

ABERRI EGUNA 2009



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DECLARATION BY UDALBILTZA®
EUSKAL HERRIAREN ABERRIA EUSKADI DA

We *abertzales* (Basque nationalists) have been celebrating the Aberri Eguna since 1931. Throughout all these years, we have experienced many circumstances about which we are all familiar, although over and above all of these, the Aberri Eguna continues to be our day, the date when we claim our right as a Nation, a day of celebration and also of public renewal of our commitment to the national construction process of Euskal Herria.

Udalbiltza®, in its capacity as an institution comprising town councils and municipal representatives from throughout Euskal Herria, is this year celebrating its tenth anniversary. Over these ten years it has demonstrated that, over and above the political and administrative structures that divide us, there is an institution that is common to all the territories that make up Euskal Herria – an institution geared towards national construction which is really effective on a political level and which, via networking, is able to overcome the obstacles that keep us apart.

From the outset, the path pursued over these last ten years by Udalbiltza® has been based on the following principles:

- Euskal Herria is a nation, a historic, linguistic and cultural community with its own national conscience.
- Euskal Herria encompasses the seven Historic Territories; if territoriality makes up the “body” of the Nation, all of those of us who live in it are its “soul”.
- In terms of our being a nation, we are also entitled to democratically decide our future to the same extent as other nations are.
- Basque National Construction can only be founded on the freely expressed will of all Basque men and women.

That is precisely the message we wish to convey via the official announcement of this Aberri Eguna: acknowledging the plurality of all Basque society, starting always from the premise of the defence of all human rights of all individuals and respecting democracy, we demand our right as one of the most ancient peoples of Europe, to continue advancing towards the Construction of the Basque Nation.

Unfortunately, we are not seeing the most appropriate circumstances at the present time to be able to achieve our political objectives.

ETA continues to ignore what this People has demanded of it time and time again. Despite the fact that Basque society has demanded that it do so on countless occasions, it has not ceased its violent and repressive actions. Basque citizens reiterate the fact that they reject any legitimization of ETA. Even though it has on occasions attempted to do so, ETA has never acted "in the name of the People" and this statement has for a long time now constituted proof of the total lack of connection with the reality of the situation. ETA is – and will continue to be until such time as it lays down its arms - the greatest obstacle to understanding among Basques, the woodworm that eats away within national construction. It constitutes the factor that weakens the strength we need to act in favour of our People. It only causes suffering.

On the other hand, in the wake of the most recent elections which have taken place in the seven territories of Euskal Herria, it has been made clear that there exists a "State Strategy" (as occurred before in Nafarroa), and that this strategy is the one in control. The PSOE and the PP, by using the *Ley de Partidos* (the Law governing political parties), its consequences and its resulting bans, are displacing Basque nationalism from institutions, giving shape in the Basque Autonomous Region to a political pact between them that would be unthinkable in any part of Spain.

The same people who at the time said "NO" to the New Statute (governing Autonomy) subsequently closed the door to the possibility of any consultation with Basque society. Those who have rendered the political representation of part of Basque society invalid are the same ones who have made the political gain they had previously calculated on from this situation.

In the last analysis, those who pretended to reject the so-called "frontism" supposedly put forward by the *abertzale* majority are the same ones who, as ever, form a common front without any consideration for the *abertzales*. The Spanish left and right only have one thing in common: to attack Basque nationalism.

As a result of all this, we, the municipally-elected councillors of Udalbiltza[®], are launching our message on the summit of Mt. Jata in a louder voice than ever before: "EUSKAL HERRIA IS OUR NATION AND EUSKADI OUR HOMELAND".

That is why we are gathered here today on the summit of Mt. Jata, we councillors from Araba, Gipuzkoa, Bizkaia, Nafarroa Garaia, Behe Nafarroa, Lapurdi and Zuberoa, as one, before the *ikurriña* of Euskadi – the flag that unites all of us in celebrating the 2009 Aberri Eguna.

Gora Euskal Herria! GORA EUSKADI ASKATUTA!

Jatamendi, 11th april 2009