

Plan to transform Franco monument

A plan to convert a monument to Spain's fascist dictator Francisco Franco into a cemetery for the dead on both sides of the Spanish Civil War forms part of a government initiative aimed at confronting the legacy of the Franco era

Franco: Ruled Spain with iron fist after end of 1936-39 civil war until his death in 1975. He was buried inside vast basilica drilled into granite mountain 50km north of Madrid. **Remains exhumed and moved to low-key grave in cemetery near Madrid in 2019**

VALLEY OF THE FALLEN

Built between 1941 and 1959 to commemorate civil war victims, resting place of more than 30,000 soldiers on both sides. **Loathed by many as monument to fascist victory – political prisoners forced to help build it**

Santa Cruz Basilica

Basilica esplanade

SANTA CRUZ BASILICA

Location of burials

Entrance

Atrium

Central nave

Grave of **José Antonio Primo de Rivera**, founder of Spain's fascist Falange party. **Plans for remains to be relocated**

260m

PROVISIONS OF DEMOCRATIC MEMORY BILL (Subject to parliamentary approval)

- Condemn 1936 coup that triggered civil war and declare void all summary trials held in Francoist Spain
- Create national DNA bank to help identify 140,000 people who "disappeared" and excavate around 2,500 mass graves
- Impose fines of up to €150,000 for non-compliance, close foundation set up in Franco's memory, and "update" history curriculums in schools

150m stone cross features symbols of Franco's ideology

Lift to cross

Madrid

BURIALS

21,317 identified

12,530 identity unknown

Total:
33,847

War victims exhumed from mass graves across Spain between 1959 and 1983 and reburied in Valley of the Fallen, many without families' knowledge

Franco's former tomb

Pictures: Google Earth, Pablo Forcán Soler, Newscom, AP

