



Generalitat de Catalunya

Institutional statement of the president of Government of Catalonia 20 September 2017

As you know, I have convened an emergency meeting with the Government of Catalonia and we have agreed on the following institutional statement that I want to share with you.

The Government of Catalonia has been the object of a coordinated aggression from the police forces of the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Spanish Government with the aim of preventing all Catalans from expressing themselves on October 1 in freedom and peace, and with the purpose of suspending the activity of the Government elected on September 27, 2015. This is a Government that has a broad citizen and parliamentary support and that has the democratic legitimacy to defend the interests of citizens and their self-government. This aggression is outside the legal protection, it has been perpetrated violating the rule of law and all constitutional guarantees and violating the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. In recent hours, especially today, Spain has de facto suspended the self-government of Catalonia and has applied a de facto state of emergency.

Freedoms are being suspended and repressed. Mayors are being summoned to declare before prosecutors without having committed any crime and only as a measure of intimidation, as the State's General Prosecutor has admitted himself. A State which confuses its authority with that of a free-for-all and is turning its back on all the guarantees and all the procedures which he has the duty to protect.

The police raids in several headquarters of the Government of Catalonia, arrests of senior officials and government civil servants, indiscriminate searches, even in private residences, intimidation to media outlets, an action of the prosecutor's office outside judicial control, the attempt to block the accounts of the Generalitat without a legal order, the violation of secret postal communications, the closing of web pages, and the threat to Catalan citizens that wish to express themselves and decide their future, all of this generates an unacceptable situation in democracy. It comes from a Government that seeks to resolve the demand from the immense majority of the people of Catalonia, through the suspension of the rule of law and the siege of democracy and liberties.

In this situation, the Government of Catalonia wants to address the citizens with a clear message:

We condemn and reject the totalitarian and undemocratic attitude of the Spanish state and a government that has shown the intolerant face that it has had throughout a good part of Spanish politics' history.

We give full political, legal and personal support and protection to the members and civil servants of the Government who have been detained. We denounce illegitimate suspension and intervention of the Government of Catalonia by a Spanish Government that does not respect the basic principles of democracy.

We reaffirm ourselves in the democratic and peaceful response to the aggression and anti-democratic threats intended to violate our coexistence.

We believe that the Spanish Government has crossed the red line that separated it from repressive authoritarian regimes and has become a democratic shame.

The Government of Catalonia will study the appropriate joint response with the economic, social and civic agents of the country.

In any case, citizens are summoned on October 1 to defend democracy against a repressive and intimidating regime and we must give a massive and civic response.

We must prepare ourselves to defend democracy, to defend Catalonia with the only weapons we have, the citizens' response and the peaceful and civilized attitude that has characterized us in this process.

We will assert the legitimacy of the democratic choice Catalans made on September 27, 2015 and we will not turn back, because we have no right, and we will defend the right of citizens to freely decide their future because it is the mandate we received, also from the Parliament.

From today until October 1, the day of the referendum, we will have an attitude of firmness and serenity at the same time, attention and denouncement of the abuses and illegalities in Spain. But on October 1 we will leave home, we will take a ballot and we will use it. And this action of democratic response must contrast with that of those who only speak in the language of authoritarianism that has conditioned the politics of the state for so many years.

The Government of Catalonia will always take its decisions in accordance with the legitimacy won at the polls in the elections of September 27, 2015 and will be faithful to the purpose of a legislature and a government programme passed by Parliament and never suspended by any court.

What is happening in Catalonia is not experienced by any other state in the European Union. To all those Democrats who today feel angry, whether in Catalonia or outside of Catalonia, for the current events, the Government of Catalonia reaffirms them the commitment and the guarantee to defend them always.

We will not accept a return to past times and we will not accept that they will not allow us to decide the future times of freedom and democracy.