

PRESS RELEASE – Global Expats Files a Complaint with the *Defensor del Pueblo* Against Spanish Authorities for Crimes Against Humanity

by Quenby Wilcox
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Washington, DC - Founder of Global Expats, Quenby Wilcox, announced today that she has filed a complaint with the Spanish *Defensor del Pueblo* against the *Ilustre Colegio de Abogados de Madrid* & *Consejo General del Poder Judicial* for their refusal to investigate allegations of negligence and malpractice by judicial actors in *Wilcox vs. González de Alcalá* 607/07, *González de Alcalá vs. Wilcox* 1140/07 & 1143/07 & related litigation).

Ms. Wilcox's complaint is her last effort to ensure accountability & transparency of the Spanish judicial system before presenting her case against the Spanish government for their failure to assure the protection of victims of domestic abuse, discrimination against women by State and non-State actors in Spanish courts, and the lack of due process within their judicial systems to the *European Courts of Human Rights*.

The *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights* in *Gonzales vs. USA*, 2011 found that a government is responsible for human rights violation when they fail to fulfill their duty to protect under the principle of due diligence. In its decision, the Commission stated that “a State's failure to act with due diligence to protect women from violence constitutes a form of discrimination, and denies women their right to equality before the law... Domestic violence, for its part, has been recognized at the international level as a human rights violation and one of the most pervasive forms of discrimination, affecting women of all ages, ethnicities, races and social classes... Gender-based violence is one of the most extreme and pervasive forms of discrimination, severely impairing and nullifying the enforcement of women's rights.”

Find attached *Family Courts in Crisis* newsletter (11/13 & 2/14) which covered Save the Children's report *The Spanish Justice System Confronted with Sexual Abuse Within the Family* and Amnesty International's report, *What Specialized Justice?* detailing and documenting the systematic and extensive cover-up of domestic abuse by judges, lawyers, and other judicial actors in Spain, as well as their failure to protect. The findings in these reports, in addition to the failure of the *the Colegio de Abogados de Madrid*, *Fiscalia General del Estado*, and *Consejo General del Poder Judicial* to initiate an investigation into the allegations of Ms. Wilcox in her own case, provides ample **documented evidence that the Spanish government is knowingly 'turning a blind-eye' to the extensive & systematic cover-up of domestic abuse by Spanish courts & judicial actors.**

The fact that the Spanish judicial system is failing to exercise due diligence in the investigation of complaints of domestic abuse, and that Spanish authorities are in turn failing to investigate the failure of the courts to protect victims, elevates these crimes to **crimes against humanity as defined by art. 7 of Roma Statute of the International Criminal Courts** (“*crime against humanity*” means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack - murder, rape, torture, enslavement, imprisonment, persecution of a group, or other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health).

Quenby Wilcox, is a career Expat and activist whose work focuses on domestic violence as a human rights violation, & women's rights within the home & family. She blogs on the HuffPost www.huffingtonpost.com/quenby-wilcox/ & Womenalia www.womenalia.com/us/blogs/having-it-all. Documents related to her case and her monthly “*Family Courts in Crisis*,” newsletters are posted on World Pulse www.worldpulse.com/user/2759/journal.

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