

2. On Spanish reporter Pablo González Yagüe, detained in Poland since 28 February 2022

Tabled by FAPE and FeSP, CCOO and UGT (Spain)

The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) Annual Meeting on 23rd-24th May 2024 in Prishtina, notes that reporter journalist Pablo González Yagüe has been imprisoned for two years and four months in a prison in Poland, a member state of the European Union. Since his arrest on February 28, 2022, Polish authorities have not specified the details that would justify said detention, except for a vague accusation of "espionage."

Publicly, there has been hardly any information, nor a public and logical development of the judicial process. Formally, he continues to be in 'preventive detention' which the prosecution - according to the judge - has simply extended nine times, that is, on a quarterly basis. During the first period of Pablo González's imprisonment, his lawyers were unable to have access to the precise details on which the formal accusation against the detainee would be based. Pablo González is still now in Radom prison, a hundred kilometers from Warsaw. He has spent most of his long period of stay in prison in conditions of extreme isolation, with barely an hour out to the yard and great limitations when it comes to receiving correspondence. A good part of the letters that are sent to him are returned to their recipients. During these two years and three months in prison, the mother of his children and her family, residing in Euskadi, northern region in Spain, have only been able to visit him twice.

Together with the Galician photojournalist Juan Teixeira, he has worked as a freelance reporter for years for very diverse media (La Sexta, Público, the EFE agency, GARA, Voice of America, etc.). He specializes in Slavic cultures, a topic on which he is preparing a doctorate. He has reported on the ground from the armed conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh, Crimea, Donbas and Ukraine. At the time he was detained he was on Polish territory reporting on the arrival of Ukrainian refugees to Poland.

Pablo González was born in Moscow and has dual nationality, Spanish and Russian because his father is Russian, while his mother is a descendant of the so-called children of the Spanish war, children of republicans welcomed in Russia during the Spanish civil war. The consular visits that he has received are few, with a frequency that does not reach monthly. Opacity about the case has been predominant, although there have been several parliamentary questions in the Congress of Deputies in Madrid and in the European Parliament. The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs also emerged from the almost total silence on the case – which characterized him during the first two years – and told the Congress of Deputies that he had demanded from the new Polish government “an oral, adversarial and public trial as soon as possible.”

The EFJ Annual Meeting instructs the EFJ Steering Committee:

- to request from the Polish authorities the immediate release of Pablo González. It is not tolerable that a country of the European Union has an information professional imprisoned, with absolute opacity about the precise charges against him, after 27 months of imprisonment and incommunicado.

- to demand to the judicial authorities of Poland maximum transparency in the process they are pursuing against Pablo González and – in the shortest possible time – the rapid holding of

a fair trial with all the guarantees, in the face of the accusations and alleged evidence that could be provided. against him. According to European legislation, there is even the possibility of his repatriation to Spain while awaiting the final trial.

- to call on the Spanish authorities to maintain a more decisive attitude towards the Polish government, the same as in European bodies, as various human rights NGOs, unions and journalist organizations from Spain and other countries have been demanding, as well as the International Federation of Journalists. The EFJ AM demands verifiable respect for his rights as a Spanish and European Union citizens.