



FEMINISM

# International Amnesty demands that the crime of defamation not be a criminal offence

Stop Violence association has supported 30 women in the country to have an abortion during 2022.

The organization advocates that all charges be dropped against the activist Vanessa M. Cortés

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International Amnesty demands that the crime of defamation disappear from the Penal Code and become part of the Code of Civil Procedure, as reported by one of its members, Mònica Costa. This is a lawsuit arising from the complaint for defamation that the Government transferred to the Prosecutor's Office for the statements of the president of the feminist association Stop Violence, Vanessa M. Cortés, before the Committee for the Elimination of Women Discrimination against the UN (Cedaw), in 2019. In this sense, Costa defends the complete withdrawal of the charges filed, because «international regulations say that these crimes cannot be criminalized». In addition, he made a double claim to make it clear that, although the alleged crimes are aimed at the authorities, the Government and the institutions «cannot be defamed, least of all under the Penal Code». Thus, she defended that they must understand that they are subjected to a «much higher level of criticism and scrutiny than the civilian population». This is why the member of the organization asked that this crime not be used against activists, human rights defenders, journalists or any other person who «can legitimately criticize the authorities and institutions».

In fact, the first thing International Amnesty did when it began to take an interest in Cortés' case was to establish contact with the institutions. In 2020, the organization sent a letter expressing its concern about the situation, calling for the withdrawal of the charges, asking why freedom of expression was being violated and «why it is important that civil society can go to international organizations of the United Nations to explain what they understand to be violations of human rights». A year



► Vanessa M. Cortés in her speech at the UN.

later, the organization held a meeting with the Administration, and even today, Costa admitted that Amnesty «continues to be open to talking with the authorities, to maintain dialogue so that this situation is resolved». She also pointed out that, although the responsibility for removing the position rests with the Prosecutor's Office, the Government has a responsibility «within its functions, more general, so that this does not happen again, since they have a role in trying to deflate the climate of «hostility against people who, in some way, question or criticize policies or actions of the Executive».

For her part, the president of Stop Violence stated that she has been notified that she will be tried for the alleged crime of defamation, and it will be a public trial, although she does not know when. For now, she faces a 30,000 euro fine and civil liability. Even so, she indicated that «the Government has not opened any investigation to prove to the public that what I have said is a lie». At the same time, she assured that «we will continue to help the women, we will not be silent, because what they want is an exemplary punishment, and that the rest of the associations that fight for rights be silent».

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS** // On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, which took place last December 10th, Stop Violence, in collaboration with International Amnesty, presented last Friday the third day for the sexual and reproductive rights of women from Andorra. Along these lines, Cortés highlighted that «we have always thought it was important to resume, to talk, not only about abortion which we need in Andorra, we also need sexual, reproductive and obstetric violence rights, that we don't seem to know what it is.» At the same time, she lamented that «in the country we are

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**MÒNICA COSTA**  
INTERNATIONAL AMNESTY

«International regulations say that these crimes cannot be criminalized»

**VANESSA M. CORTÉS**  
STOP VIOLENCE PRESIDENT

«We will continue to help the women, we will not be silent, because what they want is an exemplary punishment»

modern, and maybe they are not killing us like in Iran, but it is feminism and we must all be together with that». In addition, the president of the association pointed out that it has been detected that in the La Seu d'Urgell hospital, pharmacological abortions are facilitated with random prices and poor service to women. «These are the consequences of having a clandestine abortion in La Seu d'Urgell and forbidden at home», asserted Cortés.

However, during the course of the day, the activist also reported that during 2022, Stop Violence has advised 30 women, of which 27 have accompanied them to abortion through the La Meri Network. The rest of the users were minors, and they referred them to the Integral Service for Women's Services (SIAD), since «we don't have legislation and we don't know what to do with them, so the minors arrive and we refer them, and as it is an opaque service, we do not know what happens to them», she lamented. This year, most of the women they have served are nationals. ≡

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COMPUTING SECURITY

# “Ransomware” may become the main digital risk in 2023

Marquina affirms that this kind of cyberattack is becoming of «absolutely professionalized» organizations



►► A moment from the round table.

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The Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects, César Marquina, pointed out in the press question period following the CISO conference that the trend for 2023 is for ransomware to increase, a type of cyber-attack that «kidnaps computers through ciphers». In addition, Marquina emphasized that «currently we are already talking about a third-generation ransomware where they not only encrypt you and ask for money», but that, in the case of not making the payment, «they can blackmail you with your data». Therefore, «blackmail is almost threefold and very difficult to solve», and those who do it «are absolutely professional organizations», assured the secretary.

The increase in this type of computer attacks, as Marquina explained, is mainly due to «the norma-

lization of telecommuting and computing in the cloud», facts that «much more complicate the management of the security of the entire information that companies may have».

However, the Secretary of State also wanted to highlight a positive part of this upward trend in ransomware: «More and more interest is being seen from the upper management levels of companies, public companies and others, by having training and knowledge about these threats». In this sense, «it has always been said that people are the weakest point in this security chain» and, therefore, «the more information we receive and the more awareness we have, the more easily we can detect incidents and prevent them earlier», asserted Marquina.

It should be noted that the CISO conference, held yesterday in an hotel in the capital and under the title Cyberintelligence applied to the cyber security strategy in the



**César Marquina**

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DIGITAL TRANSITION



«The normalization of telecommuting and cloud computing make it much more complicated to manage the security of all a company's information»

«More and more interest is being seen on the part of the top management levels of companies in having training around cyber-attacks»

company, had four presentations. The first was Information in the age of misinformation, by David Julián, CEO and principal consultant of Alpine Security, a company that has several certifications in security, ethical hacking and incident response. Julián is also co-founder of the Cybersecurity Conference of Andorra. Next, Àlex Estalés, senior police officer assigned to the technological crimes group, starred in the presentation entitled CISO vs Police. The third presentation was (in)Security in the OT world, carried out by Sergi Gil, industrial engineer specialized in industry 4.0 and cyber security, CEO of Enigmatic and president of the cyber security working group of the College of Industrial Engineers of Catalo-

**Cyber-attacks** in the country have increased compared to 2021, but are below the European average (59%)

nia. In addition, Gil helps companies integrate cyber security holistically in digitalization and Industry 4.0 projects. The last conference was Artificial and quantum intelligence applied to cyber security, by Álvaro Fraile, director of the COE Cybersecurity center of excellence and information security director of the Egile industrial group.

The day ended with a round table on perspectives and future vision of the cyber security environment. Sisco Barrera, from PWC, Gerard Teixidó, from Deloitte, and Albert Reginaldo, from KPMG took part in this. In this sense, Marquina emphasized that the need for the conferences that are being held is paramount and very important «not only in making efforts to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge, but because the same sector and the same people who meet the incidents are known in order to share information».

Finally, when asked about the increase in cyber attacks in the country compared to last year, the Secretary of State for Digital Transition and Strategic Projects pointed out that «we are a little below the European average», which is 59 %, «but the trend is growing». Thus, this case occurs because Andorra's exposure is smaller and «we don't have multinationals that could be targets of cyber attacks». ≡

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