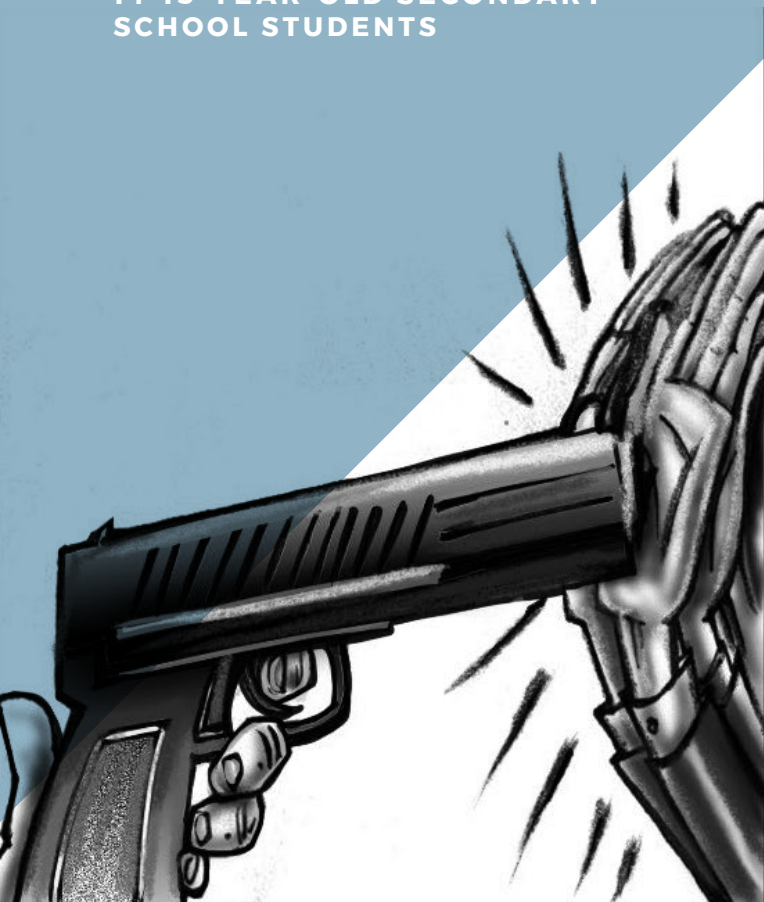




VICTIMS OF TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

UNIT OF WORK FOR CITIZENSHIP

**14-15-YEAR-OLD SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS**



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In this Unit you will address an issue that is essential for everyone: human rights. You will work with journalistic texts: you will read, watch and listen to news, interviews, and reports. You can use what have learned in other subjects, such as History, Philosophy, English. In fact, you will carry out the work of a journalist as you will prepare your own report on the suggested topic: Victims of human rights violations (which define, in many ways, our human condition).



The knowledge acquired from these activities, the analysis of your own emotions and feelings, engaging in reflections on what we do for victims of human rights violations (specifically victims of terrorism), as well as the importance of memory, justice, truth and recovery, are all very important areas covered in this unit.



Drawing by José Ibarrola.

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INTRODUCTORY

UNIT



Agustín Ibarrola's Monument to the victims of terrorism in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Basque country)



Eleanor Roosevelt holding the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in Spanish. November 1949. Photograph: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day/women-who-shaped-the-universal-declaration>

A WORLD OF PEOPLE WITH RIGHTS

After the enormous tragedy of World War II, on 10th December 1948 the United Nations General Assembly approved the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a text that marks the relations between countries and people.

The Declaration opened a process of ethical advancement for humanity that has not yet finished, a process in which there can be observed at the very least three “generations” of rights. The human rights called “first generation” refer to civil and political rights and have their origins in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizens of 1789. Its main marker of identity is the defense of freedom.

Those known as “second generation” human rights deal more with the economic, social and cultural rights of people. They are inspired by the principle of equality and were essential to the process of the first generation of human rights. As such, they are also incorporated in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

More recently, a “third generation” of human rights is mentioned in reference to those rights that were promoted in the last third of the 20th century. These rights go beyond the 1948 United Nations formal declaration and aim to encourage respect, social progress and the standard of living for all people that make up the international community. These rights are linked to the concept of solidarity and among them are the rights to peace and sustainable development.

There are no rights that are more important than others and we can say that all rights are interrelated. These rights are legal universal guarantees that protect all people in society. The moment in which we are most aware of their relevance is exactly the moment in which they are denied. Therefore, the importance of these rights is better appreciated when we consider them in the context of a case in which a person has been deprived of them; in other words, a person who has been the victim of an injustice. As the philosopher Xabier Etxebarria points out: "The authentic revelation of human rights, of what they are and they mean, is not given to us in an abstract way - it is given to us in our own experience, or the empathic-moral perception in others, of the denial of those rights."



REFLECTION ACTIVITIES

The previous image accompanies the text of Article 3 of the UDHR "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". What do you think that image represents?

Life seems easy to define, but could you define freedom or security?

Do you know anyone who has been unfairly deprived of these rights?

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

How could you make sure that the UDHR would be more respected in your environment?

Try to design an advertisement to promote this article of the UDHR on radio, TV, the internet, or social media.

SESSION

01





ETA murdered 11 people (including five girls) in an attack on the house-barracks in Zaragoza (11/12/1987). Photograph: EFE.

TERRORISM

Terrorism is a form of illegitimate violence carried out against individuals, groups or institutions to intimidate and provoke fear in order to influence decisions and obtain certain objectives, usually of a political nature. It violates people's human rights, develops a culture of hatred and attacks the functioning of democratic societies.

HOW DOES TERRORISM ATTACK HUMAN RIGHTS?

The philosopher Immanuel Kant pointed out that humans should be treated as an end in themselves and not as a means to something else. However, in the context of terrorism, each person ceases to be an individual and becomes an object. Each such person is stripped of their dignity and rights, something which every human being should have, to become nothing more than a means to an end for the terrorist organization in question.

"ETA members are not sadists; they love their children as much as anyone else, and their manifestos are full of songs celebrating life. What happens is that other children, those of the victims, do not exist. Shots are "against a barracks", not against people who inhabit it. ETA's language is an embroidery of euphemisms: "Here I send you information about cars of *txakurras* (dogs in basque language; by policemen) to do some *ekintzas* (actions): Check them out and, when you can, put some limpets (attached pumps), as you may have seen lately, this type of *ekintzas* has made the enemy very nervous". It is a letter from ETA's management to the Vizcaya command dated January 1992. Among those actions which made the enemy nervous was the murder, two months before, of the two year-old child of Fabio Moreno, a son of a civil guard".

Patxo Unzueta, journalist



Map of Terror. Source: Covite: <https://mapadelterror.com>

Unfortunately, this violation of human rights occurs in much of the world and also very close to you. Here is a shocking fact: in Spain alone, almost 1,500 people have lost their lives from terrorist attacks since 1960.

Terrorism has a direct and negative effect on human rights, especially the right to life, liberty, and security of person, but it also destabilizes democratic institutions, relations between countries and social and economic development. Terrorism affects everyone.



PROTAGONISTS

To address human rights violations, the experience of those who have suffered wilful and unjust violence from others must be taken into account. If we spoke about terrorist violence without giving the necessary attention to its victims, at the end of it all we would only have the story of the perpetrators.

Terrorism almost always pursues political objectives. As the philosopher Daniel Innerarity points out: "it is not about getting an agreement between aggressors and victims to meet a kind of middle ground between violence and democracy". Thus, we must not become passive, insensitive, or indifferent spectators. In the context of people's rights, there is no room for neutrality. There is never a middle ground between victims and perpetrators of terrorism.

ETA has been the terrorist group that has caused the most damage in Spain, but the act of terrorism which led to the highest number of victims was the jihadist attack of 11th March 2004.

After the 2004 attacks, the writer Bernardo Atxaga composed a poem set to music by Jabier Muguruza whose main stanza reads like this:

Bizitzabizitzada,	Life is life,
handiena;	and it's the greatest thing;
kentzendueak	whoever removes it
kentzendu dena.	takes everything away

Song is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ftQ31Hstk>

Full lyrics in basque language are available at:

<http://www.jabiermuguruza.net/abenduak-29-letras.html>

THE IMAGE

This is an image of Fabio Moreno Asla. He died in the town of Erandio, Vizcaya, after the explosion of a bomb placed in his father's car by ETA. Three days before the attack, two terrorists went to the home of the civil guard Antonio Moreno Chica, Fabio's father. They located his car and while one of them watched, the other one placed the pump under the passenger seat. On 7th November, 1991, Antonio had planned to go to the swimming pool with his two children. Before getting in the car, he looked under the car to check if there was a bomb but he didn't notice anything strange. Afterwards, everyone got in the car. At around 4:45pm, the bomb went off as the car drove around a curve. Fabio died on the spot and his twin brother Alex had one leg badly burned and a perforated eardrum. His father was unable to return to work for 852 days before finally being declared unable to do his job. ETA members knew that Antonio went to and from work by train and exclusively used the car when with his family. Fabio was buried in the cemetery of Derio, Vizcaya. That year, ETA killed seven children (one in San Sebastian, five in Vic and one in Erandio) and wounded other minors. Fabio Moreno Asla was two years old and he was born in Bilbao.

Source: <http://www.rtve.es/memoriadevida/detalle.php?id=699>

Although ETA (*Euskadi Ta Askatasuna* – Basque Country and Freedom) emerged in the final years of the dictatorship of General Franco, ETA's most significant terrorist activity was developed during democracy. The case of Fabio Moreno is one of the more than 800 committed by the terrorist organization between 1968 and 2010. This is how Fabio's father Antonio recounted the attack years later: "When I opened the back part of the car, I got Alex out of the car, who was fine. The worst was when I went to get Fabio out, as I had to take the pieces of his body. You don't know how to hold them all because they fall all over the place. When the bomb exploded it destroyed my eardrums. I didn't hear anything. I didn't know what was happening (...) The first thing that you think is why my son and not me, if in theory, the bad guy would be me, for being a civil guard. Over time you realise that they have not done this for your son nor for you, but simply to create hurt".

(Statements by Antonio Moreno, Fabio's parents taken from the documentary film in Spanish *Trece entre mil* (amongst 13,000), by Iñaki Arteta) https://www.documaniatv.com/politica/trece-entre-mil-video_9ef0da5e.html (a partir de 1:12:58)



Fabio Moreno. Source: family archive.

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Who do you think is the victim (or victims) in this report and what do you think they have taken away with this attack? (Use the UDHR for your reflection).

ACTIVITIES WITH NEWS

To investigate, you have several possibilities, among them, the database of the Fernando Buesa Foundation, which collects information from press reports of terrorist attacks in Spain: <http://extranet.fundacionfernandobuesa.com>

Select a news item and summarize it in a paragraph answering the following questions: what, who, when, where, how and, above all why?

SESSION

02





*Quedarán en la memoria (They will remain in the memory) (2012).
Painting from José Ibarrola.*

THE VICTIMS

Terrorism threatens the integrity or freedom of individuals, the security of citizens, and the political stability of democratically elected governments. For all these reasons, institutions must act against terrorism. But are there any limits to doing so?

CAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS BE RESTRICTED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM?

To prevent or deal with terrorist acts and protect citizens, institutions always have to establish clear boundaries: "in addition to respecting the principles of equality and non-discrimination, the limitations must be prescribed by law, in pursuance of one or more specific legitimate purposes and be deemed 'necessary in a democratic society'".

These limits mean that arbitrary and indefinite detention of a person is not possible, even if your objective is to stop or investigate a terrorist attack from the extreme right, extreme left, radical nationalist, jihadist, or any other.



THE DEMOCRATIC ANSWER

Institutions must act to respect and protect people, but preventing and responding to terrorism must always occur in the scope of what is legitimate and democratic. Therefore, governments cannot promote or support norms that lead to the violation of human rights, such as inhuman or degrading treatment or practices known as “dirty war” (use of terrorist practices to attack terrorists).

Spain has the cruel memory of the attacks committed by the so-called Anti-Terrorist Liberation Groups (GAL) between 1983 and 1987. The Rule of Law established in Spain re-

jects such unfair practices and responds to legal entities in multiple areas.

Despite the violence suffered in a terrorist attack, on many occasions victims of terrorism have not called for illegitimate and illegal responses to the violence suffered and have shown a high degree of civic and democratic engagement.

THE IMAGE

Resilience is the ability of people to rebuild their lives after a tragedy.

Alex Moreno, Fabio’s twin brother, thinks that violence “leads nowhere”. Many victims of terrorism express similar reflections.

“I harbor more feelings of justice than hate. Hatred doesn’t make you grow as a person. Justice, on the other hand, does”. These are the words of Iñigo Pascual. He was 17 when he saw his father, an engineer called Ángel Pascual, dying after being machine-gunned by two terrorists.

It is also possible to find terrorist attacks in which the victim belongs to a terrorist group and has been murdered either by an opposing group, or by former colleagues after leaving the organization. Can we consider someone who has committed terrorist violence on others and later been killed at the hand of terrorism a victim of terrorism?

The previous status of terrorist aggressor that a person had doesn’t invalidate the current status of being a victim of unjust violence if it happens. The same degree of respect, solidarity and justice is required to be demonstrated towards that person for the victimization that he or she has suffered.



*Interview in Spanish by ETB (Basque Television) with Alex Moreno:
My parents have raised me without hatred: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoBebocEuqU>*

REFLECTION ACTIVITY

Summarize in a single sentence what the interview with Alex Moreno suggests.

An injustice places the victim in a great personal dilemma. The Spanish Victims of Terrorism Foundation has shared a video that features part of a conversation that Pedro Mari Baglietto (whose brother, Ramón, was murdered by ETA) has with a group of students in which emotions overwhelm the victim. How do you react to the victim's response?
<https://fundacionvt.org/pedro-mari-baglietto-en-el-colegio-calasancio>.

To continue with your investigation, you can access more testimonies provided by the Spanish Association of Victims of Terrorism here: <https://avt.org/es/testimonios>

In addition, you have access to similar interviews on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/avt/videos>

ACTIVITIES WITH INTERVIEWS

Collect information provided by the people interviewed and give each interview a title. Look at their gestures. What draws your attention?

los
e a
ser
ancos

16

Habida cuenta de los datos que Ud. dispone, la E.T.A. le informa de que Ud. dispone, en su defecto, en millones de pesetas, o en su defecto, en pesetas, o en su defecto, en billetes usados.

La Organización Socialista Revolucionaria Vasca de Liberación Nacional, Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, se dirige a Ud. para notificarle la obligación que dados sus recursos financieros, tiene contraída para con el desarrollo del proceso de liberación nacional y social de Euskal Herria. A tal efecto, ponemos en su conocimiento nuestra decisión de exigirle una contribución económica obligatoria e inapelable en concepto de apoyo a nuestro movimiento de liberación. Nuestro poder sobre los recursos económicos de Euskadi Ta Askatasuna, esta cantidad deberá ser en billetes usados.

habra de ponerse en contacto con la policía española en el plazo de 15 días a partir de la notificación. Sobra decirle que el conocimiento de la policía española de la contribución, de lo contrario, traerá consigo consecuencias dolorosas que su actuación

SESSION

03

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exigencia que le formulamos, lejos de ser un perjuicio personal o colectivo, no tiene otro valor que el de garantizar el desarrollo de una sociedad vasca libre, justa y solidaria, inequívocamente corroborado por la experiencia de cada uno de los militantes de nuestra Organización, quienes como bien sabe Ud., pagan con sus propios años de lucha y cárcel y aún con su propia vida su

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Euskadi Ta Askatasuna
E.T.A.



Euskadin Abuztuak 17, 1991

espera de su contacto, le saludamos atentamente.

Euskadi Ta Askatasuna
E.T.A.



Euskadin, 1.991-ko Abuztuak 17

represente oportunas contra el que cualquier intento por parte de la Policía le acarrearía consecuencias



Euskadin, 1990eko Urriak 28

Cartas de extorsión remitidas por ETA a varios empresarios (03/02/1992).
Fotografía: EFE

Confinados

JESÚS PRIETO MENDEZA

Antropólogo y colaborador del Centro de Ética Aplicada de la Universidad de Deusto

Quizá recordar lo que debieron padecer los hombres y mujeres secuestrados por ETA pueda ayudarnos a llevar mejor nuestra confortable reclusión

Desde el día 15 de marzo estamos confinados en nuestro domicilio. Ya más de cinco semanas encerrados, con televisión, ordenador, el frigorífico lleno, libros, servicios sanitarios, ducha, bicicleta estática, terraza o balcón y, lo más importante, cerca de nuestros seres queridos, lo que hace que nuestros afectos también se vean correspondidos. Bien, pues a pesar de ello numerosas personas manifiestan estar ya agotadas, cansadas, hastiadas del confinamiento y muchas de ellas aseguran que sueñan con el día en que puedan por fin salir a la calle, que esto es una tortura.

Ciertamente, nadie puede negarlo, una medida tan drástica como es la reclusión obligada no es agradable para ningún ciudadano. El ser humano necesita sentirse libre y si bien una reclusión voluntaria durante unos días puede ser positiva, incluso resultar sanadora para el espíritu o creadora para el artista, si es forzada se percibe con sufrimiento y dolor. Casi inconscientemente he pensado en lo que debieron padecer todos aquellos hombres y mujeres (sólo se conoce el caso de una mujer, Mirentxu Elosegui, hija del conocido propietario de Boinas Elosegui de Tolosa) que fueron secuestrados por ETA.

Desde 1970 (año en el que secuestró a José Ángel Aguirre, director del Banco Guipuzcoano en Elgoibar) hasta 1997 (inolvidable secuestro y posterior asesinato de Miguel Ángel Blanco), la banda terrorista arrebató la libertad a 86 personas. Seres humanos, padres, hermanos, hijos de alguien que los quería; previamente sometidos a un lento proceso público de deshumanización mediante el bombardeo de insultos, pintadas o pasquines: español, colaborador, explotador, usurero, enemigo del pueblo... para luego ser encerrados, torturados, extorsionados, liberados con un tiro (en 14 casos) o, en el peor de los casos, asesinados (diez lo fueron).

Todavía duele escuchar el relato de Jai-



JOSÉ BARROLA

me Caballero, gerente de Papelera del Oría, secuestrado el 10 de diciembre de 1986 y liberado el 7 de febrero de 1987: « (...) estuve 59 días secuestrado. Han pasado doce años desde aquello (...) la única escuela es la falta de sueño, me lo trastocaron. Los médicos me dijeron que tomara pastillas y de vez en cuando les hago caso. El secuestro me alteró el sistema nervioso. Ahora ha sido el aniversario de mi secuestro. Le pregunté a mi hija si se acordaba y me dijo que sí, pero que no había querido decirme nada. Cuando sucedió aquello, ella tenía 13 años. Todos los días paso por delante de mí zulo, lo tengo enfrente de mi empresa, desde mi oficina lo veo (...). De ancho justo pegaba con los codos en los laterales, de largo entraba un colchón de unos dos metros y de altura unos dos metros, un cajón. Yo no caminaba nada (...) con lo que me gusta andar e ir al monte, pero allí dentro no. Tenía la luz encendida todo el día y música las veinticuatro horas del día. No la quitaban para que no oyera los ruidos de la fábrica. Me pasaban periódicos

recortados, crucigramas y alguna lectura. Al principio pasé mucho miedo, me intranquilizaba pensar qué iba a ser de mí. Luego tuve mucho tiempo para pensar, las veinticuatro horas del día (...). Me cuidaban tres personas. Había de todo, como en la vida. Uno de mis secuestradores se portó bien, uno regular y el otro muy mal, me contestaba muy despectivo (...). Perdí la noción del tiempo. Un día me anunciaron que las cosas iban bien y que en cualquier momento (...). Me dejaron atado a un árbol». (Cristina Cuesta, 'Contra el olvido', 2000).

La palabra vasca 'zulo' fue incorporada al diccionario de la RAE como lugar de secuestro, habitáculo pequeño dispuesto para encerramientos ilegales. ¡Qué triste aportación al acervo lingüístico español! Lugar oscuro, subterráneo, cerrado, húmedo, insalubre... un lugar para la tortura, sí, para la tortura. Además de las denunciables prácticas utilizadas por determinados servidores del Estado en su lucha espuria contra el terrorismo, hemos olvidado que ETA también torturó en sus tenebrosas 'cheecas' 'Secuestrados, enterrados en vida, en gran parté pertenecientes al empresariado, que como refleja Izaskun Sáez de la Fuente ('Místicas del terror', 2017) sufrieron «una forma particular de violencia, la extorsión económica, con el fin de convertirlos en financiadores forzosos de la actividad mortífera de quien los extorsionaba». Cosme Delclaux pasó encerrado 232 días, 342 José María Aldaya y el cautiverio de Ortega Lara, el más largo de ETA, se prolongó durante 532 días. Días de rapto, chantaje, humillación, lágrimas, temor, soledad impuesta, entre olor a orines y heces, a golpe de pistola y ración de anestésico. Muchos de ellos se recuperaron de sus heridas, físicas y psicológicas, pero otros muchos arrastran duras secuelas desde entonces, así como sus familiares.

Quizás recordarlos, y con ello su sufrimiento, pueda hacernos llevar mejor nuestro actual y confortable confinamiento.

THE OTHERS

You have been able to see that victims of terrorism haven't exacted revenge outside the rule of law. You also know that institutions must always act while respecting human rights. But what about society as a whole?

HOW DO WE REACT TO TERRORISM AND ITS VICTIMS?

More than 2000 years ago, Greek philosophers such as Aristotle or Plato considered it necessary for people to be educated on the need to suffer "with due things". Are we happy to do this with terrorist attacks? Do we grieve and empathize with their victims? Or do we remain indifferent?

CITIZEN'S REPLY

This press clipping offers an opinion article by the anthropologist Jesús Prieto, who recalls the kidnappings committed by ETA.

Until the dissolution of the group in 2018, ETA kidnapped 86 people. Ten of those abducted were killed and fourteen were shot in the legs. Although most of the victims were extorted to finance the organization and its attacks, others were also kidnapped to pressure companies or institutions to make certain decisions. One individual from the list of victims is José María Ryan Estrada, kidnapped in 1981 as part of the demand for the closure of a nuclear power plant under construction. Another individual was the pharmacy owner Alberto Martín Barrios, who was kidnapped in 1983 as part of the demand for the suspension of a trial. A final example is that of the Ermua local counsellor, Miguel Ángel Blanco Garrido, who was kidnapped in 1997 as part of the demand for the rapproche-

Source: *El Correo* newspaper, 21/04/2020.

ment of the gang's prisoners to the Basque Country. All of them were killed.

Ryan Estrada's kidnapping and murder sparked the first general strike in the Basque Country against an attack of terrorism. The killing of Miguel Ángel Blanco led to a milestone in citizen mobilization with hundreds of demonstrations throughout Spain in which millions of people participated. However, for a long time the typical reaction has been fear or indifference and public outcry has been limited only to those close to the victims.

In the 1980s, this began to change with the appearance of civic counter-terrorism organizations that called for public protests of rejection of terrorism. Almost all of these demonstrations were silent and always peaceful.

In 1993, thousands of people wore a blue ribbon pinned to their lapel as condemnation of the kidnapping of the industrialist Julio Iglesias Zamora. The initiative was organized by four pacifist organizations alongside the company workers of the victim. They continued this protest for the entire 116 days of his captivity. This ribbon, shaped like an A (from Askatu, meaning free in Basque, and libertAd meaning freedom), was used again during the kidnappings of José María Aldaia, José Antonio Ortega Lara, Cosme Delclaux and Miguel Ángel Blanco.



Hideout where ETA kept prison official José Antonio Ortega Lara locked up for 532 days. Source: *Diario de Burgos* newspaper.

▶ **LISTENING** José María Aldaya's statement during his captors' trial: https://cadenaser.com/ser/2006/11/24/espana/1164329416_850215.html

Some data on the length of time the kidnappings lasted and details of the places where the victims were held.

KIDNAPPED PERSON	LENGTH OF KIDNAPPING	DIMENSIONS OF THE PLACE WHERE THE PERSON REMAINED KIDNAPPED		
		MEASURED IN METERS (M)		
NAME	DAYS	LENGTH	WIDTH	HEIGHT
Julio Iglesias Zamora	116	1,8 M	1,6 M	1,8 M
José María Aldaya Etxebarua	341	3,0 M	0,9 M	1,8 M
José Antonio Ortega Lara	532	3,0 M	2,5 M	1,8 M
Cosme Delclaux Zubiria	232	3,0 M	1,5 M	1,8 M

Table 1. Own design



Image of the news report "El secuestro que desató el lazo azul" (the kidnapping that spark the blue ribbon). Source: El Diario Vasco newspaper.

PROTAGONISTS

Empathy and solidarity towards victims is sometimes risky. People who wore the blue ribbon in rejection of the kidnappings carried out by terrorists became, on many occasions, targets of harassment. These people had to endure insults, threats, and even physical attacks

"Gesto por la Paz" (gesture for peace) Report:
<https://youtu.be/usSC7y92Mgo>

"The blue ribbon meant a step up for everyone's personal commitment. It was no longer a question of diluting our presence in a great demonstration, not even in any "Gesto por la paz" (Gesture for Peace) demonstration, but to carry, in a permanent and visible way, the banner of freedom on our own body".

Ana Rosa Gómez, volunteer



Despite the fact that terrorism seeks maximum publicity of its actions to achieve its objectives, it takes special care to forget that its victims are human beings. It needs to exclude, "delete" from the collective memory the fact that the victims are people who have suffered unjustly by the decisions of others. Terrorism does not hesitate to kidnap victims and accuse them of being "infidels".

Cristina Cuesta was 20 years old when a cell close to ETA murdered her father, Enrique Cuesta, a manager of a telephone company, and his driver, Antonio Gómez, in San Sebastián in 1982. Years later she recounts the isolation she felt:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QhrfEBVWAI>
(from 4'52" to 5'36").

THE IMAGE

The series of images of the Atocha station taken by photographer Pablo Torres Guerrero after the jihadist attack on 11th March 2004 make up a puzzle of many small scenes that bring together trauma and companionship, the most atrocious and the most generous sides of the attack.

A nurse from a nearby medical center, who traveled to assist victims of these terrorist attacks, described those moments as follows: "They went like zombies, between the smoke and the smell of burning, bleeding, with clothes torn, the look of life gone, crying. Some tried to dial numbers on their mobile, I imagine to notify their families, but they didn't know how. Others, many of them immigrants, asked for a phone number, they asked for their family."

Source: *El País* newspaper, 11th March 2004.

Victims of the 11-M terrorist attack in 2004 receiving assistance. Source: Pablo Torres Guerrero, Reuters.



The song "Otro muerto" (another dead person) by the Spanish band Mecano, has been precisely interpreted as a complaint against the lack of sensitivity to victims of unfair violence, including terrorist violence.

Another dead person (x2)

Who cares?

If he is dead, bury him and that's it Another dead, but it's not without rhyme or reason

For the moment, the discussion is over. I don't know,

neither I want to know the reasons That entitle to kill But they are there

Because the dead one Doesn't live any longer Another dead, how nice

They are quiet, not trying to be right

Another dead, but there's a reason why

He must have done something, ask him

I don't know, neither I want to know

The reasons They give...



The Association of 11-M Victims emerged after the attacks committed by jihadist terrorists in Madrid in 2004. The bombs located on four trains caused the death of 193 people and injured 1,856. The Association maintains a black ribbon (as a sign of mourning) for the victims as a distinctive symbol. A significant part of their activity is oriented towards not only preserving the memory of the victims, but also towards promoting the collaboration of volunteers for various tasks.

<https://ayuda11m.org/en/>

During the last two decades, the presence of terrorist groups with jihadist ideology has increased all over the world, but especially in Asia and Africa. This has led to the killing and injuring of thousands of people. Today, such terrorism remains a threat to world peace. For this reason, the United Nations General Assembly decided in 2017 to proclaim the 21st August as the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, in order to honor and support them. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/terrorism-victims-day>

The "Ley de Reconocimiento y Protección Integral de las Víctimas del Terrorismo" (Law of Recognition and Comprehensive Protection of Victims of Terrorism), approved in Spain in 2011, obtained a parliamentary consensus. It pursues recognition, respect and solidarity for the victims. As a consequence of this law, the Spanish National Victims of Terrorism Memorial Centre was created: <http://www.memorialvt.com/en/>, in order to preserve and spread the democratic and ethical values that embody the victims, build collective memory, and make society aware of the need to defend their human rights.



REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, asks in the presentation of the International Day of Victims of Terrorism that we show victims "that they are not alone." Pay attention to the image of the Madrid terrorist attacks in 2004. How does it relate to the words of the UN Secretary-General?

Have you ever seen a denigrating or offensive message against a victim of terrorism on social media? How did you react?

ACTIVITY: MY OWN REPORT

You must now prepare your own report. It should be short and direct. It could be a graphic, audiovisual, oral or written story in which the protagonists are victims of terrorism. You can use various sources of documentation, including those that have appeared throughout these pages.

SESSION

04

FINAL

TASK



AND ME?

Throughout these sessions you have learned the rights that all human beings have and those cases in which such rights have been violated, such as when someone is the victim of a terrorist attack.

Now you must assess the final reports, namely their content, their visual quality, and their ability to reach their audience. Indicate whether these reports have taken into account the most important issues addressed in the previous sessions:

- Are the victims of terrorism the protagonists of the report?
- Does the report denounce the violence suffered and does it relate it to the UDHR?
- Does it give any justification to the violence suffered?
- Does it show solidarity with the victims?
- Does it suggest something positive about the victims to people who read, listen or watch this report?

BRIEF BUT NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS ABOUT THIS SUGGESTED WORK

This Unit of Work on human rights, terrorism and its victims can be developed in three to five working sessions with 14–15-year-old secondary school students working within the subject of Citizenship. This work has taken into account current curricular guidelines. With this Unit of Work we have tried to:

Present the importance of the UDHR and its rights contained within.

Underline the relevance of human rights through close testimonies which detail how these rights have been violated.

Explain terrorism without giving prominence to terrorists.

Promote the delegitimization of any unjust violence.

Promote empathy and solidarity towards victims.

Encourage knowledge of human rights in a move towards solidarity.

Combine cognitive with procedural and attitudinal knowledge.

Seek a reflective, participatory and dialogic dynamic.

Promote active learning through the use of digital technologies.

Use simple and inclusive language.

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