

GZ.I Galiza International





Massive demonstration in defence of the Galizan language

The BNG and its youth wing, Galiza Nova, backed the demonstration held in Santiago de Compostela on Sunday 8 February 2015 demanding the right to live in Galizan and calling for measures designed to guarantee the future of "our own language which unites us all".

the Galizan government publicly congratulates itself on the high level of theoretical proficiency in Galizan, young people in particular are turning their backs on the language due to the lack of resources in Galizan (schooling, films, cartoons, magazines, etc.), making it impossible to live normally in Galizan. Only 13% of children aged 5-14 usually speak Galizan, as opposed to 47% who only ever use Spanish. These figures are especially worrying given that a break in inter-generational transmission is one of the key factors threatening the survival of a language in the short to medium term.



With the slogan For our children's children and led by a group of children carrying a banner which read For us, over 25,000 people took to the streets of the capital of Galiza joining the demonstration organised by Queremos Galego!, a broad-based apolitical platform bringing together a wide range of local and national bodies and individuals from all sectors of society.

Despite the fact that on paper Galizan is one of the two official languages of the Autonomous Community, the ruling Spanish right-wing People's Party (PP) has taken advantage of its overall majority in the Galizan Parliament to single-handedly push through a series of regressive policies including, for example, making it illegal to teach mathematics and technology in Galizan.

Owing to the lack of institutional support and the constant attacks on our language, increasingly fewer people use Galizan as their main language today, with a 12% drop over a single five-year period (2008-2013) according to recent figures published by the Galizan Institute of Statistics. While

The leaders of the PP are well aware that, as the Galizan nationalist, Castelao, once wrote: "If we are still Galizans, it is thanks to our language!" This explains why they are so keen to uproot our tongue, in order to turn us into just another 'region' of docile subjects of the Kingdom of Spain.

The Galizan language is a key element of our national identity and, as such, the BNG demands a new policy designed to revitalise the language, starting by repealing all of the regressive measures imposed by the People's Party to date.



No to the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)!

The BNG rejects the TTIP currently under secret negotiations between the USA and the EU which, if and when approved, would have disastrous consequences for labour, social and economic rights, healthcare and the environment, while at the same time curtailing all of the regulations governing secession and sovereignty.

It is clearly designed to undermine the sovereignty of the nation-states, yet another step towards allowing multinational corporations complete control over government policy and even going so far as to guarantee profit on their investments. It is therefore legitimate and all the more necessary that nations like Galiza are able to exercise their sovereignty, because it is a right and because we need institutions which are close to the people with a real capacity for taking decisions and over which the citizens can exercise control.

Participation in the *Avante!* festival

A large BNG delegation headed on this occasion by the members of the Executive Néstor Rego and Montse Prado took part in the *Avante!* festival organised by the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) in September. During the festival, as part of the commemorations of the 40th anniversary of the Carnation Revolution, the BNG took part,

together with over 40 Communist parties and progressive and anti-imperialist organisations from other countries, in an international seminar on the situation in Europe and the world forty years on.



Solidarity with Western Sahara

In breach of international law, the Spanish State refuses to grant political asylum to the Sahrawi human rights activist, Hassana Aalia, sentenced in absentia to life imprisonment by a Moroccan military tribunal for his part in the 2010 peaceful Gdeim Izik protest camp.

In response to this refusal, BNG MPs in both the Spanish and Galizan parliaments, Rosana Pérez and Montse Prado, tabled motions calling upon the Spanish Government to grant Hassana Aalia political asylum.

The BNG also appealed to the public to attend the rally organised by the Galizan Association for Solidarity with the Sahrawi People held in Santiago on 23 January.

Galiza Nova, the BNG youth organisation, also organised a successful talk with Hassana Aalia himself.

In February, all of groups in the Galizan parliament, including the BNG, agreed to appeal to the Ministry of the Interior to reconsider the request for political asylum. Only days later, however, the ruling People's Party quashed a similar motion in the Spanish Parliament.

The BNG defends the right of the Sahrawi people to exercise its self-determination and calls for the end of the occupation by Morocco.

Solidarity with Palestine

In November, the BNG received Yamir Kasem, a member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and coordinator in the Spanish State for the European Coalition in Support of Palestinian Prisoners. A working meeting was followed by a public talk and debate in order to explain the current situation of the prisoners and provide first-hand information on the conflict between Palestine and the Zionist State.



Congratulations to the Cuban people

In December, the BNG addressed a communiqué to the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC) and to the whole of the Cuban people expressing our satisfaction on the opening of talks to restore institutional relations between Cuba and the United States, together with the liberation of three Cuban compatriots held in US prisons. The BNG congratulated the Cuban government and people and expressed its hope that that the process will pave the way for the complete reinstatement of international law and full respect for Cuban sovereignty.

The BNG demands the release of Arnaldo Otegi

The BNG took part in the demonstration held in the Basque Country on 11 October demanding the release of Arnaldo Otegi and the other people currently imprisoned for their alleged involvement in attempting to reform Batasuna. The BNG reaffirms its solidarity with all of the elements of Basque society committed to a peaceful solution and who uphold the right to sovereignty, aims which we share with all of the stateless nations whose rights are still denied them within the framework of the Spanish State.



CONTRA AS POLÍTICAS DA UNIÓN EUROPEA E O ESTADO ESPAÑOL QUE AGREDEN GALIZA



#OS5DOBLOQUE

RUBÉN CELA / PAULO CARRIL / XAVIER ABOI / AFONSO LOSADA / PAULO CARBALLADA

#NONNOSCALARÁN

STOP repression against the Galizan liberation movement!

The Spanish political system has steadily taken on a more fascist slant with the People's Party (PP) in government, with blatant disregard for civil and human rights, violating the basic principles of democracy, such as the right to the freedom of speech and assembly and stifling all political and social dissent. This policy is underpinned by legal measures such as the new *Law on Homeland Security* and the recent changes to the *Penal Code*, criticised both inside and outside the Spanish State as being incompatible with a truly democratic State.

Galiza stands as a prime example of the way protest has undergone a sweeping process of criminalisation. Owing to the active role played by the national liberation movement in mobilising Galizan society, we have become a main target for political repression, with over 150 Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG) activists fined and currently charged for taking part in a range of events. The worst case involves the administrative and criminal prosecution with a possible prison sentence of 5 members of the BNG (Rubén Cela, Afonso Lousada, Paulo Carballada and Paulo Carril e Xavier Aboi, both also leaders of the Galizan CIG trade-union) for their part in the protests against the policies of the Troika during the visit of Angela Merkel to Galiza in August 2014.

The recent approval of the Law on Homeland Security, better known as the 'Gag Rule', is yet another step on the part of the PP in their bid to stifle protests by spreading fear of repression, especially through fines. This new law makes provision for much higher fines intended as a deterrent, as well as the threat of legal proceedings and imprisonment. Amongst other things, the *presumption of veracity* granted the police together with the ban on filming and taking photographs of police activity will make it all the more difficult to contest police reports which are often fabricated.

The national liberation movement is standing up to these policies with determination and resolve, denouncing abuse and supporting the people affected, but above all maintaining our steadfast determination to continue our grassroots fight against the policies imposed by the Spanish government which go against the interests of our people and defending national sovereignty for Galiza.

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