

**DATA UNTIL 1PM**

## **#SomDefensores registers more than 60 injured people in Barcelona during voting day**

**The impact from a rubber bullet from Policia Nacional on a demonstrator's eye is one of the severe injuries. Rubber bullets from police forces are banned in Catalonia since 2013**

The #SomDefensores campaign has activated the legal advice mechanism in the event of detention or aggression by police forces, and the network of observers to monitor the violation of rights and the psychological assistance for victims. This morning, on 12:30, on Novact, Andrés García and Anaïs Franquesa, lawyers from Irídia and #SomDefensores presented the first scope of recorded data.

From 5:00 AM until 12:30, **#SomDefensores registered more than 60 injured people, from different ranges of age and severity** in the Ramon Llull, Mediterrània Barcelona, Centre d'Adults Freire and IES Jaume Fuster schools, among several others. All of them were caused by charges from Policia Nacional. "This morning we have witnessed extremely outrageous situations. Silent people have been hit, elder people as well", explains Andrés García. Anaïs Franquesa added: **"It has been done with the intent to create panic and to frighten people so they do not go to vote. There was a clear intention to get that exact picture"**.

The campaign denounces that many limits have been transgressed, such as the usage of rubber bullets by Policia Nacional. **These bullets are banned in Catalonia since 2013 through a political agreement.** The events today are an example of the danger of these weapons: An injured man in Ramon Llull school is undergoing surgery in the eye from an impact, as well as in other parts of the body. Garcia remarks: "we fought very hard to eradicate their use, but are still being used. The established protocol has been violated. Once again, we have people injured in their eyes because of these weapons". **In addition to this example, there have been as well recorded cases of expandable batons on sensitive areas, such as the head of people.** This practice is also banned in Catalonia. A woman in Centre d'Adults Freire school has been a victim of such attack.

For these reasons, the campaign sends a message to the Spanish Government Delegate in Catalonia, and their Interior Affairs Minister: "We have more than 70 people monitoring what is happening in order to further investigate what is going on, and we make a calling to the Duty Court and Public Prosecution to initiate proceedings in order to investigate today's events", says Andrés García. On the other hand, we ask Spanish political groups to pressure de Government to stop this intervention and to return to the Rule of Law.

The monitoring will proceed until the closure of polling stations, and new data will be made public at 19:00. The register of rights vulneration will be stated to the **corresponding Ombudsman**, who is aware of a first [study](#) from #SomDefensores, presented last Friday. It has also been sent to United Nations and other international instances.

#### **#SomDefensores network.**

The observer network is composed by more than 70 people that move in small groups in polling stations in Barcelona. These groups monitor and register violation of fundamental rights, mainly by police forces. A psychosocial assistance team has also been formed, to grant psychological support to victims, their families and other citizens. Our support centre is in Lafede.cat - Organitzacions per la Justícia Global (Tàpies street, 1-3, Barcelona). From #SomDefensores, we ask the citizens to keep calm and take care of themselves and other people.

The assistance team has three phone numbers to be reaches:

For police agressions: 693 287 323

For detentions: 645 715 070 - 679 223 432

Per més informació: [lafede.cat/som-defensores](http://lafede.cat/som-defensores)

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**#SomDefensores**  
*Davant la repressió, defensem els drets humans*