

Spain ready to begin peace talks with ETA

Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero is soon expected to announce the start of direct talks with the armed Basque group ETA to end almost four decades of violence. ETA, which declared a permanent ceasefire in March, has killed about 850 people in its campaign for an independent state



1939 Spanish Civil War ends – Basque separatism suppressed by **General Franco's** fascist dictatorship

1959 **Euskadi Ta Askatasuna** – Basque Homeland and Freedom – founded

1968 ETA's first killing – a secret police chief

1973 Prime Minister **Carrero Blanco**, Franco's designated successor, killed

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

Basque country
Euskal Herria

Bilbao San Sebastian
Bilbo Donostia

Vitoria Gasteiz Pamplona Irunea

1. Basque autonomous community. Granted 1979

2. Navarra. Granted autonomy 1982

3. Basque provinces in France



1980 118 die in ETA's bloodiest year

1987 Largest single bomb attack kills 21 people at Barcelona supermarket. ETA apologises for "mistake"

1995 Opposition **Popular Party** leader **Jose Maria Aznar** – later Prime Minister – survives car bomb

1997 Campaign directed at local **PP** politicians culminates in murder of Basque councillor **Miguel Angel Blanco**. Six million people protest



1998 Former Interior Minister sentenced for involvement in secret anti-ETA terror-campaign in 1980s



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

2000 Violence resumes – 46 killed over next three years

2003 **Herri Batasuna**, ETA's political wing, banned by Supreme Court

2004 ETA initially accused of Mar 11 train bombings in Madrid which kill 191 – later attributed to Islamic radicals

2006, Mar 22 ETA declares ceasefire



May 17 Spanish Parliament approves Zapatero's proposal to open talks with ETA