

# Madrid set to override Catalonia's autonomy

Spain is moving to impose direct rule over Catalonia to thwart its push for independence, in a confrontation viewed with mounting alarm in European capitals and financial markets



► **Mariano Rajoy:** Spain's prime minister threatening to trigger **Article 155** of constitution to suspend autonomy, impose direct rule and call new regional elections

► **Carles Puigdemont:** Catalan president signed declaration of independence on Oct 10, but halted implementation to allow negotiations to take place



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**Madrid has taken control of Catalan public finances and deployed thousands of extra security forces.**

Hundreds of companies – including region's two largest banks, **Sabadell** and **CaixaBank** – have moved headquarters out of Catalonia.

**Spain passed decree on Oct 6 to make moving official base easier**

## DETENTIONS

Spain's High Court has ordered leaders of two Catalan separatist organisations to be detained without bail on suspicion of sedition

**Jordi Sànchez (1)**, head of Catalan National Assembly (ANC), and **Jordi Cuixart (2)**, head of Omnium Cultural, played leading role in disputed independence referendum of Oct 1



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High Court has also banned Catalan police chief, **Josep Lluís Trapero**, from leaving Spain and seized his passport pending investigation for sedition

Trapero is accused of failing to order Catalan police – **Mossos d'Esquadra** – to help Spain's Guardia Civil force tackle thousands of pro-independence protesters in Barcelona