

Annual Report Irídia 2025



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Introduction

Irídia - Centre per la Defensa dels Drets Humans / Center for the Defense of Human Rights, is a non-profit association that **investigates and reports human rights violations** in contexts like institutional violence, migration and border policies, historical memory, carceral spaces, and across civil society. To this end, Irídia applies a methodology that combines **strategic litigation, psychosocial perspectives, political influence, and cultural communication**, from an intersectional feminist focus.

2025 marked Irídia's tenth anniversary, a landmark that invites us to take stock of a project that, from its launch, has worked to **guarantee access to justice and contribute to the eradication of torture and of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatments**.

In a context of growing repression and of a rising extreme right, Irídia has consolidated its role as a collective tool to **document violations, generate precedents and foster structural change**.

This trajectory would not have been possible without the confidence of the **persons who have reported violations**, nor without all those who have sustained the project through all these years: **Irídia's team, the group of affected persons, the allied entities, the social movements, and human rights defenders**, as well as the **individual and institutional members** that enable Irídia's continuity

1. Reporting and Response Service

The Reporting and Response Service, oriented at situations of **Institutional violence** is a **free service** that offers **legal and psychosocial assistance** to persons who have suffered **torture or mistreatment**, primarily within the Barcelona Metropolitan Area, at the hands of **officers of security forces and bodies, prison staff, or private security personnel fulfilling public safety functions**.

This service provides case support by building collective scaffolding around each situation and integrating communications and political actions. Additionally, the **support group for affected persons** has grown throughout 2025.

This year, [the 2024 report on institutional violence](#) was also published, focusing on the Spanish judicial system's grave deficiencies when it comes to investigating incidents of institutional violence. On the occasion of the report's presentation, Iridia offered a press conference and a public panel discussion featuring both area professionals and affected persons.



2. Migration and border policies



Throughout 2025, Irídia also consolidated its work to [monitor human rights at state borders](#), extending its work to internal borders directly connected to Catalonia. Concretely, Irídia completed a study of conditions at the Catalan-French border, and on the Balearic Islands, as more persons reached their shores than in prior years. Additionally, the monitoring focused on analyzing the **situation of children and adolescents** arriving on irregular routes across external borders and ending up in Catalonia and Barcelona. The result is a [thematic report](#) specific to this territorial context, which was then presented in a press conference in Barcelona. An important political action was the new [complaint filed](#) before the **Committee against Torture** denouncing the lack of investigations of the use of riot control materials during the February 6, 2014 border control operation on the beach of Tarajal (Ceuta).

3. Armament and use of force

Throughout 2025, Irídia has continued documenting cases of **disproportionality** in the **use of force and lack of identification** among officers of the **Mossos d'Esquadra**—of both the BRIMO and the l'ARRO—in multiple demonstrations, in violation of police regulations.

The most noteworthy incident is the use of d'Oleoresina Capsicum (OC), better known as **pepper spray**, in multiple demonstrations and protests against the genocide perpetrated by the state of Israel against Palestine, including on October 15, 2024, amid a general strike.

In this context, a peaceful sit-in was staged at the Sants Train Station to denounce that, despite an ongoing genocide, Israeli teams continued to participate in sporting events. Though not a single of the seated persons made any violent gesture, nor ever tried to break through the police cordon put in place; several officers of the

Mobile Brigade, without precipitating circumstances and any warning, pepper-sprayed the peaceful demonstrators repeatedly. They did so from less than a meter's distance, spraying directly into people's faces.

Irídia participated in a coalition to launch a [denunciation campaign](#) (“[Stop Gas Pe-bre](#)”) and launched a collective complaint against those officers due to multiple injuries and crimes against individual rights. As a result of the October 2025 police charges, and with the goal of creating legal precedent, Irídia opened a [litigation for the extralegal use of foam projectiles](#) by the Mossos d'Esquadra against a photo-journalist covering a demonstration.



4. Denouncement of political repression



2025 has seen a **resurgence in sustained street-based mobilization**—primarily driven by the movements for **solidarity with Palestine** and for **fair housing**—, closely followed by an **increase** in the **repression** and **criminalization** of the [right to protest](#). This tendency, already signaled in 2024 report of the statewide platform Defender a quien Defiende (DqD), published in february 2025, led to the observation network SomDefensores—coordinated by Irídia and Novact—to conduct eight mobilizations to observe and monitor police violence amid protests. These included the eviction of the Antiga Massana, and the attempted eviction of Casa Orsola in January 2025.

Four of the eight monitoring mobilizations were activated between October 3 and 15, during protests against the genocide against Palestine. This drove Irídia to continue reacting and denouncing **violations of the right to protest**, and the various methods employed to reduce and limit the space available to civil society to exercise its rights and liberties.

Irídia has continued working to influence the legislative framework, in a year marked by the [tenth anniversary](#) of the approval and entry into force of the **muzzle laws**, highlighting their impact through the “[End Muzzles](#)” campaign. Applying a more global vision, Irídia also [denounced similar practices](#) in other contexts, forging bonds and alliances to amplify collective denunciations.

In early 2025, Irídia announced its [appeal to the Constitutional Tribunal](#) in the case of police infiltration, after the ordinary justice system refused to investigate it. Irídia has also promoted and accompanied the creation of the [Investigative Commission on the Infiltration of State Police apparatuses into Social, Political, and Popular movements in the Catalan Countries, and on programmatic espionage by the Kingdom of Spain](#), and made itself present at the [inaugural hearing of the appeal](#).

5. Cyberespionage

Over the course of 2025 important progress has been made in the case against the use of **Pegasus** software. Over a term of four months, Irídia obtained the [indictment of three high executives of the NSO Group](#)—creator of Pegasus—and of the [former director of the National Intelligence Center, Paz Esteban](#), in a lawsuit against her for her using this software to spy on an attorney. As a result of the investigation and sustained network action, Irídia's litigation effort powered the **first case, globally**, to complete the indictment [of accountable individuals within the Israeli corporation](#) for wrongful espionage. This has enabled the diffusion of the case to multiple congresses and international advocacy spaces, to explain the **strategy** and **campaign** underlying the litigation.

Examples include the intervention of Andreu Van Den Eynde at a [hearing of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe](#), or [the presentation delivered by Cèlia Carbonell to the Computer Chaos Club, Europe's largest hacking gathering](#), among others.

Irídia has also promoted and enabled [the public launch of the PEGA Coalition](#), an exchange space focused on strategic litigation material relating to online espionage, in June 2025 in Brussels. The coalition will be formed by seven human rights organizations with territorial presence covering the Spanish state (Irídia), Serbia (Sha-re Foundation), Germany (GFF), Hungary (HCLU), Poland (Panoptykon), Greece (Homo Digitalis), and Data Rights. The event was accompanied by the [launch of a website](#) that features the foundational values of this space, and its short- and long-term roadmap, as well as a repository for actions brought to bear thus far.



6. Prevention and denunciation of torture



Strategic litigation represents one of Iridia's main tools for the prevention and denouncing of torture, aiming to provoke legal, political, and social change. Of Iridia's 53 lawsuits in 2025, 50 are cases of **mistreatment or torture**.

Among other litigation successes in 2025, **two convictions** were obtained. This year, Iridia also compelled the Provincial Court of Barcelona to **revoke amnesty from 10 agents** investigated for mistreatment, and submitted **4 appeals** before the Constitutional Tribunal for fundamental rights violations related to impunity for **mistreatment and torture**. These, and other achievements, alongside with an analysis of ongoing torture and recommendations, has been published [in the 2025 annual report on Institutional Violence](#).

Another key element is **networked efforts** and **international advocacy**. This year, Iridia again coordinated [Index Global](#), the World Organization Against Torture's yearly **evaluation of the risk of suffering tortures** in the State of Spain.

In 2025, Iridia, jointly with Novact, presented «[Independent police control mechanisms](#)», a report featuring comparative analysis and recommendations for its effective implementation across the State of Spain. This work concluded a series of three publications dedicated to transparency and accountability of police forces in the State of Spain, key mechanisms to **prevent torture** and ensure **accountability**.

7. Deprivation of liberty

Iridia, jointly with the entities that comprise the **Rights and Prison Network**, has **denounced** the alarming use of **mechanical restraints** and of **solitary confinement** in Catalan prisons, and **intervened in parliamentary proceedings** to obtain the creation of a **working group** to take on this question and study **alternative models** that are less restrictive of fundamental rights of imprisoned persons.

Iridia also achieved the authorization for **psychological providers to access prisons**, a long-sought demand. As for the **Centre for the Internment of Strangers (CIE)**, this year was marked by the center's **leadership transition** and by a **reduction in the number of calls** received. Iridia is appealing in coordination with other entities to learn about the right's situation of the confined persons.



8. Franco-era justice

In 2025, Irídia continued **accompanying complainants of crimes of the Franco regime**, reaching international forums such as the **European Court of Human Rights**, where it submitted a complaint [against Carles Vallejo](#) jointly with a letter signed by over **115 victims of his repression** who continue demanding justice, even to international tribunals. The complaint frames the «[It's never too late, but it must be now](#)» campaign, which also has the support of personalities such as the **Puig Antich sisters, Isabel Coixet, Reed Brody, Juan Diego Botto, or Marc Giró**. At the state level, Irídia has accompanied **Blanca Serra** to offer testimony at the Barcelona Democratic Memory prosecution, denouncing torture during the franco-era and the transition, **making her the first victim to do so**.

Other relevant advocacy actions conducted by Irídia in the democratic memory space was the submission of amendments to the Law of Democratic Memory of Catalonia, and to the petition to classify the **police station at Via Laietana, 43** as a **Place of Democratic Memory (LMD)**, demanding that the future memorial space be free of police presence and that it be designed jointly with the victims' collectives and historical memory entities



9. Culture and human rights

In February 2025, the third [IrídiaFest](#) was held—a festival of culture and human rights propelled by Irídia. **Two days of events** were held at **Sala Paral·lel 62** in Barcelona. The first day featured a live recording of the Ciberlocutorio podcast, presented by Andrea Gumes and Anna Pacheco, joined by Cheikh Drame, director of SOS Racisme; and Anaïs Franquesa, director of Irídia. The second day was dedicated to music, with performances by Remei de Ca la Fresca, Las Bajas Pasiones, Ortiga, and Branko. The festival wrapped with the participation of nearly **1.700 persons**, strengthening alliances with city-area cultural representatives.

During 2025, Irídia has launched multiple partnerships to enable its members to enjoy discounts to cultural projects and equipment belonging to the city. In December, Irídia celebrated its **10-yr anniversary** at an event at the **Barcelona Contemporary Culture Center**, with the participation of multiple international human rights defense organizations.



10. Sustainability



Irídia is financed by multiple streams. The free reporting and response service it offers, and most of its litigation efforts, are supported by 70% of the membership fees and donations. This year, the total **membership fees and donations** added up to 34% of Irídia's total budget. In 2025, 49% of Irídia's financing were fulfilled by **grants from public institutions** and the remaining 17% came from Catalan and international **non-profit organizations** supporting the project. Financing from public and private institutions is declining, however, which is why Irídia has invested in fundraising through donations and membership fees, crucial to sustain the project. To guarantee the sustainability of Irídia's torture litigation and its reporting and response service, it will need to reach a membership base of at least 5.000 persons. With all their contributions, Irídia will be able to sustain the struggle against impunity. [Become a member or make a contribution.](#)

11. Irídia in data

266 persons directed to the Reporting and Response Service

53 ongoing lawsuits

110 security officers investigated

715 legal actions

355 psychosocial actions

105 intervention meetings

8 demonstration monitoring mobilizations with Som Defensores

10 appearances before Catalan, national, and international public institutions

526 press availabilities

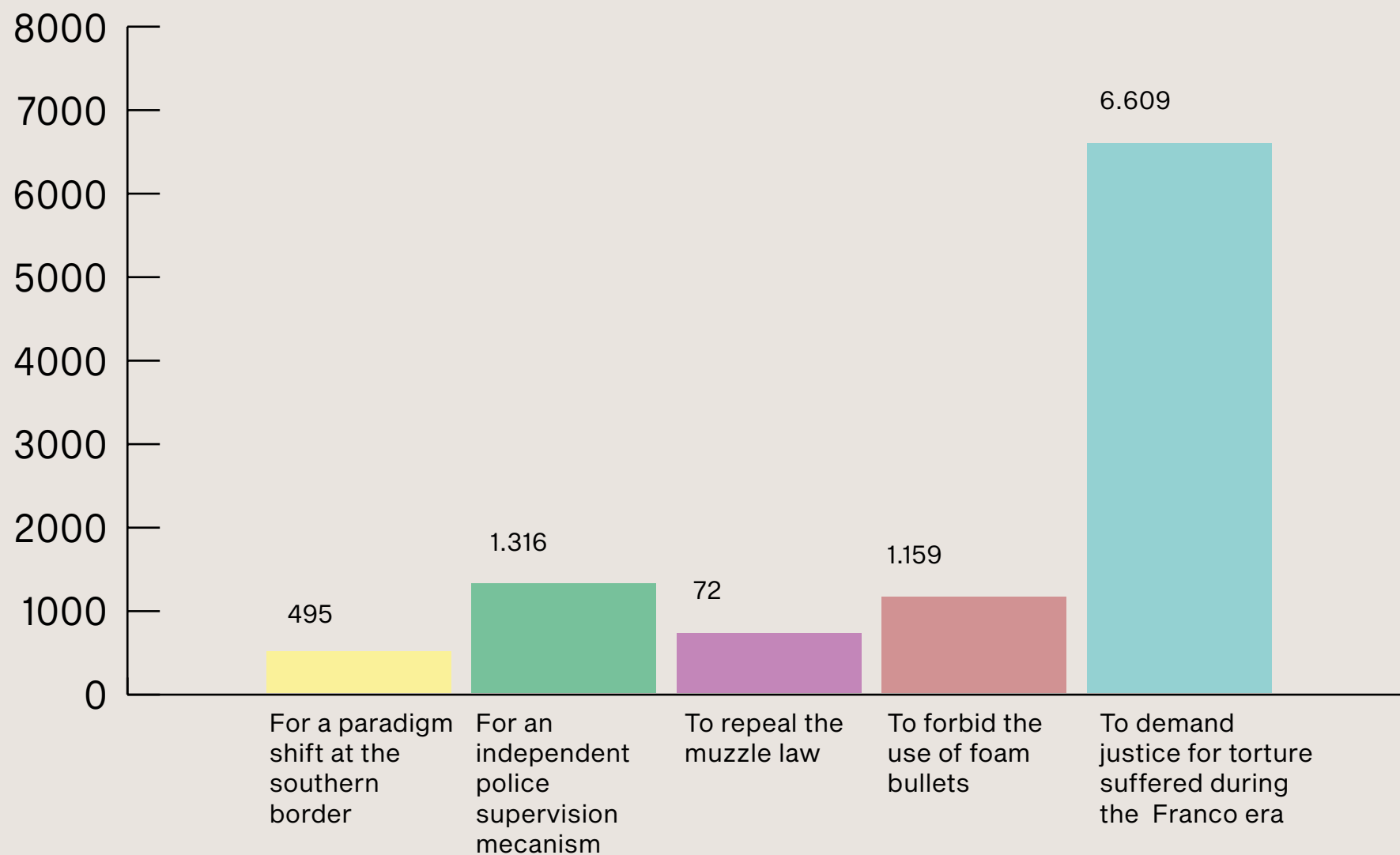
30.731 individual followers on social media

2.567 total individual members of the entity as of the end of the year

868 new individual members within this year

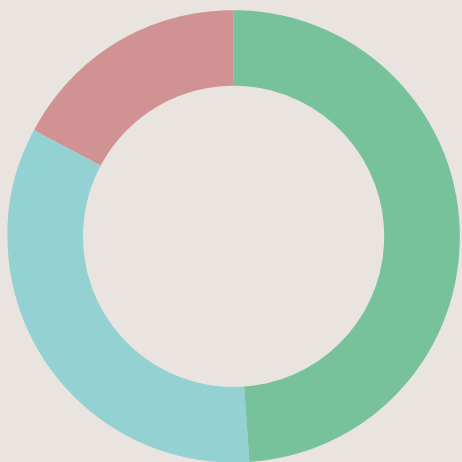
11. Irídia in data

Nº of signatures by campaign



11. Irídia in data

21 contract staff and **19** volunteers
24.744 hours worked by technical staff



Total revenue 990.632,49 €

-  Grants from public institutions (489.697,58 €) | 49%
-  Donations, membership fees, and service charges (333.753,51 €) | 34%
-  Contributions by non-profit entities (167.181,40 €) | 17%

Revenue

990.632,59 €

Disbursements

981.509,57 €

Balance

9.122.92 €

We wish to offer special thanks to all the persons affected by institutional violence that have confided and confide in Irídia. It is thanks to their courage and determination that change is possible.

We thank also the commitment and the collaboration of all the professionals, entities, and social movements with whom we collaborate to advance in the defense of human rights. Finally, thank you to all our members who sustain the project, because your support is indispensable to continue our work.