

= 2009 Palma Nova bombing =

The 2009 Palma Nova bombing occurred on July 30 , 2009 when a limpet bomb went off outside a Civil Guard barracks in the town of Palma Nova , Majorca , Spain . The bomb was placed under a patrol car and two Civil Guard officers died as a result of the explosion . A second device was found under another Civil Guard vehicle at nearby barracks and safely exploded by police . On August 9 , the Basque nationalist and separatist organisation ETA claimed responsibility for the attack , while four other bombs exploded around restaurants and shopping centres in Palma , Majorca , causing no injuries .

The bombing was ETA 's first attack in Majorca since it tried to kill King Juan Carlos I in the summer of 1995 , and its deadliest attack since it killed two Civil Guard officers in Capbreton , France in 2007 . The attack came on the eve of the 50th anniversary of ETA 's founding , and days before the King 's yearly visit to Majorca .

= = Background = =

In mid @-@ 2006 , the organisation declared a ceasefire , and conversations between Batasuna , ETA and the Basque and Spanish governments started . Peace talks ended in December , when ETA broke the truce with a massive car bomb at the Madrid @-@ Barajas Airport . ETA officially ended the ceasefire in 2007 and resumed its attacks around Spain . At the same time , dozens of members were arrested by Spanish and French police . Despite that , the organisation did not lose the capacity of carrying out attacks .

In 2009 , Patxi López became the first non @-@ nationalist lendariki since the 1979 Statute of Autonomy of the Basque Country . On June 19 , ETA killed inspector Eduardo Puelles García in Arrigorriaga near Bilbao , Biscay , when a bomb attached to his car exploded , and on July 9 , a powerful bomb exploded in a Socialist Workers ' Party local office in Durango , Biscay , causing no injuries . In late July , it was reported that ETA was preparing its " summer campaign " , with Spanish police looking for several vans the organisation had ready to explode . On July 29 , a van loaded with 300 kilograms (660 lb) of explosives went off in front of a Civil Guard barracks in Burgos , injuring 70 , including women and children .

The bombing was the first time since 2007 in which ETA killed more than one person in one of its attacks . On December 2 , 2007 two undercover Civil Guards were shot dead in the French town of Capbreton , Aquitaine . It was also the deadliest attack in Spanish soil since the Madrid @-@ Barajas Airport .

The attack was the first time ETA had killed in Majorca , one of the Spanish regions less targeted by ETA . On August 18 , 1977 a bomb was deactivated next to a seafront walk . On July 31 , 1991 two people were injured after two bombs went off in Palma . Two months later , a car bomb was defused in Palma 's main beach . In the summer of 1995 , Spanish authorities dismantled a cell of ETA ready to shoot king Juan Carlos I. In 2005, the organisation attempted the magnicide once more in Majorca .

= = Attack = =

At 1 : 50 pm , a 3 kilograms (6 @.@ 6 lb) bomb placed under a Civil Guard Nissan Patrol went off , killing officers Carlos Saénz de Tejada García and Diego Salva Lezaun . One of the officers died instantly , while paramedics failed to resuscitate the other officer . Both officers were inside the car when the bomb exploded . The vehicle had been parked in the Na Boira street , in front of a government @-@ owned building used as a post office and Civil Guard barracks , among other functions . Many hotels are located in the area , something which caused many foreign tourists , mainly German and British , to witness the blast .

After the attack , authorities started to look for other possible bombs in the area , with the Civil Guard giving the order to search in all barracks on the island . Soon after , a detection dog found a bomb attached to another Civil Guard Nissan Patrol parked in front of a barracks located 1 kilometre

(0 @. @ 62 mi) from where the first bomb had exploded . The area was cordoned off and people evacuated from nearby houses and hotels . At 6 : 30 pm , Civil Guard bomb disposal officers TEDAX carried out a controlled explosion . The bomb had been placed in a broken down vehicle and was therefore not in use .

= = = Victims = = =

Diego Salvá Lezaun (Pamplona , 1981) lived in Majorca and became a Civil Guard on August 25 , 2008 . He started working as an intern on January 31 , 2009 . A few months later , he suffered a motorbike accident which left him several weeks in coma . Once he recovered , he was assigned to the Palma Nova barracks , just four days before the attack took place . He was buried in Palma .

Carlos Sáenz de Tejada García (Burgos , 1980) tried to join the National Police Corps after finishing his high school studies . He failed to do so and became a member of the Spanish Army , being stationed in an army barracks in Castrillo del Val . He joined the Civil Guard on February 18 , 2008 , and was sent to Majorca on July 19 . He had some relatives affected by the July 29 bombing in Burgos , where he was buried .

= = Aftermath = =

On July 31 , a funeral was held at the Cathedral of Santa Maria in Palma . The service was attended by Primer Minister José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero and Prince and Princess of Asturias , Felipe and Letizia . Other people attending the mass were leader of the opposition Mariano Rajoy , Minister of the Interior Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba and Patxi López , among others . At least 2 @, @ 000 gathered outside of the cathedral and a minute of silence was held across Spain in memory of the dead .

= = = Operation Cage = = =

Right after the attack , and suspecting that the bombers were still on the island , the Civil Guard and the National Police Corps launched a lockdown , an operation named Operation Cage (Spanish : Operación Jaula) , the biggest manhunt in the history of the island . Similar operations had been done around Spain in other attacks , such as in the 2004 Madrid train bombings . Checkpoints were set up across the island , while the Palma de Mallorca Airport and all ports were temporarily closed . The airport was closed at 4 : 00 pm and was re @-@ opened at 5 : 55 pm , with several flights being delayed . During the rest of the afternoon , the ports were re @-@ opened as well .

The day after the attack , Spanish police released the picture of six members of ETA who could have possibly taken part in the bombing . Police named the suspects as Itziar Martínez Moreno , Iratxe Yáñez Ortiz de Barrón , Alberto Beraza Machain , Oroitz Gurruchaga Gogorza , Joanes Larretxea Mendiola and Iván Sáez de Jáuregui Ortigosa , although no direct evidence linked them to the attack . Meanwhile , at least 1600 police officers were deployed to keep checking around the island , including on fisherman . The intense search was still active in mid August .

= = = Reactions = = =

During a press conference at the Moncloa Palace , Rodríguez Zapatero blamed both bombings " on the terrorist group ETA " and vowed to bring all of its members to justice : " They have no chance to hide , they can 't flee , they can 't escape justice , they will be arrested , they will be sentenced , they will spend their lives in jail " . When arriving on Majorca on August 1 for his yearly summer holidays King Juan Carlos I condemned the attack and vowed to " go on and on hitting them in the head and we must fight to stop them " . Condemnation also came from governments worldwide following the bombing :

The European Commission condemned the bombing and gave its " total solidarity to the Spanish people and institutions " .

German Chancellor Angela Merkel condemned the attack , and gave Rodriguez Zapatero her support in " the fight against terrorism " .

The Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs condemned the killing .

Then Foreign Minister of Argentina Jorge Taiana condemned the Majorca and Burgos attacks .

= = August bombings = =

On August 9 , the same day ETA claimed responsibility for the July 30 attack , four bombs exploded in three restaurants and one shopping centre around Palma . The bombs , which contained small amounts of explosives and caused little damage and no injuries , went off after three warning calls from ETA . At 11 : 16 am local time , a man speaking on behalf of ETA called the firefighters of Calvià , warning that three bombs would go off in Palma . Half an hour later , another person also speaking on behalf of ETA called a taxi company in Gipuzkoa , giving details of the location and time the bombs would explode . Finally , another warning call was mistakenly made to the personal mobile phone of an inhabitant of Córdoba . Authorities reported that the bombers had given contradicting details in each call , leading to confusion on the location of the bombs .

The first bomb exploded at 12 : 00 pm in the bar " Nica " , located in the avenue Comte de Sallent . The explosion was at first not reported , with authorities believing it was a gas explosion . The second bomb exploded at around 2 : 25 pm in the " La Rigoletta " restaurant , in front of one of Palma 's main beaches . The third bomb went off at around 4 : 00 pm in another restaurant , named " Enco " . The fourth device exploded around 6 : 00 pm in a shopping mall located next to the main square of Palma . As a result of the few details given by the warning calls , police failed to evacuate the attacked restaurants . Nonetheless , no one was injured .

= = Investigation = =

Authorities rapidly ruled out the possibility that ETA had a cell in the island , with police believing the attack had been carried out by a unit that had travelled to the island specifically to carry it out . Initial reports stated that the bombers had set the bomb off with a remote control . Once the second bomb was spotted , police announced that it had a timer device , which could have allowed the members of ETA to plant the bomb several days before the attack and leave the island . Earlier , Government delegate for Majorca , Ramon Socías , had said that security forces believed that the bombers had not left Majorca , and were hiding on the island , waiting for the situation to cool down before attempting to leave .

Regarding the August 8 bombings , Alfredo Pérez Rubalcaba did not rule out any possibility , although he confirmed that the hypothesis of the bombers leaving the island before the attack was " reasonable " , due to the timer devices . All of the bombs had been planted in women 's toilets , which led authorities to believe that they had been set by one of the two female suspects , Itziar Martínez Moreno and Iratxe Yáñez Ortiz .

= = = Arrests = = =

On August 19 , Alberto Matxain Beraza was arrested in the French town of Le Corbier in Savoy , next to the French Alps . He was held along with fellow ETA members Aitzol Etxaburu and Andoni Sarasola . They were responsible for ETA 's logistics operation , and had the job of supplying weapons and explosives to the ETA cells operating in Spanish soil . The arrest led to the discovery of almost a tone of explosives , hidden by ETA in 12 small caches around France . On October 11 , Joanes Larretxea was arrested in Rivières , Gard along with top ETA member Iurgi Mendinueta Mintegi .

Iratxe Yáñez Ortiz was arrested on January 10 , 2010 in Portugal after she was stopped in a routine traffic check @-@ point in the Spanish town of Bermillo de Sayago , next to Spain @-@ Portugal border . Yáñez Ortiz was arrested along another member of ETA , Garikoitz García Arrieta , who was driving a van containing 10 kilograms (22 lb) of explosives , two pistols , a rifle and bomb @-@

making material . She was extradited to Spain on October 28 , 2010 .