



ETA's four decades of violence

The Basque separatist group ETA has announced a definitive end to violence that has claimed the lives of more than 800 people over the last 43 years



■ **2006, Mar:** ETA declares ceasefire, paving way for talks with new Socialist government of **Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero**

■ **Dec:** Car bomb at Madrid airport kills two. Zapatero breaks off peace process

■ **2009:** ETA severely weakened by arrest of fourth military leader in 12 months after successful co-operation between France and Spain

■ **2010:** ETA declares new ceasefire – Spanish government is sceptical

■ **2011, Jan:** ETA says ceasefire is permanent

■ **Feb: Sortu** – new party committed to fight for Basque independence through political means – launched

■ **Sep:** ETA prisoners call on militants to end violence

■ **Oct 20:** ETA says it will lay down arms following call by former UN chief **Kofi Annan** and mediators with experience of ending N. Ireland conflict, to end campaign of violence



■ **1939:** Spanish Civil War ends – Basque identity suppressed under **General Franco's** fascist dictatorship

■ **1959:** **Euskadi Ta Askatasuna**

– Basque Homeland and Freedom – founded

■ **1968:** First ETA killing – San Sebastian police chief

■ **1973:** Prime Minister **Luis Carrero Blanco**, Franco's heir presumptive, assassinated

■ **1975:** Franco dies. Spain begins transition to democracy. Basque autonomy granted

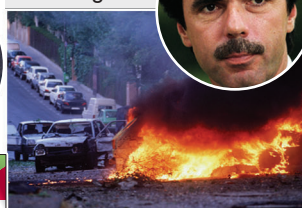


■ **1980:** 118 people killed in bloodiest year to date

■ **1982:** "Dirty war" begins, with state-sponsored paramilitaries hunting down ETA members

■ **1987:** Deadliest single attack kills 21 at Barcelona supermarket. ETA apologises for "mistake"

■ **1995, Apr:** Opposition **Popular Party** leader **Jose Maria Aznar** – later Prime Minister – survives car bombing



■ **Aug:** Police foil plot to kill **King Juan Carlos**

Pictures: Getty Images

■ **1997:** Kidnap and murder of Basque PP councillor **Miguel Angel Blanco** triggers huge anti-ETA marches across Spain

■ **1999:** ETA ends 14-month ceasefire, blaming lack of progress in talks with government

■ **2000:** Violence resumes – 46 killed over next three years, including former Socialist health minister **Ernest Lluch**



■ **2003:** **Herri Batasuna**, ETA's political wing, banned

■ **2004:** ETA initially blamed for Madrid train bombings which kill 191 – later attributed to radical Islamists

