

UDALBILTZA[®]

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS 2009



EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA UDAL HAUTETSIEIEN BILTZARRA

DECLARATION OF UDALBILTZA® FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST EITB

Following the terrorist attack committed by ETA on New Year's Eve 2008, UDALBILTZA® declares:

That it firmly condemns the terrorist attack against EITB and other media.

It expresses its solidarity with and support for those working in the media.

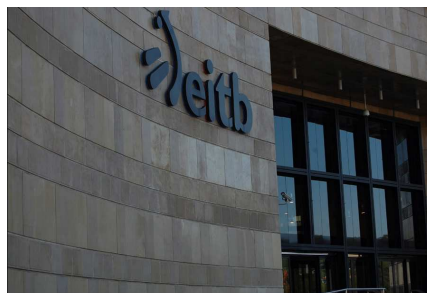
Attacking the media is an attack on "the freedom of information, communication and expression" and is a violation of a basic human right. ETA has no right to silence anybody.

It demands that ETA give up the avenue of violence and arms once and for all, and that this should be its last attack.

We call on all Basque citizens and elected representatives to take part in all the acts held in rejection of this attack and to demonstrate all their appreciation towards and support for the media affected in order to continue the struggle for peace and political normalisation in the Basque Nation together.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
Chairman of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 2nd of January 2009



THE INNOCENCE OF THOSE ACCUSED

UDALBILTZA® believes that the opening of the trial today by the Superior Court of Justice of the Basque Country against the Basque President Juan José Ibarretxe, the Basque Socialist leaders Patxi López and Rodolfo Ares, and the members of Batasuna Arnaldo Otegi, Rufi Etxeberria, Juan José Petrikorena, Pernando Barrena and Olatz Dañobeitia both unjust and pointless.

The Court is perpetrating a direct attack on the fundamental instrument of democratic life: political dialogue. This trial and the request for punishment represent a serious attack on our institutions and an attack on Basque society as a whole.

The undue intrusion of the judiciary in the political arena, criminalising the political action of elected representatives in the exercise of the functions for which they were elected, including the President Juan José Ibarretxe, foremost representative of the sovereignty of the people in the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, is a serious error.

UDALBILTZA® once again reaffirms its steadfast commitment to political normalisation based on peaceful, democratic dialogue. We would like to express our support of all those accused by the private prosecution and are absolutely convinced that their innocence will be demonstrated in the trial.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
Chairman of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 8th of January 2009

IMPRISONMENT OF NATIONALIST LEFT-WING SYMPATHISERS

Following the order to imprison several representatives of the nationalist left-wing given on the 13th of October by the Judge of the National Court Baltasar Garzón, Udalbiltza® declares:

The so longed-for political normalisation of our society will by necessity come through dialogue, negotiation, the efforts of everybody and agreement between those of different views, the dynamics of political persecution being a hindrance to its achievement, as are all violations of human rights and the non-ceasing of violence.

Such decisions demonstrate that the judiciary (Public Prosecutor, State Legal Service, Supreme Court) is corrupted by political decisions. Political participation and violence are two totally different things.

Likewise, we denounce the intention of the Prosecutor General, Cándido Conde Pumpido, to challenge the list of candidates of D3M and Askatasuna for the autonomous community elections to be held in March. The Law of Parties, the illegalisation of political formations and the arrest of their leaders do nothing but further exacerbate the current conflict in Euskal Herria.

Elections being a fundamental element of democracy, preventing the participation of any political group means silencing the voice of a group of citizens, violates a fundamental right and makes the political normalisation of our society ever more distant.

UDALBILTZA® once again adopts a firm position against attacks on ideological freedom, attacks on political pluralism and any limitation on the defence and dissemination of political projects provided such dissemination is performed democratically and does not rely on imposition.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
Chairman of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 28th of January 2009

THE GOVERNMENT OF NAVARRA'S DECISION TO BRING AN END TO BROADCASTING BY BASQUE-LANGUAGE RADIO STATIONS

Following the Government of Navarra's decision to end broadcasting by Basque-language radio stations under the pretext of the AENA report, Udalbiltza® declares the following in support of the freedom of expression, the freedom of information and the Basque language:

It denounces this infringement of the freedom of expression and the freedom of information, and attack on the Basque language and culture.

It overtly denounces the political intention behind these initiatives and the absence of democratic transparency in the acts of the Judiciary, increasingly subjected to the agendas of the agents of political power.

We call on all Basque citizens and elected representatives to take part in all the acts held in rejection of this attack on the freedom of expression and the Basque language, and to demonstrate all their appreciation towards and support for the media affected.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
Chairman of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 18th of June 2009

THE ASSASSINATION OF EDUARDO PUELLES GARCÍA

Following ETA's fatal terrorist attack on the Inspector of the National Police Force Eduardo Puelles García in Arrigorriaga today, Udalbiltza® declares:

- 1.- Its categorical rejection and condemnation of the attack which resulted in the death of Eduardo Puelles García.
- 2.- It expresses its solidarity with and condolences to his relatives, friends and colleagues.
- 3.- It demands that ETA abandon once and for all the avenue of violence and arms.

Today's attack once again represents an attack on Euskal Herria, democracy, peace and, in short, political normalisation. We call on all Basque citizens and elected representatives to take part in all the demonstrations to be held in front of Town Halls and other institutions to demonstrate their rejection of ETA and to continue in the struggle for the political normalisation of the Basque Nation.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
Chairman of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 19th of June 2009

TERRORIST ATTACKS COMMITTED BY ETA IN MALLORCA AND BURGOS

1.- Its most categorical rejection and condemnation of the terrorist attack which resulted in the deaths of the Civil Guards Diego Salvá Lezaun and Carlos Sáenz de Tejada, and the attempted massacre in the barracks-family quarters in Burgos.

2.- It expresses its solidarity with and condolences to their relatives, friends and colleagues, and all the victims.

3.- It expresses its most absolute condemnation of ETA and demands that it abandon once and for all the avenue of violence and arms. They must bring 50 years of terror and destruction to an end. They are perfectly aware that they do not have the political or social support of Euskal Herria.

These attacks once again represent an attack on Euskal Herria, democracy, peace and, in short, political normalisation. We call on all Basque citizens and elected representatives to take part in all the demonstrations to be held in front of Town Halls and other institutions to demonstrate their rejection of ETA and to continue in the struggle for the political normalisation of the Basque Nation.

Governing Board of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 31th of July 2009

GRIEF FOR THE LOSS OF JOSE MARI AGIRRE

Overcome with grief on learning of the loss of Jose Mari Agirre, "Txato", the Directing body of UDALBIDE-UDALBILTZA® wishes to express its deepest sorrow on the death of this politician AND supporter of the Basque language, whose loss is irreparable in so many fields, due particularly to his degree of humanity and for having done so much for the politics of Euskal Herria. In addition to having been a Councillor on Tolosa Town Council, MP in Gipuzkoa and having held several posts in the Basque Government, he was also a member of the Executive Board of UDALBIDE from September 1999 to November 2003.

José María Txato Agirre (Ataun, 1943) had lived in Tolosa for many years, was married and had two children. An economist by profession, he had great experience in the world of politics and public administration.

He was widely known in Basque politics and the world of economics. Until yesterday, he was Second Deputy Chairman of Kutxa, and previously served as representative of Economics and Deputy Minister of Culture in the Basque Government.

Until last March, he acted as economic advisor to Juan José Ibarretxe's Government. He was also head of the Basque Institute of Statistics, Eustat, for a time.

At such a difficult time, Udalbide expresses its sincerest condolences to the entire family and all of Txato's friends and colleagues. Agur betirako, lankide eta lagun.

Executive Board of Udalbide

Euskal Herria, 8th of august 2009



ARREST OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONALIST LEFT-WING

Following the arrest on the 13th of October of Arnaldo Otegi, Rafa Díez Usabiaga, Rufi Etxeberria and seven other representatives of the nationalist left-wing on the instructions of the Judge of the National Court Baltasar Garzón, the representatives of UDALBILTZA® declare:

We believe that these arrests, in addition to being a violation of the civil and political rights of those arrested, represent a serious attack on attempts to achieve peace and political normalisation in Euskal Herria, given that these by necessity will have to come through dialogue, negotiation, the efforts of everybody and agreement between different political groups.

Political participation and violence are two totally different things. The idea that "everything is terrorism" is unacceptable. Decisions of this kind demonstrate that the judicial system has been corrupted by political ideas. In this respect, we believe particularly significant the announcement made by Minister of the Interior Pérez Rubalcaba last August in which he stated that no expression of the nationalist left-wing, "even when it expressly condemns the violence of ETA, should have the chance to act in politics while ETA still exists".

UDALBILTZA® once again adopts a firm position against attacks on ideological freedom, attacks on political pluralism and any limitation on the defence and dissemination of political projects provided that they abide by the rules of democracy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 15th of October 2009

ARREST OF 36 YOUNG PEOPLE FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE ORGANISATION SEGI

Following the order to arrest 36 young people associated with the organisation SEGI given on the 26th of November by the Judge of the Spanish National Court Fernando Grande Marlaska, UDALBILTZA® declares:

1. We believe that these arrests, in addition to being a violation of the civil and political rights of those arrested, represent a serious attack on attempts to achieve peace and political normalisation in Euskal Herria, given that these by necessity will have to come through dialogue, negotiation, the efforts of everybody and agreement between different political groups.

2. Political participation and violence are two totally different things. The idea that "everything is terrorism" is unacceptable. In the words of some, those arrested for belonging to the organisation Segi belong to ETA. Because there have been arrests? Because they belong to ETA? Or because they will one day? Where are the basic principles of the Rule of Law?

3. When taking statements from young people, restrictions on the detainees' right of communication cause no more than suffering to their relatives. We ask for transparency, as in all judicial proceedings.

4. Likewise, the attacks committed in the streets at the weekend against buses were totally despicable... Violence will lead us nowhere.

UDALBILTZA® once again adopts a firm position against attacks on ideological freedom, attacks on political pluralism and any limitation on the defence and dissemination of political projects provided that they abide by the rules of democracy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 30th of November 2009

SOLIDARITY WITH THE EGUNKARIA DEFENDANTS

As it did in 2003, UDALBILTZA® would once again like to denounce the trial set to begin today and the failure of justice which led to the closure of Egunkaria. We are facing one of the most serious attacks on the freedom of expression and the Basque language, and at the same time an attack on all Basque-language speakers by depriving us of something which we felt our own.

1. It denounces this infringement of the freedom of expression and the freedom of information, and attack on the Basque language and culture.
2. It overtly denounces the political intention behind these initiatives and the absence of democratic transparency in the acts of the Judiciary, increasingly subjected to the agendas of the agents of political power.

Let us rally to the cry of Free Egunkaria! And on the 19th, we will take to the streets in Bilbao.

EXECUTIVE BOARD of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 15th of December 2009