

# GZ.I Galiza International



## Galizan National Day: Stronger together to defend our nation

Falling on the 25 of July, Galizan National Day provides the opportunity to demand sovereignty for our nation and to claim our right to build a sovereign State.

The Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG) took part in the massive united national demonstration through the streets of the capital, Santiago de Compostela, ending in a 25,000 strong rally in the main Quintana Square, where the grassroots citizens platform that organised the event read out the manifesto in favour of the unity of all Galizan political organisations in the defence of our nation.

“This is a day of deep satisfaction with a unitary demonstration bringing together everyone who wants a future for Galiza, a future for our young people and for everyone who wants Galiza to have the instruments necessary to govern itself so that our people can enjoy the dignity that so many likeminded nationalists have sought for decades”, said the National Spokesperson for the BNG, Xavier Vence.



The Galizan Nationalist Bloc expressed its satisfaction that this year's National Day demonstration was organised under the umbrella of a unitary citizens platform, bringing together several political and grassroots organisations in favour of Galizan sovereignty. The march was a political act by Galizan united as a whole: “by everyone who believes in Galiza and who hopes and seeks to build a nation recognised around the world, a sovereign Galiza”, in the words of Xavier Vence.



Various international delegations also took part in the unitary demonstration as well as the Festival organised by the BNG as part of Galizan National Day celebrations in solidarity with the cause of Galizan freedom, including EH Bildu and the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) from the Basque Country, the Popular Unity Candidates (CUP), More for Mallorca (MÉS), the Valencian Nationalist Bloc (Bloc) and the Commitment Coalition (Compromís) from the Catalan Countries, the Portuguese Communist Party and the Left Bloc from Portugal.

## BNG, EH-BILDU and CUP sign the Bonaval Declaration in defence of sovereignty for the peoples

The BNG, EH-BILDU and the CUP signed the joint Bonaval Declaration on the eve of Galizian National Day in the symbolic setting of the Pantheon of Illustrious Galizans, committing themselves to work together in order to surpass the current framework enshrined in the Spanish Constitution of 1978, working towards constitutive processes in Galiza, the Basque Country and Catalonia and to defend the full sovereignty of our three nations.

In the current context, the BNG believes the time has come to take a step forwards, convinced that sharing common aims will make us all the stronger and more able to secure advances in our struggle for the sovereignty of our peoples.

“This Declaration is the expression of a shared political determination to work together to pave the way to freedom for our na-



tions”, said the National Spokesperson for the BNG, Xavier Vence, for whom sovereignty is the only real, fair, social solution to the crisis blighting the institutional system as it stands, as well as the equally serious economic and social crisis destroying workers’ rights and the living conditions of the vast majority.

Xavier Vence also stressed that the Bonaval Declaration is open to all existing Galizian, Basque and Catalan nationalist and independentist political forces “to join this initiative to build a sovereign future for all of our peoples.”

The Bonaval Declaration was signed by Maite Ubiria, Roger Castellanos and Xavier Vence on behalf of EH Bildu (Basque Country), Popular Unity Candidates (Catalonia) and the Galizian Nationalist Bloc (Galiza) respectively.

## The Bonaval Declaration

The signatories organisations are political tools at the service of Galiza, the Catalan Countries and the Basque Country. Our organisations do not agree with the set-up of the so-called Spanish Transition, nor were we party to the creation of the European Union.

In practice, both the territorial and political model imposed by the Spanish State and the system defended by the EU, as seen applied to Greece, have come to embody the breach, if not the outright aggression, of citizens’ rights and the right of the peoples to sovereignty.

In the case of the Spanish State, the system based on the so-called Autonomous Communities which fell short of the expectations of our nations at the time has led to recentralisation and the gradual erosion of the few token elements of acknowledgement of the plurinational nature of the State acquired largely thanks to the struggle waged by those of us who refused to be party to the operation designed to whitewash the Francoist regime, clearly enshrined today in the monarchy and the Constitution of 1978.

Therefore, in the light of the differences between nations, we believe that there is no single formula or model that can be expor-

ted and that it is up to our own peoples to democratically define the path they wish to follow, thereby effectively exercising the principle of national sovereignty.

True democracy is when people are free to build a future founded on social justice, equality and welfare. For our organisations, such a future necessarily implies breaking with the social and economic model currently in force in both the Spanish State and the European Union.

We agree that all peoples should avail themselves of the means necessary to carry out their process of self-determination and we believe that exercising the principle of self-organisation is an essential part of this process.

We, the signatory organisations, believe that true democracy it is as impossible today as it ever was unless we undertake a process in order to break free from the hold of the Spanish State that oppresses us. As and when they demand it, we claim the right for our peoples to lead constitutional processes or, in other words, to recover our sovereignty and to expand democracy without having to depend upon a similar process at the State level. However, this does not mean that we

look down upon any such a process of change within the Spanish State and as internationalists we can and do feel solidarity with peoples and sectors of society who seek to lead such a long-awaited political change.

We, the signatory organisations, meeting in Santiago de Compostela on the eve of Galizian National Day, undertake the following commitments:

- To strengthen the ties between our peoples and to encourage contacts and the exchange of political, social, cultural and linguistic experiences between our nations;
- To cooperate in order to advance towards achieving the joint aim of breaking free from the model enshrined in the Constitution of 1978 and to set in motion constitutional processes in the Basque Country, Galiza and the Catalan Countries;
- To provide mutual support in the face of any attacks which seek to hinder the progress of each of our nations in their search for full sovereignty;
- To uphold the right of the peoples of the world to decide their own future, free from outside interference.





## Local Elections: The BNG Stands Firm as an Alternative to Traditional Parties

Last May, Galizans went to the polls to elect their local councillors. The elections were marked by a major swing in the main towns and cities in Galiza, with the ruling People's Party in Galiza and the Spanish State beaten at the polls, losing in most of the cities and main towns as well as three out of the four provincial governments.

The Galizan Nationalist Bloc stood its ground as a clear reference in the fight for national sovereignty and as an alternative to the two-party system alternating between the People's Party and the Spanish Socialist Party, the bastion of the Spanish political regime. The polls confirmed the BNG as the third political option with 13% of the votes, 40,000 more votes than in the previous Galizan elections, increasing its number of elected mayors to thirty, including the city of Pontevedra.

The National Executive stressed that the results were a direct consequence of the work put into the campaign, thanking the thousands of BNG members and supporters for their time and effort, especially those who took part in the Open Assemblies, as well as the more than 4,000 men and women who ran on the nationalist ticket.

The National Direction of the BNG took a positive view of the results overall despite the situation in the main cities. The BNG strengthened its hold most notably in the medium and small towns and constituencies where it already had a ruling mayor, including the major city of Pontevedra where the BNG has governed for 16 years, increasing in votes and councillors. The BNG also remained stable in the cities of Lugo and Ferrol. Unfortunately, the results were less positive in other cities, especially Vigo and Ourense.

The National Executive Commission assessed the outcome of the elections favourably overall, placing the BNG in a position to continue advancing and to contest approaching elections with every hope of success, especially the forthcoming Spanish general elections. The BNG currently has two out of the 23 MPs elected in Galiza to the Spanish Parliament and hopes not only to keep its seats, but to increase them substantially. To that end, the BNG is promoting a broad Galizan National Candidacy for Unity, bringing together all of the organisations in favour of self-determination and a democratic break with the Spanish political system as it stands in order for Galiza to exercise its right to sovereignty.

## BNG Participates in the Freedom Flotilla III in Defence of the Palestinian People

The representative of the BNG in Brussels and ex-MEP, Ana Miranda, took part in the 3rd Freedom Flotilla, made up of 4 boats, whose aim was to smash the blockade of the Gaza Strip and denounce Israel's continuous violation of the rights of the Palestinian people.

Ana Miranda boarded the Swedish-flagged vessel Marianne, the flagship of the flotilla on its way to Gaza, carrying medicine and solar panels. On board, together with the representative of the BNG, was a crew of 50 activists from several countries. Flaunting international law, the Marianne was illegally intercepted in international waters in the early hours of 29 June by the Israeli Navy and escorted to the military port of Ashdod in Israel.



"We didn't manage to break the blockade, but we did manage to break the media blackout and hold our heads high," said Ana Miranda on her arrival in Santiago de Compostela after her release. Miranda insisted that Israel's illegal detention of a ship carrying humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people constituted an act of piracy.

The BNG denounced these acts before the Galizan and Spanish governments, reiterating its support for the Palestinian people and its right to self-determination in order to enjoy "freedom, peace and democracy in an independent, sovereign State." The BNG also called upon the Spanish government to recognise the State of Palestine within the frontiers prior 1967 "according to the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 November 2012" which the Spanish government voted in favour of.



# Internationalist Declaration for peace and democracy in Kurdistan and Turkey

**Joint Declaration signed by the Galizan Nationalist Bloc (Galiza), EH Bildu (Basque Country), the Popular Unity Candidates (Catalonia) and Puyalón de Cuchas (Aragon)**

*On Monday 20 July in the town of Pirsûs/Suruç in Turkish-controlled Northern Kurdistan, ISIL murdered 32 young anti-fascist activists on their way to help with rebuilding work in Kobanî. The massacre was a physical attack against internationalist solidarity as well as a symbolic attack against the project of a revolutionary social, economic and political alternative currently underway in Rojava (Syrian-controlled Western Kurdistan).*

*The Turkish State which had up until then tolerated and even abetted the presence of ISIL launched its first military operation in the Syrian conflict, taking advantage of the situation to carry out airstrikes on the Kurdish resistance in the Qendil Mountains in Iraqi-controlled Southern Kurdistan and arresting hundreds of activists and trade unionists in the main cities in Northern Kurdistan under Turkish control.*

*This turnaround in Turkish policy led to the breakdown of the process of peace talks between the Turkish government and the Kurdish national and social liberation movement since 2010, effectively ending any hope of peace.*

*Once again, Turkey has resorted to a strategy of repression, publicly and deceitfully equating the ultra-conservative fundamentalist fascism of ISIL with the grassroots, self-organised uprising of the Kurdish people, fighting in the name of life, interculturalism, anti-fascism radical democracy and women's liberation. Our Kurdish comrades were portrayed as terrorists after they were themselves the target of bomb attack carried out in collusion with the Turkish State by allowing groups sympathetic to ISIL to set up and operate unhindered on Turkish territory.*

*With its deeply authoritarian attitude characteristic of oppressive*

*states which nationalist and independentist organisations in the Spanish State are also unfortunately too familiar with, the Turkish government has once again shown its complete lack of commitment to peace after two years of talks, refusing to take any steps towards resolving the conflict and democratising Turkey.*

*The organisations which sign this Declaration condemn the Pirsûs/Suruç bombing carried out on 20 July and express our solidarity and friendship with the families and comrades of the victims and at the same time reiterate our support for all of those striving to build a political, social and economic alternative in Kurdistan and Turkey.*

*We hereby call upon the Turkish government:*

- *to immediately halt the persecution and the repressive strategy targeting the Kurdish national and social liberation movement and the Kurdish people in general as well as all other democratic grassroots political alternatives;*
- *to immediately release all of our Kurdish comrades under arrest;*
- *to undertake a genuine commitment to a peaceful resolution to this conflict, with the current stance only leading to more suffering, more displaced and exiled persons and more control for those opposed to all forms of plural, democratic life.*
- *We also urge the international community to take immediate action, abandoning its traditional strategy of turning a blind eye and consenting to the violation of the most basic human rights.*

**Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG)**

Avenida Rodríguez de Viguri 16 baixo, 15702 Santiago de Compostela (Galiza)

<http://bng.gal>

Twitter: @obloque

[internacional@bng.gal](mailto:internacional@bng.gal)