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From Strategic Studies Group. </div> <div data-bbox="563 495 1281 524"> By Aaron Hanscom for Strategic Studies Group (18/05/07) </div> <div data-bbox="563 546 1453 864"> <p>Muslim worshippers exiting mosques in Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta last month were handed pamphlets titled "Do you believe the PP can defend Ceuta?" Juan Vivas, the Mayor-President of Ceuta, immediately accused the political coalition responsible for putting out the pamphlets of trying to divide "between Muslims and Christians." Indeed, the pamphlets cite as a warning the center-right Popular Party (PP) which declares that the PP "is influenced by values of liberty, democracy, tolerance and Christian humanism from the West." Also on the pamphlets - and printed above a photo of José María Aznar and George W Bush standing together at the Azores Summit - is the former Prime Minister Aznar once asked Muslims to apologize for "the eight centuries of Al-Ándalus."</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 887 1453 1095"> <p>Aznar, in fact, never made such a demand. His remarks at the Washington Hudson Institute in September 2006 were meant to shine light on a double standard that exists in the world today: While Muslims constantly demand apologies from the West, they rarely feel compelled to apologize for their own actions. The Spaniards like Aznar are not the ones seeking apologies. Much rather, it is the world that is focused on the past, as the obsession of many Muslims to reconquer Al-Ándalus makes clear.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 1117 1453 1323"> <p>The autonomous regions of Ceuta and Melilla are seen by Islamists as the last fronts in their anticipated reconquest of Spain. Last year a North African Islamist himself Nadim al-Magrebi warned of "a holy war against the infidel Spanish territory which has occupied the two cities." Al-Qaida's number two, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has called for Islamic land to be reconquered from "Al-Ándalus to Iraq" and compared the occupation of Ceuta and Melilla to the Russian occupation of Chechnya and the occupation of Palestine.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 1346 1453 1520"> <p>And as can be seen in those two conflict zones, calling on Islamists to end the occupation of "holy" land inevitably leads to violence in the area. Gustav Kerk, the Foreign Affairs Spokesman of the PP and author of The Jihad in Spain: an obsession to reconquer Al-Ándalus, believes Islamists have already turned Melilla into "laboratories" where they can "test all their theories concerning the reconquering of territory that they believe should be returned to Islamic control."</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 1543 1453 1662"> <p>Indeed, there are disturbing signs of a burgeoning intifada against Spain's North Africa. In their paper titled Favorable situations for the jihadist recruitment in the neighborhood of Príncipe Alfonso (Ceuta, Spain), Javier Jordan and Humberto López of the University of Granada detail the full extent of Islamic radicalism in the enclave.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 1684 1453 1919"> <p>Resembling the combustible suburbs of Paris, Príncipe Alfonso is essentially a lawless zone. The National Police and Guardia Civil except in emergency situations or during the night because of the risks officers face when entering the town. Recently the last time a riot broke out in the station and its lone police car were burned. Not only are ambushes of police officers common in Príncipe Alfonso, but emergency calls are frequently made in the middle of the night by police officers. Shouts referring to the 'Intifada of Ceuta' are often heard during these ambushes. The resulting chaos has led to a situation where even the city cannot be run safely.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="563 1942 1453 2087"> <p>The only authority in Príncipe Alfonso comes from Islamic extremists who impose their Salafist interpretation of Islamic law. For example, boys are castigated for playing games with girls on the street. Jordan and Trujillo identify 'moral squads' which intimidate or attack girls who don't wear the veil or who drink alcohol in public may already exist. Moreover, the poverty of the city is a factor in the radicalization of the population.</p> </div>

Catholic rule.

These troubling social conditions, combined with the jihadist calls for the the "occupied" enclaves, have turned Ceuta and Melilla into the principal Islamist terrorism in Spain. The Guardia Civil has [warned](#) in an internal r "support cells for Islamist terrorists" exist in the two regions. Meanwhile, Judge Baltasar Garzon recently told the daily La Vanguardia: "[The beach Melilla, first, and the \(Iberian\) Peninsula and continental Europe ... are p targets of the new terrorist strategy of Al Qaeda that is being developed Africa.](#)"

In fact, just last year a planned terrorist attack was disrupted in Príncipe in Ceuta dismantled a cell made up of at least 11 individuals in December members were charged with belonging to the Salafia Yihadia terrorist gr forms part of the al-Qaida network in North Africa. It now appears that t to steal weapons and explosives from a local military base and carry out during Ceuta's annual festival had reached a mature phase.

Just as disturbing was the revelation that the individuals were in contact soldiers of Moroccan origin from whom they hoped to obtain explosives a information. Muslims make up approximately 30 percent of the Spanish i and Melilla, and [Jordan believes that the infiltration of jihadists into the S a very real possibility](#). He notes that already "military intelligence has de cases of radical individuals whose contracts to continue serving in the Sp have not been renewed."

The Unión Democrática Ceutí (UDCE) - the political party in Ceuta that re the Muslim vote - has strongly rejected the non-renewal of Muslim soldie mosques throughout Ceuta the UDCE has distributed thousands of pamph denouncing the "persecution of the Spanish soldiers of the Muslim faith." mongering (which was also evident in the UDCE's aforementioned anti-P campaign) has become an effective way for Muslim groups to portray the terrorism concerns of Spaniards as nothing more than fear mongering.

This tactic can be seen in a recent article from Reuters ([Terrorism fears i Spanish enclave](#)"), in which the author accepts at face value the opinion: Muslims that the Islamist threat in Ceuta is overestimated. The Reuters i the claim that in Príncipe Alfonso "people are sick of what they describe i media depictions of Muslims as terrorists" with quotes from local Muslim: Ali, the leader of UDCE. "Ceuta's Muslims have given ample proof that th Spaniards," Ali says. He goes on to dispute the finding of the Elcano Inst Spanish think tank) that 15 percent of Spanish Muslims sympathize with (Polls conducted by the Pew Global Attitudes Survey and the US State D Office confirm this percentage.) Moreover, Ali calls for Arabic to be made language in Ceuta and says that Muslims feel their loyalty to Spain is qu it would have been useful for Reuters to mention that [Ali often describes Melilla as "occupied cities."](#)

The deceptions of Muslim leaders like Ali belie a desire to make the city I Considering the fact that Ceuta's Muslims number 27,000 out of a popul and the likelihood that Muslims will become the majority in the next dec good chance that dream will soon become a reality. The concern for Spa whether a Muslim Ceuta will be more loyal to Spain or to the Islamists in liberating it.

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