

Spain's Supreme Court Refuses to Grant Bail for former Catalonia Cabinet Members



Madrid, December 4 (RHC)--Former Catalan vice-president Oriol Junqueras, former cabinet member Joaquim Forn and two leaders of civic groups ANC and Omnium Cultural, faced with charges of sedition, have been refused bail, Spain's Supreme Court said on Monday.

Six other former members of the Catalonia cabinet, detained in custody ahead of an investigation into their part in an illegal unilateral declaration of independence by the then-regional government Oct. 27, were set bail of 118,570 dollars.

The Catalan leaders' organization of an independence vote Oct. 1 and subsequent declaration of independence, both acts banned under Spain's constitution, have tipped the country into its worst political crisis in more than four decades.

The central government sacked the previous government within hours of the declaration and called a regional election for Dec. 21.

The eight former members of the cabinet were detained in custody Nov.2 facing potential charges of sedition, rebellion and misappropriation of funds. They have since called to be released to campaign for the election.

The former leader of the Catalonia government, Carles Puigdemont, and four other members of his cabinet, are in exile in Belgium under conditional release after an international arrest warrant was served against them.

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