



COVITE

COLECTIVO DE VÍCTIMAS DEL TERRORISMO DEL PAÍS VASCO
EUSKAL HERRIKO TERRORISMOAREN BIKTIMEN ELKARTEA

San Sebastián, 4 de junio de 2013

Dear Mr. John Bercow:

As the president of the Collective of the Victims of Terrorism in the Basque Country, COVITE, I am addressing this Parliament to convey my concerns and outrage at the fact that Westminster could become a transmission vehicle of a false story about what has happened in Spain during the last five decades.

Westminster Parliament will today be hosting a debate called "Civil Society, Peace and the Basque Country", which has been promoted by the members of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Conflict Issues, British MPs. As part of the debate, these members have extended an invitation to *Lokarri*, and his coordinator Paul Ríos, to explain the conclusions of the so-called "Social Forum for the Peace Process", which was organized by *Lokarri*.

As the president of the majoritarian collective in the Basque Country of victims of ETA's terrorism, I find myself obliged to convey to Westminster Parliament that accepting the conclusions of the so-called "Social Forum for the Peace Process" and giving a voice to *Lokarri*, is a direct attack against the memory of those who have suffered ETA's terrorism.

Lokarri's conclusions are based on a false premise, which revolves around the legitimacy of the "conflict theory". Accepting the terms "conflict" or "peace process" to refer to the current situation in the Basque Country entails a distortion of reality and avoids revealing ETA's senseless barbarism. The "Social Forum", in its conclusions, adopts the "conflict theory" and, therefore, the ideological alibi of a terrorist band that has executed more than 800 people between 1960 and 2011.

According to *Lokarri's* coordinator Paul Rios, his aim is to explain today in Westminster what the situation in the Basque Country is post-ETA's definitive ceasefire announcement. He will explain as well that legalising *Sortu* has substantially improved the situation in this community. Although I am sure that the British Parliament is convinced that a truthful voice will be heard today, as a spokesperson of many victims I have to say that Rios' version does not coincide at all with that of those who have suffered ETA's terrorism.

ETA will not surrender their weapons until the Spanish Government negotiate with the terrorists' leaders - something that Spain is not going to do-, and in the meantime, *Sortu* refuses to condemn ETA's bloody history; standing for an attitude that not only attempts against the victims of its crimes but also honors its multiple bloodthirsty murderers.



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Because of this, I ask Westminster Parliament to bear in mind these considerations, and to not heed the words of those who are trying to make impunity preside over a non-violence scenario in the Basque Country.

Yours sincerely,

Consuelo Ordóñez Fenollar
President of COVITE - Collective of the Victims of Terrorism in the Basque Country