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# COVITE

*COLECTIVO DE VÍCTIMAS DEL TERRORISMO DEL PAÍS VASCO*

*EUSKAL HERRIKO TERRORISMOAREN BIKTIMEN ELKARTEA*

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San Sebastián, 10 October 2013

Dear Sir or Madame,

My name is Laura Martin and I am the widow of Juan Carlos Garcia Goena, the last person assassinated by the Liberation Antiterrorist Groups (GAL), a group that practiced State terrorism within the known as "dirty war" against ETA. I am referring you as a spokesperson of the Collective of Victims of Terrorism in the Basque Country (COVITE), the majoritarian ETA's victims' association in Euskadi. I am writing this letter to express you the concerns of a broad part of the Basque society regarding ETA's operative end.

The victims of terrorism, during many years, have had to go through a lot of suffering. We have closely heard the shots in the back of the neck of our relatives, and closely seen the images of car bombs burning innocent people alive. After all these senseless horror, we are not going to tolerate that those who politically defended that our loved ones were assassinated for a honorable reason present themselves to the international community as ignored pacifists.

I please ask you for to look both right and left. I may be between two people who think in peace from the most absolute condemn of any kind of assassination, of any kind of bloodshed. But you may also be between those who do not clearly believe that killing was wrong. Those who think that in Spain there was a "political conflict", between an oppressor State and a National Liberation Movement defending Basque people's interests. Those who think that there have been two confronted parts and deny ETA's long history of terror.

[www.covite.org](http://www.covite.org)

[correo@covite.org](mailto:correo@covite.org)

PO Box: 3358, 20080 San Sebastián (Spain) Tel: +34 943 322888 FAX: +34 943 431970

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If you find yourself in that situation, please ask them if they know who Juan José Pulido Pavón was. If you do not get an answer, tell them he is one the more than 800 victims of ETA. Tell them that this week it has been the anniversary of his death. Tell them that he run a herbalist shop. And that an ETA's member shot him four times in the thorax and twice in the neck. An then ask them why a National Liberation Movement was killing taxi drivers, professors, entrepreneurs, judges, politicians, children, etc. Ask them why the 'abertzale' left does not believe that killing was wrong.

ETA does not kill anymore. But it is extremely necessary to build a scenario in the Basque Country based on dignity, memory and justice for the victims. Any peace and memory promoted for those who try to find excuses for assassinations, and do not condemn the suffering history of all terrorist organizations, will be a peace without justice and dignity, based on an empty and immoral memory.

Thank you very much for your attention. Yours sincerely,

Laura Martín, member of COVITE

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