

STATEMENT BY THE GSLP/LIBERAL OPPOSITION 159/2006
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The Opposition have asked the British Government to investigate a new case where the holder of a Gibraltar-issued British passport was not allowed to enter Spain by the Spanish immigration authorities.

This latest incident happened in the Port of Tarifa on Sunday after the ferry which was bound for Gibraltar had to divert there in bad weather.

A Moroccan national, who has been naturalized as a British Citizen by virtue of a connection with Gibraltar, and holds a British passport which was issued here was refused entry into Spain because his passport was issued in Gibraltar.

In this latest incident, the Spanish immigration authorities told the person concerned that he would not be allowed to enter Spain because he needed a visa on his passport.

Given that the holder is a British Citizen, and that this is shown on his passport, it should have been obvious that as such he does not require a visa to enter Spain. Indeed, he had made the same journey on other occasions with the same passport and had not been refused entry.

The Opposition takes a very serious view of this incident and has taken up the matter with the British Government.

This harassment of persons whose travel documents have been issued in Gibraltar is nothing new. It has happened in the past at Spanish ports and airports. It is about time that something is done to ensure that it does not happen again.

ENDS