018:** Xenophobic attacks on the Internet targeting MP Najat Driouech.43

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34. Jesús Hierro, “Investigan a 7 neonazis por amedrentar a musulmanes ante la apertura de una mezquita”, ABC, 8 March 2018.


02.06.2018: Partido Popular’s politician Xabier Albiol “poisons” the neighbours of Badalona about a Pakistani mosque while the mayor of the city threatens to sue him for a hate crime.44

04.06.2018: The Muslim community of La Rioja reports a number of fake documents about a number of applications requiring the subject of Islamic religion in schools.

04.06.2018: The Security Forces (Guardia Civil) investigate thirteen people involved in a hate crime in a football match between youngsters.45

06.06.2018: The Muslim community moves the celebration of Ramadan to the Palacio de Congresos to avoid the controversy of the previous year’s event held in a public square dominated by a statue of the Holy Virgin.46

06.06.2018: The association of Muslim girls from Elche considers the register for the A levels exam is selective as only girls wearing the hijab were frisked.47

26.07.2018: A pig’s face is hanged and Islamophobic messages are written on the Great Mosque of Valencia.48

29.07.2018: The Spanish Immigration Network reports a “Le Penian” shift in the policy of Partido Popular.49

27.08.2018: The imam of Cambrils suggests the creation of a census of imams to avoid cases like the one in Ripoll with the radicalization of the terrorists of Las Ramblas.50

09.09.2018: The General Direction of Police proposes to expel Lawyer Attaoiul for 10 years for considering he is “a potential threat for public security”.51

20.09.2018: The man who volunteered himself to kill immigrants, members of the security forces, and politicians in a video is arrested.52

45. V.C.T., “Cuatro detenidos por insultos racistas en un partido de juveniles de hace un año”, Levante, 4 June 2018.
47. Borja Campoy, “La Asociación de chicas musulmanas de Elche considera “selectivo” el registro a las jóvenes con velo”, Diario Información, 6 June 2018.
50. ACN, “L’Imam de Cambrils proposa fer un register oficial d’imams que ajudi a evitar nous casos com el de Ripoll”, VilaWeb, 27 August 2018.
• **16.10.2018:** The director of the website *Alerta Digital* is arrested for Islamophobic hate crimes.\(^{53}\)

• **25.10.2018:** Islamophobic incident against a young Muslim woman in a bus in Gran Canaria.\(^{54}\)

• **14.11.2018:** A student in Murcia is denied access to high school because she is wearing the hijab.\(^{55}\)

• **16.11.2018:** Two young Moroccan men are attacked by a group of 15 neo-fascists in Dénia.\(^{56}\)

• **14.12.2018:** A police sub-inspector spreads an Islamophobic tweet and a politician from the PP believes and shares it too.\(^{57}\)

• **19.12.2018:** The organisation Interculture requires the expulsion from the police of the officers who beat a minor Muslim in Melilla.\(^{58}\)

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