

Nonsense and opportunity
(article by Mariano Ferrer about the closure of Basque journal “Egunkaria”)

The methastasis is spreading. Before, only Garzon (Baltasar Garzon, judge of the Spanish National Court) used to do that kind of things. Now, another magistrate has done it. Before, accused people were multiplying; now, accusers are increasing. At the beginning, guilt was contagious. From time to time, Garzon pointed at which group within the basque nationalist community was infected by the virus of ETA; those groups grew bigger and bigger, and they had to be removed, or at least, isolated. Nowadays, we can see that the will to accuse is contagious too; more and more people are waiting for their opportunity to accuse the guilty people –in the media, in the streets or even at intellectual people’s meetings. The way the National Court’s sixth instruction magistrate (Juan del Olmo) has acted is very clarifying. Let’s get ready, for this one is not going to be the last one.

It is very hard to heard that friends of yours are hidden servants of ETA, when they are only respectable people who have spent thousands of hours trying to improve this society. In the same way, it is difficult to see how easily is destroyed some people’s work in order to have a newspaper in Basque language. Basque Nationalism has become a sea plancton that feeds all sorts of terrorism. It seems that everyone and everything is under suspicion, starting from ETA, up to the Lehendakari (Basque president). It is true that hundreds of people were already suffering the lack of law-guarantees. That’s why, instead of crying a hopeless “again”, we should stand and shout “never again”. We can’t accept any more attacks against fundamental rights in the name of the Right of Law. We admit that society needs means to defend itself against terrorism, but now we have to raise our voices to defend society against the threat of manipulation, because behind this police operation, stands the manipulation that wants to spread the stigma of universal guilt to the whole of the Basque nationalist movement.

These days, we have heard that the Pentagon will help Spain in its fight against ETA, in exchange of suporting Bush’s war against Irak. If this police operation is a probe of that cooperation, that’s bad news. We don’t need such companion for this trip. I can not believe that they (Spanish courts and Government) truly believe that the arrested have committed that crime (helping or being members of ETA), and that the operation is a result of that conviction. That would mean that the secret service is staring at the stars, and that they just don’t know who is who in this country. That’s why I assert that the are other reasons for the closure of Egunkaria and the arrest of its senior staff members. This nonsense should join us in a courteous but firm answer. It is about time to say that he have had enough.

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