

UDALBILTZA[®]

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATIONS 2007



EUSKAL HERRIKO UDAL ETA UDAL HAUTETSIEIEN BILTZARRA

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION IN VIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK BY ETA

5th January 2007

THIS IS NOT THE WAY FORWARD. LEAVE EUSKAL HERRIA IN PEACE!

2006, the year that would go down in our history, has during its very last few days left us with a regrettable event, although we at UDALBILTZA[®] shall continue to pursue the path to peace. This critical moment is not going to change our attitude towards constructing peace and political normalization in Euskal Herria.

Thus, in view of this critical situation and in order to continue along the difficult path to peace, we wish to stress the firm commitment on the part of Basque society and its elected representatives to peace and its stance against violence.

We members of UDALBILTZA[®], today in a louder voice than ever, wish to proclaim the following principles:

1. **THE RIGHT TO DECIDE SOVEREIGNTY.** We members of UDALBILTZA[®] defend the right of Basque citizens to decide against all those who wish to take that right away from us.
2. **DEMOCRACY.** Respecting the voice of Euskal Herria means respecting the voice and decision-making powers of its political representatives against all those who attempt to silence it.
3. **RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.** For our people, the defence of democratic rights is based on respect for the rights of all citizens. Consequently, we demand that whoever fails to respect human rights, such as ETA, should stop doing so in the name of Euskal Herria, as we Basque municipally-elected councillors do not approve of any violation of human rights in our name.

Those of us who are municipally-elected councillors who represent the voice and will of Euskal Herria ask our entire political class and Basque society as a whole to proclaim these basic principles together, as a sign of maturity.

Let all we social and political agents together resolutely tell ETA: THIS IS NOT THE WAY FORWARD. LEAVE EUSKAL HERRIA IN PEACE!

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA®

Iruña, 5th January 2007

IN DEFENCE OF OUR INSTITUTIONS

25th January 2007

In view of the criminal prosecution that has been instituted against the *Lehendakari* (Basque President) for having arranged a meeting with leaders of Batasuna, the Assembly of Basque municipally-elected councillors of UDALBILTZA[®] wishes to declare the following:

1. That dialogue is the fundamental instrument for achieving peace and political normalization through democratic channels.
2. That prosecution of the *Lehendakari*, the top institutional representative of Euskadi, for having maintained dialogue and criminalizing his political actions – actions for which he has been democratically elected - entails a serious incursion on the part of the Judiciary.

Consequently, this entails an attack against the democratic channel *par excellence* for solving conflicts – dialogue – an attack against our institutions and, as a result, an attack against Basque society as a whole.

3. We offer our most energetic support to the *Lehendakari*, demanding that the criminal prosecution against the citizens he represents be shelved.

In view of the aforementioned, we wish to make a call to all Basque municipally-elected councillors and Basque citizens in general to attend a demonstration next Monday 29th, in Bilbao, under the motto "In defence of our institutions", and also to support any other initiatives that may promote the same cause such as the gathering of signatures and the proposal of motions in different institutions.

THE PRESIDENT OF UDALBILTZA[®]
Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi

THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF UDALBILTZA[®]
Jesus M^a Agirrezabalaga

Azpeitia 25th January 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION IN VIEW OF THE END OF THE CEASEFIRE

5th June 2007

A STEP BACK

The end of the ceasefire announced by ETA drags us back to a dark past and constitutes a major setback. It returns us to a past of fear and threat. It forces us to take a step back in all issues related to peace, democracy and normalization and leaves all us Basques in a state of impotence and bitterness.

In view of this situation, we need to claim the right of this people to decide its own future in peace and freedom in a louder voice than ever and that ETA is the main stumbling block to pursuing this path.

The main consequences of the end of the ceasefire are as follows:

1. The renunciation of the path set out by Batasuna in Anoeta, and therefore the renunciation of political channels.
2. The end of the peace political process and political normalization due to an express decision by ETA and a return to a climate of fear and violence in our country.

Within this context, UDALBILTZA[®] defends the right to live in peace and for Basque people to decide and, just as we have defended it in the past, we shall continue to defend it in the future. Basque citizens have the right to develop in peace, democracy and freedom. And we elected representatives of UDALBILTZA[®] shall work to try and ensure this is possible.

ETA has once again taken a stance against Basque society by resorting to violence and a denial of the peace process, as well as assuming representation of Euskal Herria – representation that nobody has granted it and which the immense majority reject.

Therefore, unlike ETA, we elected representatives of UDALBILTZA® shall work to find a solution based on the following principles: the end of violence, the definitive dismantling of ETA and an agreement among public agents as a result of a process of dialogue and resolution.

We are going to pursue this path.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA®

Euskal Herria, 5th June 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION IN VIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN DURANGO

24th August 2007

ETA IS NOT WITH BASQUE SOCIETY

Today on 24th August 2007, in view of the terrorist attack in Durango, we once more feel compelled to demand the right of this people to decide its future in peace and freedom, and to stress that ETA is the main stumbling block to achieving this.

In view of this fact, we elected representatives of UDALBILTZA[®] wish to express and declare the following:

1. Our solidarity with the injured and people affected.
2. That dialogue, agreement and referendum on the part of citizens are the way forward in order to achieve political normalization, with ETA being the main stumbling block to pursuing this path.
3. That as a consequence, all we parties and political forces in general once again demand that ETA should lay down its arms and put an end to the violence once and for all.

ETA has once again taken a stance against Basque society by resorting to violence. UDALBILTZA[®] defends the right to live in peace and for Basque people to decide and, just as we have defended it in the past, we shall continue to defend it always. Basque citizens have the right to develop in peace, democracy and freedom.

We wish to stress the firm commitment on the part of Basque society and its elected representatives to peace and its stance against violence.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 24th August 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION IN VIEW OF THE PROSECUTION OF ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE *IZQUIERDA ABERTZALE* (BASQUE NATIONALIST LEFT) ASSEMBLY

14th September 2007

RESTRICTING FREEDOM

In view of the motion for imprisonment served by the Public Prosecutor's Office of the *Audiencia Nacional* (Spanish High Court) for the elected members of the *Izquierda Abertzale* (Basque nationalist left) Assembly,

UDALBILTZA[®] wishes to once again reiterate its firm stance with regard to attacks against ideological freedom, against political pluralism and against any restriction of the defence and dissemination of political projects, provided that these are pursued through democratic channels rather than via imposition.

Long-awaited political normalization will necessarily come about via dialogue, negotiation, the efforts of all and every one of us and agreement among those with different views, with the dynamics of political persecution constituting a stumbling block to achieving this, as is the case with all violations of human rights and the persistence of violence.

Lastly, we wish to reiterate our firm commitment to peace and political normalization.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 14th September 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION IN VIEW OF THE TERRORIST ATTACK BY ETA IN BILBAO

9th October 2007

UNACCEPTABLE

The terrorist attack perpetrated by ETA today in Bilbao is unacceptable. With this violent act, this armed organization has gone back to its old ways of making this People suffer once again.

UDALBILTZA[®] condemns this brutal outrage and wishes to express its sincere solidarity with the seriously-injured Gabriel Ginés, with his family and with the PSE councillor from Galdakao, Juan Carlos Domingo.

The political normalization of Euskal Herria will necessarily come about via dialogue, negotiation, the efforts of all and every one of us and the agreement of all persuasions. Arrests and outrages merely ensure the violation of human rights and the persistence of violence.

We at UDALBILTZA[®] once again wish to reiterate our firm commitment to political normalization based on dialogue, without any type of violence.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 9th October 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION AGAINST THE TRIAL OF POLITICIANS

31st October 2007

AGAINST TRIAL

UDALBILTZA[®] considers the decree to institute court proceedings by TSJPV against the *Lehendakari* Juan José Ibarretxe, the Basque socialist leaders Patxi López and Rodolfo Ares, and the members of Batasuna Arnaldo Otegi, Rufi Etxeberria, Juan José Petrikorena, Fernando Barrena and Olatz Dañobeitia, to be unjust.

The judge has gone directly against a fundamental tool of democracy: political dialogue. This motion for a criminal trial entails a serious attack against our institutions, and an attack against Basque society as a whole.

It is a serious mistake that the judiciary should intervene so inappropriately in the field of democratic policy aimed at solving the conflict by criminalizing the political actions of politicians, including the *Lehendakari* himself, when such politicians have been democratically elected to do what they are doing – even more so in the case of the *Lehendakari*, Jose Ibarretxe, as the top institutional representative.

We at UDALBILTZA[®] once again wish to reiterate our firm commitment to political normalization based on peaceful dialogue.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 31st October 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION AGAINST THE TERRORIST ATTACK BY ETA IN CAPBRETON

4th December 2007

In view of the terrorist attack committed by ETA on 1st December in Capbreton, and after expressing our solidarity with the families of the victims, we at UDALBILTZA[®] once again wish to declare the following:

1. Life is a fundamental right.
2. Respect for this fundamental right is essential for peaceful coexistence. The outrage which took place on Saturday goes directly against that right and shows contempt for the desire of the majority of citizens by repeatedly rejecting that desire.
3. Violence and politics are incompatible. The greatest stumbling block to peace and political normalization is violence.

All society, all we elected representatives and all political parties reject ETA. We demand that ETA lay down its arms once and for all.

In making this clear, we at UDALBILTZA[®] wish to condemn the arrests of those involved in the 18/98 committal proceedings served by the *Audiencia Nacional* (Spanish High Court). These committal proceedings have from the outset constituted a political trial with the intention of demonstrating the principle that "everything is ETA". In ordering these unfounded arrests, the *Audiencia Nacional* is merely magnifying the already existing conflict.

This people should have the right to decide its future. The legal-political framework that implies this right shall be attained via the efforts of all and every one of us and by means of dialogue based on mutual respect. Consequently, at this critical time, we elected representatives of Euskal Herria condemn the violence and shall strive to attain our objectives via the aforementioned principles.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 4th December 2007

INSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION: 18/98 COMMITTAL PROCEEDINGS

20th December 2007

18/98

In view of the ruling passed by the *Audiencia Nacional* (Spanish High Court) and the imprisonment of those on trial in the 18/98 committal proceedings, we at UDALBILTZA[®] once again wish to reiterate the following:

- 1- This macro-legal framework confirms a serious case of politicization of justice. In our opinion, it evidences the link existing in the Spanish state between the Executive and the Judiciary – an assessment that has also been shared by European observers and jurists.
- 2- In previous declarations, we have condemned the fact this process already started from the premise that “everything is ETA” and that the subsequent long-winded, inconsistent proceedings has entailed an attempt to demonstrate this prejudice.
- 3- The actions of the *Audiencia Nacional* aggravate the situation regarding the already existing conflict, and entail a serious setback in the quest for the normalization and pacification of Euskal Herria.

Euskal Herria has the right to decide its own future, we have agreed upon a legal-political framework that makes this possible, and this shall be attained through dialogue based on mutual respect without incursions, via exclusively peaceful channels.

Consequently, we at UDALBILTZA[®] will be attending the act arranged by the 18/98+ Platform to express our solidarity with those persons who have been sentenced and to demand an independent judicial system.

Julian Eizmendi Zinkunegi
President of UDALBILTZA[®]

Euskal Herria, 20th December 2007