

UDALBILTZA[®]

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS 2008



EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA UDAL HAUTETSIEIEN BILTZARRA

IGOR PORTU AND MATTIN SARASOLA

In view of the situation regarding the alleged ETA members Igor Portu and Mattin Sarasola, who were arrested on Sunday, UDALBILTZA[®] wishes to declare the following:

1. The national construction of Euskal Herria is based solely on democracy, peace, free adherence and respect for all human rights.
2. These principles once again compel us to unreservedly condemn violence and the violation of all human rights.
3. In view of the serious evidence of torture in the case of Igor Portu, we demand that the Spanish Government conduct a thorough enquiry into what really happened, and that it provide all relevant explanations without fear of any responsibility that may result from the conclusions drawn in the corresponding enquiry.
4. We believe that democracy and respect for human rights are fundamental principles always, everywhere and for all citizens.

Governing Board of UDALBILTZA[®]

Agurain, 9th January 2008

IN FAVOUR OF OUR INSTITUTIONS



In view of the sentence passed by the Spanish High Court against the ex-President of the Basque Parliament, Juan María Atutxa, and the two members of the Parliamentary Assembly, Gorka Knörr and Kontxi Bilbao, we at UDALBILTZA[®] wish to declare the following:

1. Attacking freely-elected public institutions by citizens entails a head-on attack against democracy.
2. We have repeatedly expressed the fact that the politicization of judicial power implies the violation of parliamentary sovereignty and Basque self-government, in addition to seriously interfering with the necessary separation of powers.
3. As the law governing political parties (*Ley de Partidos*) is a law designed to be at the service of a specific political strategy, it is in fact a clear example of the criminalization of ideas and ideologies. Normalization will arrive via respect for all human rights.

The High Court has once again attacked the basic democratic means for solving conflicts: dialogue. This is an attack against Basque institutions and, ultimately, against Basque society as a whole.

We at UDALBILTZA[®] wish to express our support for Juan Mari Atutxa, Gorka Knörr and Kontxi Bilbao. We also wish to make a call to all Basque municipally-elected councillors and Basque citizens in general to take part in the initiatives that will be carried out "in defence of our institutions", to express aloud the anger felt by all Basques and in favour of the independence of the Basque Parliament.

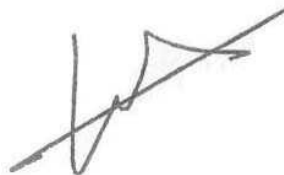
Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 24th January 2008

EAE-ANV and EHAK

Declaration by UDALBILTZA[®], in view of the decision taken to suspend EAE-ANV and EHAK activities for three years, and the arrests of various politicians belonging to the Basque nationalist left:

1. Any attack against or restriction of political and social rights causes a rift in the pacification and political normalization of our country and entails a direct act of aggression against the rights of citizens of Euskal Herria in freely and democratically deciding their future.
2. The law governing political parties (*Ley de Partidos*), the banning of political parties and the arrests of their leaders aggravates the conflict we are enduring at present in Euskal Herria even more.
3. The national construction of Euskal Herria will be achieved only through democratic and peaceful channels and via respect for all human rights.
4. As elections constitute a fundamental element of democracy, by preventing the participation of any political force, the voice of some people is therefore censored, thus violating a fundamental basic right and causing a rift in the political normalization of our society.



Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 12th February 2008

ISAÍAS CARRASCO

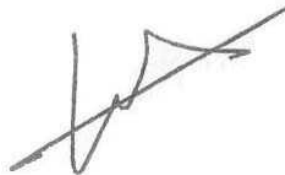
The terrorist attack committed by ETA today in Arrasate implies an attack against the whole of Euskal Herria, democracy, peace and, in short, against Basque society as a whole.

UDALBILTZA[®] condemns this brutal terrorist attack by ETA and expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of the victim, Isaías Carrasco, and all PSE sympathizers.

ETA has once again taken a stance against Basque society by committing this outrage which, in itself, involves violence rather than political normalization. No individual is responsible for restrictions on political and social rights imposed by the State.

UDALBILTZA[®] defends the right to live in peace and decide on the part of the Basque people, as it has defended in the past and will continue to do so always. Basque citizens are entitled to develop in peace, democracy and freedom.

We also wish to make a call to all municipally-elected councillors and Basque citizens in general to take part in the initiatives being carried out to condemn this brutal outrage by expressing their anger aloud and proclaiming a democratic, non-violent Euskal Herria.



Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 7th March 2008

ATTACK COMMITTED BY ETA AGAINST THE PSE-EE OFFICES

Euskal Herria, 17th April 2008

In the view of the terrorist attack committed by ETA in the Bilbao district of Abusu-La Peña against the PSE-EE offices, UDALBILTZA[®] wishes to declare the following:

- UDALBILTZA[®] declares its absolute condemnation of this outrage and expresses its most sincere support for those injured and other people affected.
- Dialogue and consensus constitute the path towards achieving a solution to the conflict and political normalization, and that ETA is the main obstacle to progress on this path.
- Once again, all we parties and political forces and society in general must demand that ETA lay down its weapons and renounce violence forever and unconditionally.

Within this context, the dynamics of political persecution constitute an obstacle to achieving this, just as all violations of human rights and the persistence of violence do. Only via democratic and peaceful means and with total freedom does UDALBILTZA[®] defend and will defend the right of Euskal Herria to decide.

GOVERNING BOARD OF UDALBILTZA[®]

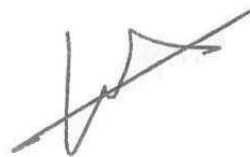
IMPRISONMENT OF THE MAYOR OF ARRASATE INO GALPARSORO

Euskal Herria, 7th May 2008

In view of the imprisonment of the Mayor of Arrasate, Ino Galparsoro by order of the Spanish Supreme Court headed by Baltasar Garzón, UDALBILTZA[®] wishes to declare the following:

1. These arrests and imprisonments do not lead us towards pacification and political normalization. These measures aggravate the conflict the conflict we are enduring at present in Euskal Herria and make it even more impossible to find a way out of the current situation.
2. However, we at UDALBILTZA[®] wish to make it clear that ETA remains the main obstacle to normalization in this society. In view of the ETA violence, all we municipally-elected councillors must maintain a clear stance in repudiating and condemning their actions.

Neither ETA nor this type of judicial decision constitute guarantors of the true democracy that demands respect for all human rights for all individuals and all political projects. Only via democratic and peaceful means and with total freedom does UDALBILTZA[®] defend and will defend the right of Euskal Herria to decide.



Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

ATTACK COMMITTED BY ETA IN LEGUTIANO

The terrorist attack committed by ETA today in Legutiano implies an attack against the whole of Euskal Herria, democracy, peace and, in short, against the whole of the Basque society.

UDALBILTZA[®] condemns this brutal terrorist attack by ETA and expresses its most sincere condolences to the family of the ETA victim Juan Manuel Piñuel Villalón and all injured police officers.

ETA has once again taken a stance against Basque society by committing this outrage which implies a “yes” to violence” and a “no” to political normalization.

We wish to make it clear once more that only democratic channels, dialogue and consensus constitute the path towards achieving a solution to the conflict and political normalization, and that ETA is the main obstacle to progress on this path. All we parties, political forces and society in general must demand that ETA lay down its weapons and renounce violence forever and unconditionally. We must not remain silent in view of these outrages; a firm and clear stance against ETA is needed.

We at UDALBILTZA[®] make a call to all Basque citizens to attend the acts and gatherings organized in condemnation of this outrage.

Governing Board of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 14th May 2008

WHY WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE

Is it a crime to ask the people in order to achieve peace and political normalization?

We have encouraged and promoted many projects and initiatives in order for a single Euskal Herria to become a reality – this constitutes our commitment.

Our commitment is that of the National Construction of Euskal Herria, and we work to achieve this despite the difficulties posed by the political times in which we are living.

Votes will be cast on Friday in the Gasteiz Parliament on the draft bill governing citizens' consultation. This constitutes an attempt to give the floor to citizens – to consult them about paving the way towards peace and political normalization.

We consider consultation to be a fundamental act so as to find a way out of a situation beset by conflict and achieve peace, by appealing exclusively to democracy and the will of citizens – because we Basques have the right to decide our future and to enter into democratic agreements without excluding anyone.

Since when has it been a crime to give a voice to the People? Can a State that considers itself to be democratic deny the legality of Popular Consultation? We are convinced that the response is a resounding "no." Consultation is legal, legitimate and democratic. It has been lawful to resort to consultation for a long time in Europe for the purpose of settling existing internal conflicts. In a similar vein, we wish to find a way out from the deep-rooted problems endured by this People, a way out from violence and towards political normalization.

We consider National Construction to be a dynamic and integrating process. And we find ourselves on the cusp of a major challenge in this process in terms of the path towards recognizing the identity of Our People. It is true that the consultation proposal will not extend to the whole of Euskal Herria. Yet even so, Friday will without any doubt be a historic day for all Euskal Herria.

We, as Basque municipally-elected councillors, once more wish to declare that we are a single People and that we have the right to decide our future among all of us and without exclusion in a peaceful and democratic manner.

GORA EUSKAL HERRIA,
GORA EUSKADI ASKATUTA!

Iruñea, 25th June 2008



EAE-ANV and EHAK

Declaration by UDALBILTZA[®] in view of the decision taken by the High Court to ban the political parties EAE-ANV and EHAK:

1. Any attack against or restriction of political and social rights causes a rift in the pacification and political normalization of our country and entails a direct act of aggression against the rights of citizens of Euskal Herria in freely and democratically deciding their future.
2. As elections constitute a fundamental element of democracy, by preventing the participation of any political force the voice of some people is therefore censored, thus violating a fundamental basic right and causing a rift in the political normalization of our society.
3. These decisions show that the judicial system in the form of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, the Treasury Counsel and the High Court are influenced by political decisions, given that political expression and violence are two different areas.
4. The law governing political parties will not bring us peace that we yearn for, and also hinders the consensus process. Consensus and, consequently, peace, will only be achieved through political channels, without forgetting the draft bill governing citizens' consultation a fundamental step towards the "and for" democracy.
5. The national construction of Euskal Herria will be achieved only through democratic and peaceful channels and via respect for all human rights, through which means we municipally-elected councillors of UDALBILTZA[®] will continue working.



Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 23rd September 2008

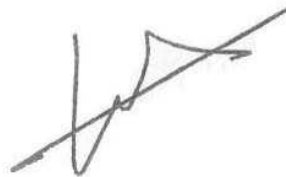
ETA HAS ONCE AGAIN TAKEN A STANCE AGAINST BASQUE SOCIETY

The killing by **ETA** today in **Santoña**, together with those at the weekend against the *Ertzaintza* Basque police station in Ondarroa and the offices of the Caja Vital savings bank in Vitoria, implies a terrorist attack against the whole of Euskal Herria, democracy and peace and, in short, against Basque society as a whole.

ETA has once again taken a stance against Basque society by committing this murder and these outrages in themselves imply a "yes" to violence and a "no" to political normalization.

Once again we reiterate our stance: violence and politics are incompatible; ETA is the main obstacle to national construction. We will achieve our right to decide for peace and the future of Euskal Herria by basing ourselves exclusively on democratic means and mutual respect.

UDALBILTZA[®], in addition to publicly condemning this brutal outrage by ETA, wishes to express its most sincere condolences to the family of the victim, Mr. Luis Conde de la Cruz.



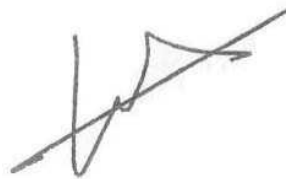
Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 23rd September 2008

UDALBILTZA IN VIEW OF THE MURDER OF INAZIO URIA MENDIZABAL

In view of the killing by ETA of the Azpeitia businessman, Inaxio Uria Mendizabal, UDALBILTZA wishes to declare the following:

1. Its most emphatic condemnation of this outrage which has taken the life of the Azpeitia citizen, Inaxio Uria Mendizabal.
2. Express its solidarity with and condolences to relatives, friends and work colleagues.
3. Declare its unequivocal support for all Basque businesspeople at this time of such pain.
4. We demand that ETA definitively abandon the path of violence and weapons.
5. We call all Basque citizens and municipally-elected councillors to take part in any acts organized in condemnation of this brutal murder and to continue fighting in favour of peace and the political normalization of the Basque People.



Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 3rd December 2008