

FROM THE PATH OF SELF-DETERMINATION TO INDEPENDENCE!

The 30th anniversary of the Spanish Constitution will be held in a moment of great political significance for the Basque society. The tool which channelled the transition after the dictatorship, and which refused the democratic rights to the Basque People and established political-economic dependence, is still the determinant totem of the Spanish unionism to maintain the sovereignty conflict between the Basque Country and the Spanish State.

To talk about the Spanish Constitution means to talk about the branches of that legal-political trunk: the autonomy statutes. Statutes are not something out of the Constitution, like PNV leaders sometimes want to show to hide their limits and to back their political offer. This is an analytic and, of course, political fraud. Therefore, the Constitution and the statutes are part of the same legal-political block.

1.-The constitutional and statute operation

Thirty years are enough to assess the political evolution in the Basque Country and the national liberation process, which bring the Basque working and popular sectors and the Spanish State into conflict, deeply and calmly. But, usually, the dense political fog prevents us from assessing the phases of the national liberation process appropriately.

Firstly, we want to remind that only the pro-independence left denounced the operation designed by the economical and military forces in power to continue the national and class oppression of Franco's regime with a political disguise.

After 30 years, we heard voices, late but welcome, that openly recognize that the Spanish transition was controlled and blackmailed by the Spanish army and the oligarchy, which marked the limits of the political reform: the unity of Spain in a new framework for internal territorial organization, the private property, the monarchy, the flag, the law for forgetting the crimes committed during the dictatorship, etc. These were the bases for constructing the "young Spanish democracy".

Interestingly, that Amnesty Law from 1977 is now the firewall to avoid political and penal trial against Franco's dictatorship, as it is one of the few fascist regimes immune to its criminal policy.

And these bases were unfortunately accepted and legitimized by the Spanish left and the Basque nationalists. Therefore, they made the reform of Franco's dictatorship credible and did not let progressive political and social alternatives take place. Thus, the Constitutional Agreement and the Moncloa Agreement were the two faces of a Constitution backed and directed by the spirit of Franco's dictatorship.

The transition never became established in the Basque Country, and it now has clear signs of exhaustion. The transition pro-independence left does not want to stay tied to those references, but it is unavoidable to look into the future without the pedagogical perspective of those historical moments. Just because, as it is written, the peoples who forget about their history are condemned to relive it.

2.-The objectives of the operation

In the constitutional operation the State's objective was clear: to destroy the pro-independence project and to legitimate the territorial partition status and the absence of sovereignty. The division of the national subject in the Southern Basque Country, as in the case of the Catalonian Countries, aimed to deny the Basque political subject itself. On the other hand, the artificial configuration of the territorial map (17 autonomies) aimed to neutralize the internal national problem.

The imposition of the Constitution, and the transference of the autonomic power to PNV and PSN, was linked to the repressive combat against the dissidence and resistance formed by the pro-independence left. Several governments have tried to destroy and to politically reintegrate the pro-independence left in the established constitutional model, through special laws or state crimes (GAL and others).

3.-The political balance

The pro-independence left-wing activists have face that situation by organizing the people, fighting in town halls and parliaments, through trade unions' fight and popular struggle, among others. And we can say humbly that although we have committed errors and made failures; we have unmasked and used up the constitutional framework which they wanted to impose in the Basque Country.

Now we can assure without any doubt that the constitutional and statute framework is not credible and has no ability to continue being strategic. Most of the Basque people aim to construct its future with radically different parameters from those established by the Constitution and the partitionary statutes.

We can assure that the objective and subjective conditions for the political change are real in the social and popular network of the Basque Country.

At the same time, during the last decades, the number of citizens who aim to build a Basque state in Europe has increased, and we can assure that in a democratic situation, the will be the majority. This reality is based on the statement that the international community, specifically, the European Union is witnessing the creation of new states as the result of the democratic will of diverse nations. The examples of Ireland, Scotland, Flanders, Greenland, Faeroe Islands or Slovenia, Slovakia, Byelorussia and Lithuania, some years ago, are a clear reflect of the international situation. The will of peoples to become states continue to give way to the European scenario.

Thus, from our left-wing and transformer point of view, we are excited and expecting the new global phenomena, particularly, the ones in Latin America. The processes which have turned into a second struggle for political and economic sovereignty, because they face the colonialism of multinationals and international capital.

This is why we are in the umpteenth cyclical crisis of capitalism. We reaffirm our will to defend the interest of Basque workers in their fight for an alternative social model.

4.-The present situation: our challenges

The pro-independence left considers that the Basque people is before a new political cycle. But the present model to advance towards a new situation is used up and it cannot be used for defining new political bases, in the political debate or the general state strategy.

In this situation, the Basque pro-independence socialists have an important challenge to face: to build an efficient strategy to achieve our tactical objectives and to feed our strategic approach, that is, an effective strategy to achieve a democratic scenario, so that all the political options can be possible and the pro-independence and socialist project is reinforced.

These will be our tasks:

a) To neutralize the aims of PNV to bring the past through “political agreements” which aim to stop the political change based on the reconnaissance of the Basque Country as a nation. The political and economical mortgage of that party cannot extend to the whole Basque people.

The trials to re-edit old autonomist formula, and to repeat the errors of the past 30 years, have to be stopped by pro-independence Basque citizens. In that sense, the pro-independence citizens have to join forces and form a block for people who want to reject the present imposition mechanisms, which deny nationalist and progressive feelings.

b) To create a real and effective alternative so that the Basque people has the political, social, organizational and institutional tools for starting the way to build the Basque State. For the creation of the State, the Basque national subject will have to be taken into account and, at the same time, to suggest an alternative to the present social model, so that the interests of workers and popular classes are place in the centre of the political and institutional activity.

c) To create a dialogue and negotiation process, in order to take the Basque Country to a scenario of fair, steady and durable peace, from the national reconnaissance and the respect to the will of citizens. We reaffirm that we will continue through the path started in the Anoeta Declaration, as we consider that we can only resolve the political conflict democratically with negotiation and dialogue. We will find integral solutions so that Basque political prisoners are freed.

d) To structure an answer to the political and institutional oppression and apartheid, to create a front against the systematic violation of civil and political rights, oppression and the persecution of some sectors of the Basque society.

For all that, we call the pro-independence sectors to join forces and face these challenges.

Finally, in line with the above mentioned challenges and tasks, we believe that it is necessary that all the trade union, social and political agents who share the objectives, start discussing and reflecting.

We are sincerely willing to do it.

In Euskal Herria, 6th December 2008.