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Burnt tires & clashes with police as pro-independence protests grip Catalonia (PHOTO, VIDEO)

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Pro-independence activists in Catalonia are venting their anger at Madrid's trial of the region's provincial leaders. Baton-wielding police scuffled with some of the demonstrators as people also blocked roads and set tires ablaze.

The group behind the protest is called the Committees for the Defence of the Republic (CDRs) and has been involved in demonstrations against Spain's central government for months. The goal of Thursday's action is to 'paralyze everything,' as the group put it.

**@CataloniaHelp2** One of the columns in front of the Barcelona's University. The strike against the **#SpanishInquisition** trial is a Huge Success all over Catalonia **#VagaGeneral21F**

The protesters managed to disrupt traffic on several major roads with barricades of burning tires. They also interfered with the work of local railroads and occupied an office building in Girona, a city some 100km (62 miles) northeast of Barcelona.

**@alfonslopeztena**

Catalonia's president Torra said to his supporters: "Push!", and calls them to strike today Watch them acting accordingly Peaceful people indeed

**Blockade of burning tires: Pro-independence Catalonian activists disrupt...**