

# The data on religious persecution expose the United Left offensive

IU has launched an offensive against the beatification of martyrs. The more than 10,000 murdered and more than 1,500 blessed leave him in evidence.

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Beatification ceremony in Tarragona | EFE

This Sunday the [beatification of 522 martyrs](#) of religious persecution during the Second Republic and the Civil War took place in Tarragona . The act, of the first magnitude for the Church, was attended by 104 bishops, including several cardinals, including one sent by Pope Francis to preside over the celebration. The importance of this event, as has been explained since the Episcopal Conference, is the number of martyrs

With this last ceremony there are already **1,523 beatified** in Spain **during this period** . Of them, 11 have already been canonized, they are saints. There are them of all conditions: bishops, priests, religious, nuns, seminarians and numerous committed laity. Of these new blessed, the youngest was 18 years old, the oldest 86 and of them 515 are Spanish and the other seven foreigners (three French, one Cuban, one Colombian, one Filipino and one Portuguese).

The blessed are so for having been murdered for their faith, for being Catholics. They died forgiving their murderers. Many lost their earthly life after refusing to blaspheme, as their murderers demanded. However, this Monday the United Left has insisted on politicizing an act that never was.



Thus, **Cayo Lara has harshly criticized the act. Gaspar Llamazares** has gone further , who described the ceremony as a "[monument to hypocrisy](#) . " Above all, a statement by the IU deputy called attention: "There was never a program of extermination of religious".

But this very risky assertion by Llamazares **is fully evidenced by figures** . The data of the religious persecution during those years are determined to contradict him. Also the own declarations of the republican leaders who supported or did not prevent authentic massacres.

## The data that disproves Llamazares

Historians have collected data for years on this persecution and the conclusions are precisely the opposite statement to that of the communist leader. **Yes there was an attempt to end everything related to the Church** . In some places they almost succeeded.

Thus, in Spain, which in this case focuses on the rear of the Republican side, 4,184 priests, 2,365 friars and religious, 283 nuns and more than 3,000 lay people were murdered. In total, **about 10,000 dead for the crime of being Catholic and not denying it.**

Of them, **some 3,000 were killed between July and August 1936** . A furious persecution that did not find any kind of restraint on the part of the leaders on the Republican side.

beginning of the war. Only the one from Teruel died near the end of the war.

Especially cruel was the death of the Bishop of Barbastro. **This diocese was literally wiped out** of priests. Starting with the bishop and ending with the seminarians. The entire seminary was assassinated as well as 88 percent of the clergy of the diocese. Those who did not die was because they managed to flee.

Monsignor **Florentino Asensio**, bishop of Barbastro in 1936, was arrested by the militiamen on August 8, 1936. In a City Hall cell he suffered all kinds of humiliations **to the point of cutting off his genitals** amid the laughter of those present. As they pushed him they said: "Don't be afraid. If what you preach is true, you will soon go to heaven. His answer could not be more conclusive: "yes, and there I will pray for you." Once he was killed, his teeth were pulled out and his clothes stolen.

**Catalonia was an example of this very serious** religious **persecution** of the Church. Four bishops were assassinated there, one of them beatified this Sunday. Priests were also systematically massacred and there were no more deaths because they were able to hide or flee.

Historian Vicente Cárcel Ortí reveals only the number of murdered priests per diocese:

- Lleida: 270 clerics killed, 65% of the total.
- Tortosa: 316 murdered, 62% of the clergy.
- Vic: 177 murdered, 27% of the clergy.
- Barcelona: 279 murdered, 22% of the total.
- Gerona: 194 priests died, 20% of which were there.
- Urgel: 109 killed, 20% of his priests
- Solsona: 60 dead, 13% of the clergy of the diocese.

Other dioceses also suffered the loss of a very high percentage of their priests. In Malaga they practically **killed half of their clergy**, as in Toledo and Menorca. Above half was the diocese of Segorbe.

Although with lower percentages, there were other dioceses with staggering sheer numbers. **In Madrid they shot 334 priests**, 30% of their clergy, while in Valencia they lost 27%, with 327 fatalities. All of them, in the republican rear.

## Destruction of religious heritage

But the religious persecution that makes the claims of Llamazares evident is not only demonstrated by the slaughter of clergymen. The obsession to end the Church is demonstrated by the **destruction of religious heritage** on the Republican side.

**Up to 20,000 churches were destroyed** . Many of them were before the war. There are numerous photos of militiamen desecrating churches, burning them and posing with liturgical ornaments or directly with the bodies of priests and nuns whose bodies had been exhumed. A very characteristic image is that of the image of the Sacred Heart of Getafe, being shot by the militiamen before it was blown up.

The figures speak and are just some examples of the barbarism against the Church. Then there are the concrete stories and among the 522 beatified this Sunday there are many of them. Of love and forgiveness to those who wanted to kill them out of hatred for the faith.

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