



SOCIETY

The CoE urges Andorra to guarantee Mendoza's freedom of expression

The Human Rights Commissioner warns that the criminal process against the activist has a paralyzing effect

JOAN JIMÉNEZ
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@JJimenezM97

The Council of Europe (CoE), specifically the Commissioner for Human Rights, Dunja Mijatovic, published a statement last Wednesday in which she denounced that «the criminal prosecution against the defender of women's rights, Vanessa Mendoza Cortés, is an attempt against their freedom of expression and has a paralyzing effect on human rights defenders, as well as on other people who act in favor of the rights of women and girls in Andorra», as stipulated by Mijatovic in the previously published statement at the hearing that will take place next December 4th to deal with the Mendoza case.

The CoE refers to UN Secretary-Ge-

Vanessa Mendoza is accused of a crime against the prestige of Andorran institutions

The Council of Europe considers that the process against the activist may slow down other human rights activists

neral Antonio Guterres' annual reports on reprisals for cooperation, which detail the investigation into his affair based on information provided by Mendoza to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women of the United Nations and the media in 2019. Regarding this information, the European organization states that it «describes the obstacles that prevent the exercise of human rights for women and girls in Andorra», mentioning the judicial process that was opened against the activist for slander and defamation against the co-princes (infractions contemplated in articles 172 and 320 of the Andorran Penal Code, punishable by prison sentences) and crime against the prestige of Andorran institutions (Article 325 of the Penal Code). The Public Administration abandoned the prosecution for defamation in 2021, but the prosecution of the crime against institutional prestige is still in force.

With reference to this process, the Council of Europe declared last Wednesday that «the Andorran authorities should adopt all the necessary measures to guarantee the freedom of expression of Mrs. Mendoza Cortés and



▶▶ Imatge d'arxiu de la manifestació d'Stop Violències de l'any 2018.



Dunja Mijatovic

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF THE COE

«The criminal prosecution of Vanessa Mendoza has a paralyzing effect on human rights defenders and other women»



Guillem Casal

SPOKESPERSON AND MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

«It is false that the Government is persecuting Vanessa, we are somehow sorry that these voices who want to discredit our country have a say and credit»



guarantee an environment favorable to the work of defenders of women's rights».

Questioned about this matter in the press conference following the Council of Ministers last Wednesday, the Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal, alleged, regarding the issue of abortion, that this «Government has never hidden from its will on the way to decriminalize». Along these lines, Casal named several services that try to help women in this regard, such as the SiAD. Regarding Mendoza, the minister explained that it is «a judicial process that the Government does not have to enter into to evaluate, but this process has nothing to do with the political will of Vanessa, or postulates that she or the association defends (Stop Violence) specifically. It has to do with the statements made which, in the opinion of the Government, were defamatory of public workers. What is false is that the Government publicly persecutes Vanessa, we are somehow sorry that these voices who want to discredit our country have a say and credit». ≡

130 residents had an abortion in Catalonia in 2022

▶▶ A total of 130 resident women were treated in Catalonia for a voluntary termination of pregnancy during 2022. According to the data provided by the Department of Health of the Generalitat, the vast majority of women (34) were between the ages of 25 and 29. The second age group with the most abortions was 30 to 34 years old with 31 cases, followed by 20 to 24 years old with 29 cases and 35 to 39 years old with 20 cases. It is also specified that 19 women over the age of 39 and six under the age of 20 had abortions. The vast majority were single women with 89 cases, although there were also thirty married women, five separated, three divorced, one widow and two others who did not provide details.

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The College of Architects of Andorra bets on the so-called 'coliving'

The COAA convened a round table to provide solutions to the housing problem

They also wanted to highlight the importance of free, quality public transport

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES-ENGORDANY
@PeriodicAND

The College of Architects of Andorra issued a manifesto the day before yesterday to put on the table the actions that would contribute to solving the housing problem. Thus, after noting the difficulty of accessing housing in the country due to the high cost of sale and rent, the COAA convened a round table to extract the group's position and proposals. Thus, action is being taken on private and leased land, in addition to exploring the promotion of regular homes and other forms of living such as co-living.

The College points out that some attendees at the table «considered that a reduction in the permitted building capacity would reduce the value of land and its interest, and would reduce construction costs and excavations by indirectly reducing the number of spaces on land to justify». That is why they analyzed the possibilities with the cession land and its development by the administration.

The COAA, therefore, considered that «the size of the AUs should be reconsidered to increase it and that the percentage of sessions should also be increased, with a minimum allocated to the green area. Its study should come from a justified study based on the global needs of collective facilities, green areas, infrastructure and landscape integration.

Secondly, it is considered that the cession land should be intended for a specific public use, according to forecasts of urban growth and, therefore, state-owned, and non-alienable.

New forms of housing/ On the other hand, the COAA proposes other solutions, such as replacing monetary transfers in consolidated urban land with transfers in housing to be managed by the National Housing Institute. This would avoid social segmentation by economic capacity, mark a percentage in the promotion of housing on



►► Cranes in Anyós.

land resulting from new urbanization and establish attractive administrative concessions.

The COAA also believes in the need to encourage quality, economical and sustainable public transport, as it also avoids traffic and natural traffic jams in a country with such a large influx of tourists.

Thus, the COAA explains that «it would be necessary to modify the construction regulations, to provide another solution or ways of living, without losing sight of the fact that they must be equally dignified.

Construction and prefabrication/ The manifesto also includes a series of proposals related to pre-

The manifesto also includes a series of proposals related to prefabrication, although they are not economic

fabrication. The possibility of building with wood, with light frame uprights or CLT panels is therefore indicated. Even so, the manifesto stated that «they are not systems that are more economical, but they are more efficient and faster systems to build in addition to being sustainable, given the current climate emergency situation». However, they claim that it is still possible to go a step further with modular construction and 3D construction, in which complete modular units are manufactured in the workshop and transferred to the site already assembled. In any case, they add that «prefabricated construction is an alternative to

traditional construction due to the speed of execution and the lower environmental impact. The prefabricated solutions must in no case represent a reduction in the quality of the final product».

Promotion and cooperativism / From the COAA they ask what other options can be considered in the area of housing promotion. The COAA is a non-profit association of people with a common need: housing. Members associate to achieve the best price and quality conditions. The co-operative partners jointly buy a piece of land, commission the design and develop the promotion, eliminating the figure of the promoter. ≡

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(+376) 353 424 / (+376) 379 769

(+376) 747 747

laportella@andorra.ad

Casa Nova Olivet 10 · Ordino

www.laportella.ad