

International Relations Candidatura d'Unitat Popular (CUP)



Dear friends,

A few days before the trials against the Catalan civil activists, Government members, and elected representatives advocating for the right to self-determination of the Catalan people, the Spanish Police has arrested without a warrant eleven people, all members of the pro-independence movement.

Today, January 16th, very early in the morning the Spanish Police Investigation Brigade (PNE) has arrested two well-known elected City Mayors from the area of Girona, Ignasi Sabater from Verges and Dani Cornellà from Celrà, and so far, nine civil activists, for a total of eleven people.

Against what the PNE has first stated, this operation has no judicial warrant. Few hours after the arrest, the Supreme Court of Justice of Catalonia has issued a statement confirming that no court order has been issued to the Police to carry the arrests and that the entire operation has been ordered under “a personal” initiative of the PNE Investigation Brigade Chief Officer. Also, the operation has been carried out without any prior notice or citation to the detainees.

When Benet Salellas, lawyer of the two detainees Mayors, arrived at the Police station, the Police has stopped him at the building entrance and denied him access to the Police station under the claim he won't be allowed inside if he was going to speak in Catalan. The Spanish police officers would not let any lawyer inside until they agree to only speak Spanish. Finally, at 11.30 and more than 3 hours later of the arrests, the lawyers have been allowed to see and talk to their defendants held at the police station.

It is worthy to remark that a member of the Spanish Police Investigation Brigade carrying out the arrests is the aggressor of Jordi Borrás, the photojournalist who mainly works reporting the activities in Catalunya and Europe of the Spanish extreme right-wing and supremacist movement.

This action is part of the persecution of liberties and repression campaign organized by the Spanish state against the Catalunya independence movement, which has taken all means and strategies to its disposal to criminalize and punish the independence movement. The violation of the right to self-determination of Catalanian people as one of a nation's collective rights justifies the violation of civil and political rights also at the individual level of its people. We, as a nation, cannot tolerate or allow this situation anymore.

Without due process of law or democratic guarantees, any judicial or police proceedings against the movement in defense of the right to self-determination must be challenged and denounced. This is going to be one of the political priorities of the CUP and the independence left-wing movement.

In front of this situation, we accuse the Spanish state of authoritarianism and phobia to Democracy. It is the Spanish state that we have to judge, it is the Spanish State and its institutions that do not allow a democratic solution to the conflict.

We will call for demonstrations and concentrations together with other political, social and trade union organizations. We, therefore, ask any democrat around the world for solidarity because this infringement of rights affects all of us.

We will continue to inform you, and do not hesitate to contact us if you were to have any question or need further information.



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