



SECURITY

Citizen security: more evident in Andorra than in Spain

We talk to two girls who compare both territories, where the differences are very big

The fear of theft or sexual assault are the main fears of residents in Barcelona



EL PERIÒDIC

► Archive image of Andorra's border with Spain.

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The differences in public safety between Andorra and Spain, our neighboring country, are undeniable. The figures are available to everyone, as well as our own eyes that can certify it for themselves. In 2022, the Principality's Police Force closed the year with 4,500 crimes, of which they were able to solve nearly 1,100. On the other side of the scale, Spain did it with a total of 2,325,358. The gap between the two is certainly differential, but in this case the demographic argument that separates the two territories and which several institutions in the neighboring country want to use to justify this fact cannot be accepted. If there is a justification that can be accepted as valid, it is that of those citizens who have been able to see closely the operation or skill of this

security, through living with it for a long period of time.

From EL PERIÒDIC we spoke to a couple of witnesses about this fact: Gabriela and Alexia (fictitious names), two girls from Spain and Andorra, respectively, and who for work and student reasons had to move to the neighboring country. «I noticed the difference in just the first night, when I saw that I could walk safely down the street and not have to wait to see if someone was following me», explains Gabriela, a situation that, according to her, was impossible in Barcelona: «My fear was always worried that I wouldn't be robbed or assaulted».

Similar statements are made by Alexia, who only set foot in the city as soon as she realized how big the difference was with the Principality: «The streets were dirty and I saw suspicious people constantly, I felt very insecure», she says. The young woman highlights a moment



Gabriela
RESIDENT IN BARCELONA

«When I arrived in Andorra, I saw that I could walk safely down the street and not have to wait to see if someone was following me»

of tension that she had to live with her classmates when they were recording a university project in the street, where «a man threw paint over us with the idea of distracting us and that another stole the cameras we were carrying», adding that, until that moment, «she had never experienced a similar event in Andorra».

Alexia's words are better understood when we place, of the 2,325,358 crimes committed in Spain, a total of 475,019 in Catalonia, being the autonomous community with a greater number compared to the rest. In more detail, it can be found that 162,000 correspond exclusively to thefts, which keep their neuralgic focus in large cities such as Barcelona. «Wherever you go, you have the feeling that your mobile phone can be taken away at any moment», comments Alexia. A situation that is accentuated in moments of nocturnal



Alexia
RESIDENT IN BARCELONA

«In Barcelona the streets were dirty and I saw suspicious people constantly, I felt very insecure»

leisure, where the supply of drugs to girls has been the usual tonic in the Catalan capital in recent months. «I don't understand how in Barcelona this can happen every weekend and, on the other hand, here in Andorra it seems a completely distant event», adds Gabriela. Or at least that seemed to be the case until this past morning, when three women reported through Punt Lila that someone had drugged them through their drinks during the Escaldes-Engordany Festivities.

However, this specific situation, as well as others that are certainly experienced every week in the Principality, cannot deny what is a precise fact: Andorra is a safe place to live, especially for women and those people who are part of minority groups. The public safety that surrounds its streets is enviable, especially towards cities in the neighboring country, where a Barcelona that is getting worse and worse stands out. In addition to the high number of thefts, there is also an extensive list of physical and verbal assaults, possession of weapons, drug trafficking and a long list that only grows day by day. We can only hope that all these situations that pollute and worsen our social landscape do not reach this point and we can, in this way, continue to be one of the countries with the greatest citizen security in all of Europe. ≡

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

250,000 euros to invest in international projects

These organizations comply with the established criteria and priorities of Andorran cooperation.

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The Council of Ministers validated the day before yesterday, at the proposal of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Imma Tor, several voluntary contributions in favor of international organizations and institutions for a total amount of 249,800 euros. Through these contributions, the Government makes a contribution to the funds and programs of organizations of which Andorra is form and which comply with the criteria and priorities established in the governing plan of Andorran cooperation.

In this way, it was approved to collaborate with the Fund and Programs of the United Nations in New York, for an amount of 165,000 euros, which is distributed in several specific projects such as the fund for the Environment, the equality of gender and women's empowerment or to respond to emergencies, among others.

A contribution of 50,000 euros was also validated for the Fund and Programs of the United Nations-Geneva. Specifically, it collaborates with the United Nations program on HIV/AIDS, the fund to support Victims of Torture and to fight and eradicate modern forms of slavery.

Aid to the projects presented/Fostering cooperation and multilate-



SFGA/JAVILADOT

► The Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Livestock and Government spokesman, Guillem Casal.

ralism through support for the different Andorran organizations and projects is also one of the objectives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It is for this reason that the Government gave the green light the day before yesterday to the granting of subsidies to Andorran civic entities and to other actors who present projects and international development coopera-

tion programs for a total amount of 139,537.48 euros. A total of four projects were presented this year and all were evaluated positively.

Support has been granted to the projects presented by the Local Development Cooperation Association - for an amount of 31,103.10 euros -, Càritas Andorra - with a total of 23,434.38 euros -, Fundació IBO-

Africa - subsidized with 40,000 euros - and Cooperand for Latin America - which will receive an amount of 45,000 euros.

The first project, of the subsidized Local Development Cooperation Association, aims to establish the internal and external foundations of the Association des Jeunes pour l'Avénir Éducatif des Enfants (AJA-

EE), training members and volunteers so that they can monitor the projects that already exist, and thus become professionals; and on the other to start a chicken farm business for the socio-economic autonomy of the AJAEE.

The Càritas Andorra project aims to improve access to water for the village and health center of Nariokotome, Turkana County (northern Kenya). The project consists of providing drinking water continuously to the inhabitants of the village and is aimed at the semi-nomadic population of the area.

The IBO-Africa Foundation has proposed a project to empower the women and young people of Ibo Island (Mozambique) through educational training and cultural activities. The trainings are aimed at improving selfemployment and opportunities to access the labor market.

Finally, Cooperand with Latin America proposes to carry out a project in Santa Cruz (Bolivia) to promote the development of a long-term action plan that dynamizes the prevention of social exclusion suffered by the minor population in extreme poverty, through training and containment measures in two distinct areas: Direct action on the population that is already part of this group and prevention action in areas at high risk of exclusion. ≡

COMÚ D'ANDORRA LA VELLA/TONY LARA



► Image of the performance carried out during the exhibition.

CULTURE

The exhibition «Breaking stereotypes» arrives in Andorra

The presentation featured an inaugural performance

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El Pont de la Creu of Andorra la Vella hosted the performance and the opening of the exhibition «Breaking stereotypes», promoted by the Andorran Women's Institute and with the support of a group of committed ar-

tists and photographers. The aim of the exhibition is, as they explained, «to raise awareness of the absurdity of clichés and preconceived ideas, as well as to emphasize the need to evolve the concept of gender equality». Through different photographs accompanied by simple messages, these show that «gender stereotypes are ideas imposed and assumed by society relating to the characteristics, attitudes and behaviors of women and men, which do not correspond to re-

ality». The event was attended by the Major Consul of Andorra la Vella, Miquel Canturri, as well as several artists who participated in the exhibition, such as Andrea Alsina, Montserrat Altamira, Carme Chacón, Tony Lara, Natalia Montaner or Núria Moreno. Canturri wanted to thank the organizers of the exhibition «for their willingness», adding that the intention on the part of the community continues to be «reconverting the Central Park into an art space». ≡

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