

# SPAIN

## SOCIAL PROTEST

STARTING DATE: 14 OCTOBER 2019

- TRIGGER**
- Decision by the Spanish court to sentence to jail nine Catalan separatist who organised the 2017 independence referendum over sedition and misappropriation of public funds charges.

- GOALS**
- Release of the separatists sentenced in October.
  - Organisation of a referendum on Catalonia's independence.

### STATE OF PLAY

- Regular demonstrations by both pro-independence and anti-independence supporters.
- Increasing influence of the movement "Tsunami democratico", which operates mainly through social networks, claims to be non-violent and organizes many operations that bring together thousands of independence supporters.
- Weak political response by the Spanish government to the crisis so far, government attitude criticised by opponents to independence.
- Acts of vandalism regularly occurring during demonstrations, numerous clashes between protesters and police forces.

### IMPACTS: LIMITED



- 600 demonstrators injured.



- Numerous material damages, particularly in Barcelona, mainly due to acts of vandalism. Cost of damages estimated at several million euros.
- Strong slowdown in the trade, tourism, food service and hotel sectors.
- Repeated strikes weaken the region's economy.
- Transport sector particularly affected due to many roadblocks.



- Numerous roadblocks in the Catalan region.
- Operations to prevent the crossing of the Franco-Spanish border on the highway at La Jonquera.
- Airport blockade operations, organised in particular by the political movement Tsunami democratico on October 14.



### POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR ESCALATION

- Refusal by the central government to discuss Catalonia's independence.
- Increased polarization between pro and anti-independence activists.
- Further damage to the Catalan economy and more broadly to the Spanish economy.



### POTENTIAL TRIGGERS FOR DE-ESCALATION

- Organisation of a referendum on independence.
- Decrease in sentencing terms for the convicted Catalan leaders.