



UDALBILTZA[®]

EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA HAUTETSIEN BILTZARRA

2010 ABERRI EGUNA DECLARATION

With the 2010 Aberri Eguna just round the corner, the Executive Board of Udalbiltza[®] would like to raise the following points:

We recently saw the first anniversary of PSOE in the Basque Government, with the help of PP to keep it there. One year with the former governing, but dependent on the judgement of the latter. A year since they took over the Basque Parliament applying the “State Strategy” and initiated the “reforms of change”. During this time, we have heard many words which, basing themselves on democracy and the defence of its values in the Basque Autonomous Community, say that they are carrying out “the politics which truly interests citizens”. We have also seen what the acts of government of PSOE-PP are based on: on the one hand, the disastrous economic management of the crisis, the policy based on increasing debt previously applied at state level and now in the Autonomous Community as well; and, on the other, and although they deny it, the use of identity politics. Spanish identity, of course. Their declarations aim to sow their idea of Citizenry. Under the pretext of defending the civic concept of Citizenry, the ultimate objective is to smother the concept of People in politics. They constantly manipulate words, inventing contradictions which have never existed. Since when have the people of Euskal Herria not been citizens? This is the lie on which the Socialists base their political axis: People versus Citizenry.

The constitutionalist forces have used the law to serve their power interests, applying their all-too-well-known restrictions on the right to political representation of the Basque citizenry, leaving thousands of people out of the elections.

The carefully hatched campaign against Lehendakari Ibarretxe in 2001 bore fruit a year ago. In order to analyse the events of the last year, the “normalisation” imposed by PP and PSOE on this nation deserves special attention: spurning the nationalist majority in the Basque Autonomous

Community and framing our socio-economic reality to fit in with that of the Spanish State.

They recognise that they will need time to achieve their objective and the way to win this time is “new perfecting” of the reform of the Law of Parties, a path which seriously affects democracy. They are selling “improved normalisation” to the Basque citizenry, when what they are really doing is changing the law so that the constitutionalist forces can get a guaranteed majority.

No Basque citizen can deny that Euskal Herria's greatest enemy is ETA. ETA has provided the Spanish forces, both left- and right-wing, with thousands of arguments and excuses. While it continues to exist, it permanently attacks people's lives and freedoms. And it provides the state with the perfect excuse to reject the very idea of Basque sovereignty.

So, once again, we condemn the actions of ETA and the organisation itself.

Leaving this absolutely clear, we also denounce the political-judicial persecution which Euskal Herria has been suffering over recent years. The examples are all too well-known, the trial of Lehendakari Ibarretxe perhaps being the most notable, not to mention continuously denying the citizens of the Basque Autonomous Community the right to decide on the future of their Nation. To quote a few more cases, the trial of Egunkaria or the charges against the members of Udalbiltza-Kursaal. Where is the guarantee of political and civil rights, a fundamental premise of the rule of law?

José Antonio Agirre Lekube, the first President of the Basque Government, died 50 years ago. The anniversary has given rise to numerous tributes and testimonials. And so we, the representatives of Udalbiltza® would like to express our own praise of and tribute to Agirre. Because he was a nationalist. Because he was a mayor. Because he took the political tradition of Basque municipalities to its utmost political level. Because Agirre, as Mayor of Getxo, together with others, declared the Basque Republic in 1931: *“Let the Basque Republic be declared and accepted, and its constitution and laws be developed without delay, and its right to decide on its sovereignty be fulfilled through the rightful freedom of nations”*. Because that same year he was elected a Member of Parliament with the votes of the people of Biscay and Navarre.

Euskadi, Euskal Herria, in heart and mind. Because Agirre repeatedly defended the right to decide on the future of our Nation; and because he opposed the war, defending democracy.

Today, at the 2010 Aberri Eguna, we would like to echo the words of José Antonio Agirre: *“This is the question we ask: Why are we not granted a right which is ours? Not the right of the majority or the minority, but an objective right, the right which is above all personal interests, the basic, essential right: freedom, our people’s right to freedom”*.

This is what we, the members of the Executive Board of Udalbiltza®, say today in 2010: **the basic right which belongs to the people, our people’s right to freedom: that the citizens of the seven territories of Euskal Herria be allowed to wield freely and democratically the right which is theirs.**

GORA EUSKAL HERRIA!

GORA EUSKADI ASKATUTA!

Executive Board of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 4th of April 2010