

# ABERRI EGUNA 2008



**Aberri Eguna 2008**  
ABERRIA GARATZEN

UZTARITZE / ITSASU  
MARTXOAK 22 DE MARZO 22 MARS

**ITSASVKO TGERIA**  
GYK EYSKALDVNEX  
JAKIN ARTZTEN DVCV  
CVRE NAZIONETA GVHVRREK GOBERNAT NAHI DVCYLA  
BERTZE HERRIERA CVRE EVSKAL HERRIA NAZIONETZAT  
ONHRE ARTZTERA OLDARTVKO GIRELA  
HORRELA BAT EGINEN DA EVSKAL-HERRIA  
ETA CVRE ABERRIARI BIZIA ETA SECIDA EMANEN DIOCV

 **UDALBILTZA**  
EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA HAUTETSIEEN BILTZARRA



**UDALBILTZA**<sup>®</sup>  
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**ABERRI EGUNA 2008**  
**DECLARATION BY UDALBILTZA®**  
**ABERRIA GARATZEN**

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> time that the Executive Board of UDALBILTZA® has been in charge of organizing the ABERRI EGUNA, and we have always done so in places of profound symbolic significance for Basques, in an attempt to reflect their territoriality: 2004 in Hondarribia (on the occasion of the thousandth anniversary of King Sancho III the Great, King of all the Territories of Navarre and at a strategic point where the three political-administrative divisions of the current Euskal Herria can be made out); subsequently in Amaiur (where Navarre defended and lost its freedoms); later in Argantzun, in the Alava territory of Treviño; and, last year in Forua, in Bizkaia. Finally, this year it is being held in Ustaritze, in Lapurdi.

We have therefore gathered here in Ustaritze to celebrate this 2008 Aberri Eguna in this town with such a long and checkered history, where the *Biltzar* or Assemblies of Labour would meet between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, until they were abolished with the French Revolution.

All the territories of Euskal Herria have developed in their own unique way, albeit with a common feature: the defence of their distinctive political nature with regard to other kingdoms and states. We have always proclaimed our historic rights; we have always defended our laws, our *fueros* (administrative and fiscal rights and privileges).

Also today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we Basques loudly and clearly proclaim our identity as a people, the fact that we are a people, our right to be leading players in our own history, our language and our culture. We are a people, and both Spain and France and Europe must recognize the fact that we are.

We are gathered here today to celebrate the Aberri Eguna. To express its meaning, I should like to highlight two words: HOPE AND COMMITMENT.

HOPE. The Aberri Eguna came into being on Easter Sunday, and is therefore related both to faith and hope.

We also believe: that Euskal Herria is ONE people with its own identity; that we are a nation that has the right to decide its own future; and, as patriots, today we proclaim our hope of achieving a common political structure for all the territories of Euskal Herria.

### **A hope based on our right to decide.**

COMMITMENT. Faith and hope, albeit being clearly aware that achieving ZAZPIAK BAT (the unification of the seven territories) will not simply descend from heaven. Nobody is going to give us anything for free. Therefore, it is also a day to renew our commitment to Euskal Herria.

As municipally-elected councillors, we renew our commitment to continue working towards national construction, understood as being a dynamic and integrating process based on the following principles: the use of exclusively democratic means, respect for the human rights of all individuals based on the free will of citizens and on free adherence to the different Basque territories.

Our work and our commitment are based on these criteria.

This proclamation means declaring a rejection of all violence, and declaring the fact that ETA is surplus to requirements – the same ETA which has just killed an ex-councillor, a man, a father and a worker. A despicable murder that should be condemned from any point of view. Senseless either from an ethical or political standpoint: the first basic right to be respected is that of the right to life. ETA does not represent anybody and shows contempt for the will of citizens. It constitutes the main stumbling block to progress in achieving political normalization, progress in national construction and in collaboration among *abertzales* (Basque nationalists). In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, politics and violence are incompatible.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in this globalize world, we must confront national construction so as to secure our future identity, to make progress in achieving that political unity founded on the free adherence of the different territories that make up Euskal Herria.

In Iparralde, we must continue working towards establishing a separate *Département*, towards official status for Euskera and towards a strengthening of relations on both sides of the Bidasoa River.

In Hegoalde, we have commenced a decisive year: we wish to negotiate a new political framework – as far-ranging as possible – that may be respected by the Spanish state and endorsed by citizens. We are neither attempting to impose our project nor shall we allow the will of the majority to be marginalized. We are attempting to reach a new agreement, a pact that leaves the doors open for the future – in other words, that may make it possible for us to have the right to decide our future.

Therefore, we, as municipally-elected councillors, wish to renew our **commitment** to continue working: towards the cohesion of the different Basque territories, towards promoting our language and our culture, and towards the construction of Euskal Herria as a nation.

We also proclaim our hope to achieve a united Euskal Herria - ZAZPIAK BAT – in a Europe of Nations. Because we form a people, because we are a People.

GORA EUSKAL HERRIA, GORA EUSKADI ASKATUTA!

Uztaritze, 22th mars 2008