

Military recruitment in Artazu in 1847

1. ACTIVITIES (1 TO 3 ACTIVITIES)

1. Locate at the Hispanic Digital Library ("Biblioteca Digital Hispánica") [<http://bdh.bne.es/bnearch/detalle/bdh0000058443>] the text of the 1837 ordinance on recruitment ("Ordenanza para el Remplazo del Ejército"), applicable when the document was written. Analyse in article 63 the causes for exemption from military service, the underlying criteria and their applicability to the case of the document in question.
2. Finally, comment on the text following the general instructions of the text commentary.

2. TECHNICAL SHEET

1.1.	"Title" of the document	Complaint lodged by María Miguel Latienda, a resident of Artazu, before the Provincial Council of Navarre, requesting to exempt her son Juan Cruz Aramendía from military service.
1.2.	Document date	08/02/1847
1.3.	Documentary typology	Administrative complaint
1.4.	Language	Spanish
1.5.	Hand style	
1.6.	Archive	Royal and General Archive of Navarre (AGN)
1.7.	Signature	CPN,Caj.62. Artazu.
1.8.	Number of folios	1
1.9.	Support material	Paper

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The historical context of the document is the gradual generalisation of the draft system as the mechanism for military recruitment in Spain. The system was introduced in the late 18th century and became fully operational by the mid-19th century. The system established the number of men that had to be recruited to serve in the army each year. The number was distributed among the provinces of the country in proportion to their population and the resulting amount was distributed again among the different towns in each province, also in

proportion to their population. Thus, each town was assigned a quota ("cupo") of men to be provided for military service. In the case of small towns, such as Artazu, this quota usually only amounted to 1 or 2 men. To meet the quota assigned to each town, the local council drew lots among the potential conscripts ("mozos", i.e. young men of recruitment age). Those men whose assigned number matched those obtained at the drawing of lots and those following in ascending order until the quota of men was filled became soldiers and performed military service. Duration of the service in the 19th century ranged from 4 to 7 years, plus the time spent in the reserve forces (when the soldier was not doing any training anymore but had to be available for service in the army if necessary).

Since the time spent performing military service was so long (yet necessary for properly acquiring military training) and since most part of the population of Navarre and Spain were farmers, having a young man serving in the army was a huge problem for the economy of many families, as they lost the possibility of having a son of working age help them with the work in the farm. This drawback became more significant when the person joining the army as soldier had some sort of family responsibilities.

To mitigate the social and economic cost resulting from sending a son to serve in the army, public authorities began to introduce different causes or motives for which a young "mozo" could become legally exempt from military service. Among other motives: being a grandson economically in charge of his grandparents; having only one more brother already serving in the army; being an orphan with other siblings depending on his support; etc.

In addition, to guarantee certain rights, the interested parties were given the possibility of lodging an administrative claim against the decisions taken by local governments. By 1847 the bodies resolving complaints relating to military recruitment were the so-called "provincial councils".

4. SELECTED TEXT

"María Miguel Latienda vecina de esta villa a Vuestra Superioridad expone: que para el reemplazo del ejército se ha sorteado en dicha villa para cubrir el cupo de un soldado que le ha correspondido por cuya razón se ha incluido en suerte a su hijo Juan Cruz Aramendia a quien ha cabido la suerte del número 2º.

La exponente, señor, hizo presente a tiempo oportuno según se demuestra por el documento número 1 adjunto que al citado su hijo debía eximirse de entrar en suerte puesto que la recurrente se haya constituida en la edad de 61 años, en estado de viudez y **atenida** su subsistencia del trabajo de su hijo único y en cuya compañía vive según también acredita por el documento adjunto número 2, cuyas razones nada han servido, incluyéndole en el sorteo; y como puede suceder que el sujeto a quien ha cabido la suerte de soldado pueda librarse del servicio de las armas por algún incidente. A vuestra superioridad suplica que en atención a lo expuesto y mediante a que la interesada se haya comprendida en la excepción novena del artículo 63 de la Ordenanza de reemplazos de 1837, se digne disponer, caso que se excluya al número 1, quede libre su hijo de cuyas manos depende la subsistencia de la que habla. Gracia que no duda alcanzar de la notoria bondad de Vuestra Superioridad cuya vida guarde Dios muchos años. Artazu, 8 de febrero de 1847.

Muy ilustre Señor.

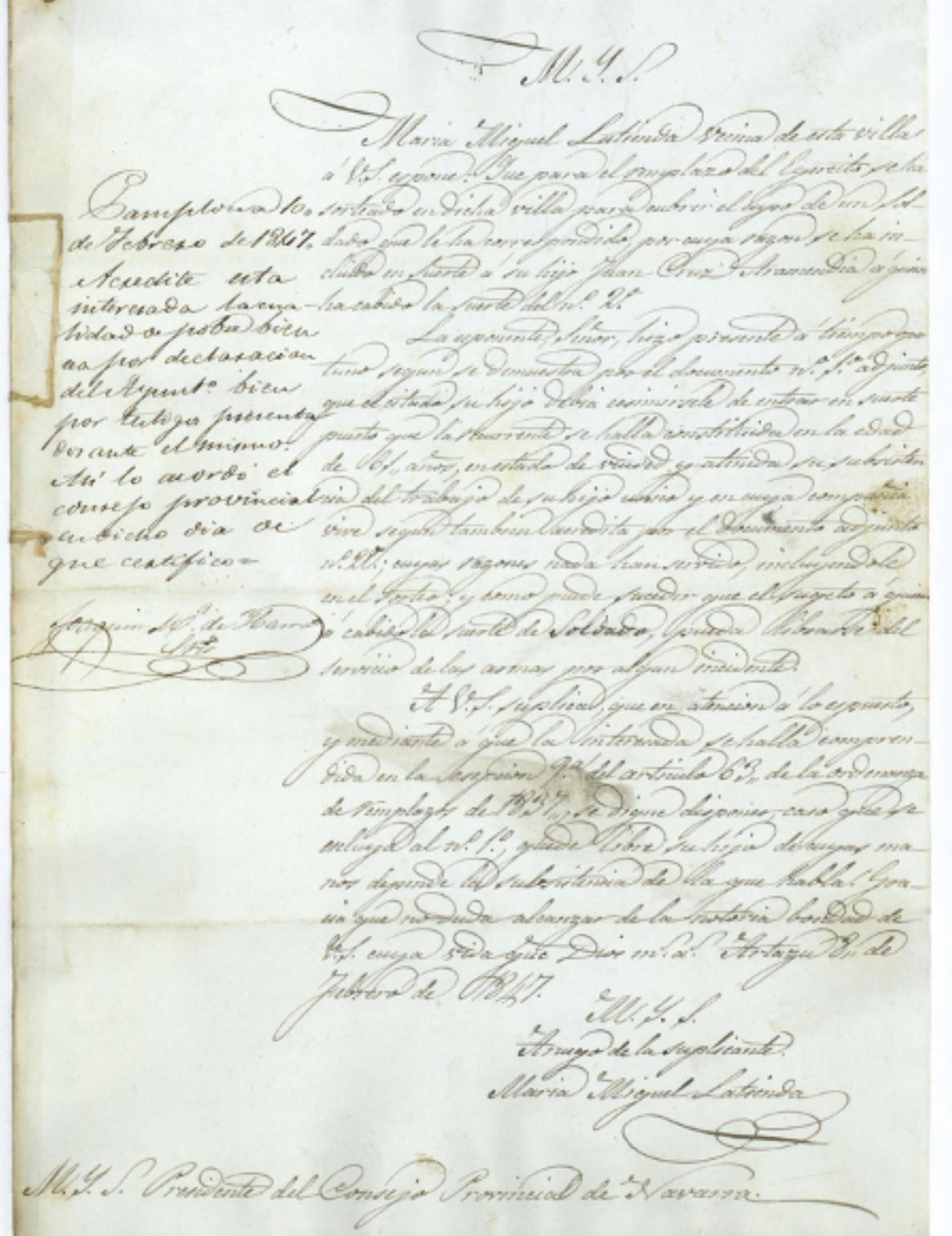
A ruego de la suplicante. María Miguel Latienda.

Muy Ilustre Señor Presidente del Consejo Provincial de Navarra."

KEY WORDS

Atenida: Dependent. When existence is linked to or depends from something or somebody.

5. SELECTED TEXT (PICTURE)



CPN, Caj.62. Artazu. f.2