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HM Government condemns latest incursion

Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar takes a very serious view of the latest incursion by the Spanish state Survey vessel "Angeles Alvarino" during which attempted to take executive action in British Gibraltar Territorial Waters.

The Government condemns these continuing attempts to uselessly challenge and to undermine UK sovereignty as well as the reckless and dangerous behaviour which raises serious issues of safety at sea.

It is clear that more effective and robust action needs to be taken at different levels in order to put a stop such events in future.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo QC MP, said: "Gibraltar continues to be at the receiving end of Spanish bullying and harassment. Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar takes a very serious view of this incident. In seeking to undermine UK sovereignty Spain is behaving in a reckless and dangerous manner which does not befit a NATO ally and an EU partner. Later this week I will be highlighting this and other incursions to the 4th Committee of the United Nations in order to ensure the whole world understands the type of activity that the Spanish Government engages in. We should be engaged with Spain in dialogue as neighbours, trying to improve people's lives by working together to enhance our respective economies. Instead we find the Spanish Government intent on these childish provocations which achieve nothing. The waters around Gibraltar are as British after an incursion of this type as they were before. Nothing is achieved except needlessly risking mariners' lives and wasting precious euros on diesel."