

Spanish judge Baltasar Garzon on trial

■ **1955:** Garzon born in Villa de Torres, southern Spain. Becomes provincial judge aged 23, appointed to National Court at 32

■ **1987:** Begins investigation into death squads organised by Socialist government in 1980s to fight Basque separatists

*Probe leads to conviction of former Interior Minister **Jose Barrionuevo**, who is jailed for 10 years, and is credited with helping bring centre-right to power in 1996*

■ **1996:** Investigates crimes carried out by Argentine ex-naval officer **Adolfo Scilingo**, accused of killing political prisoners in 1970s and 80s

Scilingo convicted by Spanish court of crimes against humanity and sentenced to 640 years in jail in 2005

■ **1998:** Orders arrest of Chile's former military ruler, **Augusto Pinochet**, in London

Pinochet detained for 18 months before being released by UK Interior Minister, citing Pinochet's poor health

■ **2002:** Suspends Basque separatist party **Batasuna** for three years to investigate its links to ETA

Party leaders, accused of holding illegal public meeting, arrested in 2007



■ **2003:** Issues international arrest warrant for suspected terrorists, including **Osama Bin Laden**

Eighteen tried, convicted and jailed

■ **2008:** Launches inquiry into mass killing of civilians during Franco dictatorship – falling foul of 1977 amnesty law brought in as compromise on path to democracy

■ **2010:** Garzon is suspended by Supreme Court, pending trial

■ **Jan 2012:** Trial over violation of amnesty law begins. Garzon is being tried separately on charges of illegally authorising police to record conversations between lawyers and clients. He also faces third trial over dropping of investigation into head of Spain's biggest bank, **Santander**

If convicted at any trial, he could be disbarred for up to 20 years