



Colectivo de Víctimas del Terrorismo

Dear Ms Spayd,

My name is Consuelo Ordóñez and I am the president of the Victims of Terrorism Collective (COVITE), a Spanish association of victims of terrorism (mostly of ETA) which represents more than 500 families. COVITE is the only Spanish association of victims of terrorism granted with the “special consulting status” by the United Nations. I am writing in reference to the editorial published on 14th April 2017 and titled “The Quiet End of Basque Terror”. As you may know, the article has caused displeased and up to a certain point indignation not only among victims, but also among academics and experts in ETA terrorism. As president of COVITE, I would like to express the reasons of our disappointment.

First of all, it results remarkable that the authors talks about ETA as a “group”, without mention the word “terrorism”. After 50 years of existence and 856 people killed, it is obvious its terrorist condition. The authors mention the dictatorship as the origin of ETA, but they do not talk about the fact that the greatest part of its terrorist activity developed on democracy, during which terrorist used violence to impose a political project defined by its character nationalist, totalitarian and discriminatory.

Otherwise, the article refers to Mr Arnaldo Otegi, historical leader of the political arm of ETA, and his right of exercising his political rights. As you know, Spain is a democratic state and there are no doubts about the enjoying of the citizen’s political rights. According to the law, Arnaldo Otegi was condemned for taking part of ETA and the punishment included disqualification to be a candidate of any political election for 6 years. It is as obvious that he can enjoy his political rights as his condemn has to be fully implemented. I would like to remember that Arnaldo Otegi was an active member of ETA for 10 years, he went to prison for the kidnaping of the businessman Luis Abaitua and he has not apologized for his terrorist activity.

Finally, please find attached a complete report about the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of Human Rights, elaborated under United Nations’ petition.

Hoping that the editorial board finds useful this information.

Yours faithfully,
Consuelo Ordóñez



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