

Beat: Politics

## **SPAIN CHARGES FIVE SUSPECTED ETA LEADERS WITH CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY**

### **MURDERS & KIDNAPPING INCLUDING BOMBING**

PARIS - MADRID, 04.11.2015, 09:36 Time

**USPA NEWS** - A Spanish judge has charged five suspected former leaders of the armed Basque separatist movement ETA with crimes against humanity for attacks carried out by the group after 2004 which killed 12 people...

A Spanish judge has charged five suspected former leaders of the armed Basque separatist movement ETA with crimes against humanity for attacks carried out by the group after 2004 which killed 12 people.

José Antonio Urruticoetxea, alias 'Josu Ternera', is among five former leaders of the Basque separatist terrorist group ETA who have been called to stand trial for crimes against humanity, following a ruling by National Court Judge Juan Pablo González that ETA carried out a 'systematic attack' on the civil population of Spain in order to eliminate from the Basque Country those who they considered to be their political enemies. (Spanish News)

Among those charged were the suspected former military heads of ETA, Garikoitz Aspiaz Rubina, alias "Txeroki" [?], and Angel Iriondo Yarza, who were both arrested in 2008; Aitor Elizaran Aguilar, the suspected head of ETA's political apparatus who was detained in 2009, and Mikel Carrera Sarobe, arrested in 2010. The four are being held in jails in France, where they were all arrested.... ETA is accused of killing 829 people in a four-decade campaign for the independence of the Basque region, which straddles the French and Spanish border. It announced the end of its armed campaign in October 2011, but has refused to hand over its weapons or dissolve the organisation, as demanded by governments in both countries. (The Guardian)

In January Spain's Interior Ministry (official website, in Spanish) announced the arrest (JURIST report) of 16 individuals for alleged connections with ETA. Twelve of the individuals arrested were lawyers, while the other four were treasurers for a group that represents ETA prisoners.

ETA began a unilateral disarmament programme in early 2014, in cooperation with the International Verification Commission, an independent group of experts from various countries that has not been officially recognised by the Spanish government. ETA is considered to be a terrorist organisation by the EU.

Ruby BIRD

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#### **Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-6088/spain-charges-five-suspected-eta-leaders-with-crimes-against-humanity.html>

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**Editorial program service of General News Agency:**

United Press Association, Inc.

3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168

Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA

(702) 943.0321 Local

(702) 943.0233 Facsimile

[info@unitedpressassociation.org](mailto:info@unitedpressassociation.org)

[info@gna24.com](mailto:info@gna24.com)

[www.gna24.com](http://www.gna24.com)