Spain passes "Law of Historical Memory"

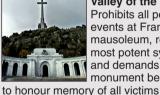
After months of negotiations, the Spanish parliament has approved a controversial bill which for the first time officially recognizes the victims of the 1936-39 civil war - in which at least 500,000 people died - and the ensuing 40-year right-wing dictatorship of General Francisco Franco



and widens rights of those who suffered persecution or violence for political, ideological or religious reasons during Civil War and Franco dictatorship

Goal: Recognizes

Valley of the Fallen: Prohibits all political



events at Franco's mausoleum, regime's most potent symbol, and demands monument be used







Burial of victims: Obliges town halls to facilitate exhumation of victims executed by Franco's forces

and supporters and

who were buried in

Symbols: Bans

Franco-era statues.

symbols from streets and public buildings.

plagues and other

Church and other

unmarked mass graves loyal to Republican

government overthrown by Franco

Reparation: Seeks symbolic amends to all victims of war, including Catholic clergy and others executed by militia

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