

el Periòdic News

27 NEW INCIDENTS OF CRIMES AGAINST SEXUAL FREEDOM

Rape cases increase by 53%, with “almost two per month”

The Public Prosecutor’s Office warns of a “worrying increase” in rapes and sexual abuse

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Crimes against sexual freedom have increased by 27 cases this past year, with notable increases of 19% in sexual abuse and 53% in rapes. According to data presented by the Attorney General, Xavier Sopena, during the press conference opening the judicial year, this type of crime registered a total of 127 cases in 2024, an increase of 27% compared to the previous year. «It is important to highlight that there has been a significant leap compared to 2023, as there has been an increase of 53.33% in rapes,» stressed Sopena, indicating that «we have had 23 cases of rape, a relatively significant figure, since this means almost two rapes per month.» In addition, he indicated that cases of sexual assault and abuse have increased from 36 to 43, an increase of 19%.

Regarding cases of sexual harassment, Sopena highlighted that they have increased from 8 cases in 2020 to 25 in 2024. Compared to the previous year, this type of crime has experienced an increase of 8.70%, since 23 cases were registered in 2023. «This increase is due to a set of factors, including an increase in complaints, improvements in referral circuits and other aspects related to collective awareness,» he pointed out. «It must be said that crimes against sexual freedom are, proportionally, those that register the most significant incre-



Xavier Sopena, David Moynat, Canòlic Mingorance and Jaume Tor during the presentation of statistics for the opening of the judicial year.



XAVIER SOPENA
ATTORNEY GENERAL

“There has been a significant leap [...] We have had 23 cases of rape, a relatively important figure, since this means almost two rapes per month”

ase,» he pondered.

Sopena also highlighted a worrying growth in crimes related to child pornography, with an increase of 30.77%. At the same time, he began his presentation on the evolution of crime by high-

lighting that crimes against human life have increased from five to seven cases, representing an increase of 40%. This increase includes three attempted homicides, one attempted murder and three homicides due to reckless-

THE FIGURES

8.70%

Sexual harassment cases increase by 8.70%, from 23 incidents in 2023 to 25 in 2024.

30.77%

Crimes related to child pornography increase by 30.77%, a “worrying” figure.

60%

Cases of cocaine trafficking and transfer increase by 60%, from 15 in 2023 to 24 in 2024.

45.24%

The introduction and consumption of cocaine increases by 45.24%, from 126 to 183 cases.

13.79%

Crimes against property decrease by 13.79%, going from 689 cases in 2023 to 594 in 2024.

ness. However, no homicides or completed murders have been registered.

In the area of crimes against public health, Sopena has warned of a particularly significant increase in the trafficking and

transfer of cocaine, which have gone from 15 cases in 2023 to 24 in 2024, an increase of 60%. There has also been a 45.24% increase in the introduction and consumption of cocaine, going from 126 to 183 cases in the same period. Regarding ecstasy, the increase has been 166.67%, going from 33 to 88 infractions. In addition, an increase in crimes related to heroin has also been observed. Despite these alarming data, a 14.52% decrease has been recorded in crimes against traffic safety, which have gone from 489 to 418 cases. «The reduction in this area is mainly due to a decrease in drunk driving,» Sopena explained, emphasizing that these have gone from 377 cases in 2023 to 310 in 2024, a decrease

of 71 violations.

Regarding crimes against property, a total of 594 were detected in 2024, a decrease of 13.79% compared to the 689 cases in 2023. Sopena emphasized that, despite the emotional and social impact of these cases, only five robberies with violence have been registered, a figure that he considers low. «Despite its impact, we are not talking about a significant figure,» he pointed out. However, he warned of the increase in cases of improper use and cloning of credit cards, a phenomenon that is gaining weight within this type of crime.

These figures are part of the general balance carried out by the Superior Council of Justice, which has presented these data

in a «transparency exercise» with the aim of giving a solemn and institutional character to the opening act of the judicial year. For the first time, these statistics have been advanced and as highlighted, 6,213 cases were registered in 2024, 9.97% less than the 6,901 in 2023. This figure is also lower than the 6,482 crimes dealt with by the prosecutor's office in 2023, which represents an overall drop of 11%. In addition, the magistrate of the Superior Court of Justice, Jaume Tor, has highlighted a significant reduction of 56% in the stock of pending cases in the Administrative Chamber, while in the Criminal Chamber, despite a 42% increase in new cases, the evacuation of files has been increased by 22%. «This effort

has allowed the stability of the judicial body to be maintained,» Tor assured, noting that there were only five pending cases at the end of the year.

Regarding the court, the mayor, David Moynat, highlighted the increase in the files of minors at risk, with 73 new cases registered in 2024 and 87 evacuated. However, the current stock of pending cases is 127. «This increase is closely linked to social and economic factors and to a growing collective awareness that has allowed certain situations to be identified and reported earlier» explained Moynat. He also stressed the professionalization of social services and all the actors involved as a key factor in managing this type of case. ●

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Canòlic Mingorance, elected judge for Andorra in Strasbourg with a total of 144 votes

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

With 144 votes out of 167 cast, Canòlic Mingorance was elected this Tuesday as a judge for Andorra at the European Court of Human Rights. The vote took place during the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly

of the Council of Europe (PACE), held in Strasbourg. Mingorance, proposed by the Government in a shortlist that also included Saïda El Boudouhi and Patrícia Quillacq, has obtained majority support over the other candidates, who have collected 11 and 10 votes respectively. Her nine-year mandate will begin from

the moment she takes office, a procedure that must be formalized in the next three months. According to Article 22 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the PACE is responsible for electing the judges of the Court «by a majority of the votes cast, from a list of three candidates». ●

UNIVERSITAT D'ANDORRA



Mingorance will serve a nine-year term.

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