

# Spanish Constitutional Court *Amparo* Dataset

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## Presentation

This dataset compiles the complete universe of *amparo* rulings issued by the Spanish Constitutional Court since its establishment in 1980 through June 2025, totaling **7,434 decisions**. Each observation corresponds to a single *amparo* complaint and captures detailed information on the parties involved, the fundamental rights invoked, judicial outcome, dissenting opinions, and institutional metadata associated with the case, alongside rich text-based variables drawn directly from the full body of the rulings.

The full legal corpus was retrieved from the Constitutional Court’s official jurisprudence repository (*Histórico de Jurisprudencia*, HJ<sup>1</sup>). Case texts were systematically processed through an NLP-assisted extraction pipeline to obtain granular information from each ruling, followed by manual validation to ensure precision in the coding.

Designed primarily for research in **judicial behavior** and **constitutional courts**, this dataset supports empirical inquiry into how the Court interprets and enforces fundamental rights, how individual Justices reason and dissent, and how broader political and economic factors shape constitutional adjudication of fundamental rights violations in Spain.

Feedback on any errors, omissions, or potential improvements is gratefully welcome!

## Suggested citation:

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<sup>1</sup><https://hj.tribunalconstitucional.es/HJ/en>

# Codebook

## Identifiers & Metadata

- **id**

Unique numeric identifier for each ruling.

- **date**

Ruling date (YYYY-MM-DD format).

- **section**

Chamber or section of the Constitutional Court issuing the ruling.

*Values: {"seccion\_primera"; "seccion\_segunda"; "seccion\_tercera"; "seccion\_cuarta"; "sala\_primera"; "sala\_segunda"; "pleno"}*

- **number**

Official case number of the ruling.

*Example: "Recurso de amparo 600-1984"*

- **url**

Link to the ruling text in the Court repository.

*Example: "https://hj.tribunalconstitucional.es/HJ/es/Resolucion/Show/535"*

## Ruling Text Blocks

- **intro**

Formal opening of the ruling, including the official case citation (*e.g.*, BOE reference, European Case Law Identifier), identification of the deciding chamber, composition of the bench, and the use of solemn constitutional formulae.

- **summary**

Official summary of the case provided by the Court, describing the parties involved, their legal representation, the judicial decision being challenged, and the identity of the *rapporteur*.

- **antecedentes**

Section presenting the factual background of the case and the procedural history prior to the ruling.

- **fundamentos**

Section containing the Court's legal reasoning, discussion of constitutional rights, and doctrinal analysis.

- **fallo**  
Final dispositive section of the ruling, where the Court issues its decision and declares the outcome of the *recurso de amparo*.
- **text**  
Full consolidated text of the ruling, combining all substantive sections: **intro**, **summary**, **antecedentes**, **fundamentos**, and **fallo**.

## Bench Composition

- **justice1 — justice12**  
Twelve individual variables recording the names of each participating Justice, written in lowercase with full Spanish accents.  
*Example: "manuel garcía-pelayo y alonso"*
- **number\_justices**  
Number of Justices participating in the ruling.

## Dissents

- **has\_dissent**  
Binary indicator equal to 1 when the ruling includes at least one dissenting or concurring opinion, and 0 otherwise.
- **number\_dissent**  
Number of separate dissenting or concurring opinions contained in the ruling.
- **dissent**  
Full aggregated text of all dissenting and concurring opinions appended to the ruling.
- **dissent1 — dissent5**  
Five individual variables containing the raw text of each separate dissenting or concurring opinion, ordered as they appear in the ruling.
- **dissent1\_dissenter1 — dissent5\_dissenter5**  
25 variables identifying the magistrates who author or adhere to each dissenting or concurring opinion. Each dissent may include multiple signatories, recorded separately across dissenter fields.

## Constitutional Rights

- **rights**

Decision per right, stored as a JSON array. Each element includes the right code (*i.e.* its constitutional article) and the corresponding Court's decision (**estimado**, or upheld, and **desestimado**, or dismissed).

*Example:* [{"code": "14", "outcome": "estimado"}, {"code": "27", "outcome": "desestimado"}, {"code": "30.2", "outcome": "desestimado"}]

- **case\_outcome\_overall**

Overall outcome of the ruling. Indicates whether the *recurso de amparo* was fully granted (**estimado\_total**), partially granted (**estimado\_parcial**), or dismissed in its entirety (**desestimado**).

*Values:* {"estimado\_total"; "estimado\_parcial"; "desestimado"}

- **num\_rights\_claimed**

Number of rights claimed.

- **num\_rights\_upheld**

Number of rights upheld by the Court.

- **dissent1\_rights — dissent5\_rights**

Decision per right for each dissenting or concurring opinion (*vid.* **dissent1** — **dissent5**), stored as a JSON array. Each element includes the right code (*i.e.* its constitutional article) and the corresponding dissenting or concurring decision (**estimado**, or upheld, and **desestimado**, or dismissed).

*Example:* [{"code": "14", "outcome": "desestimado"}, {"code": "27", "outcome": "estimado"}, {"code": "30.2", "outcome": "estimado"}]

## Litigants & Case Variables

- **litigants**

List of *amparo* appellants, stored as a JSON array. Each element includes the appellant's name and its type (e.g. **individual**, **company**, **union**, **association**, **party**, **public\_interest**, **professional\_body**, and a residual category **other\_entity**). The category **public\_interest** refers to public actors such as the Prosecution Ministry (*Ministerio Fiscal*) or the Ombudsperson (*Defensor/a del Pueblo*).

*Example:* [{"name": "don Jesús Sánchez Carrascosa", "type": "individual"}, {"name": "Guías Comerciales de Valencia, S.L.", "type": "company"}]

- **num\_litigants**

Number of *amparo* appellants.

- **court\_type**

Originating jurisdiction (if any), indicating the type of court from which the *amparo* appeal was lodged.

Values: {"primera\_instancia\_instruccion"; "menores"; "vigilancia\_penitenciaria"; "social"; "penal"; "contencioso\_administrativo"; "audiencia\_provincial"; "audiencia\_nacional"; "tsj"; "tribunal\_supremo"}

- **action\_type**

Type of public act or decision challenged in the *amparo* appeal.

Values: {"judicial"; "executive"; "legislative"}

- **subject\_matter**

Legal issue or substantive area of Spanish law underlying the *amparo* ruling.

Values: {"familia"; "penal"; "electoral"; "contencioso\_administrativo"; "social\_laboral"; "civil"; "penitenciario"; "tributario"; "mercantil"; "extranjeria"}

## Citations & References

- **mentions\_previous\_stc**

Number of previous rulings issued by the Spanish Constitutional Court cited.

- **previous\_stc**

List of rulings issued by the Spanish Constitutional Court cited. Entries reproduce either official citation format (STC <number>/<year> with date) or informal phrasing (e.g. *Sentencia de 8 de abril de 1981*).

Example: {"STC 167/2002, de 18 de septiembre de 2002; STC 172/1997, de 14 de octubre; STC 120/1999, de 28 de junio" }

- **echr\_mentions**

Number of references to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).