

GZ.I Galiza International



The BNG holds a massive Galizan National Day demonstration

Galiza, a country with a future

This year's Galizan National Day demonstration organised by the Galizan Nationalist Bloc (BNG) under the heading "A new drive for Galiza. Sovereignty / Work / Democracy" once again rallied masses of people. Addressing the packed main Quintana Square, the BNG National Spokesperson, Ana Pontón, outlined the current political, economic and social situation in Galiza, marking out the main challenges ahead for Galizan nationalism, including the possibility of repeat Spanish and early Galizan elections.

The BNG National Spokesperson stated that "if we want a future for our country, capable of governing itself, we need free parties and the only free political organisation in Galiza is the BNG", before going on to underline the idea that if we are to overcome to the challenges which lie ahead such as globalisation and climate change as well as combatting job insecurity, emigration, social and gender inequality and the demographic crisis, we need "political power, economic power and the capacity to decide for ourselves. That is the future: a stronger Galiza, with sovereignty in a global world".

She went on to decry the Spanish political organisations, which have only aggravated the discrimination suffered our country, plunging it into political irrelevance, stating that Galiza is absent from the debate in the Spanish State because for the People's Par-



ty (PP), Socialist Party (PSOE) and Podemos alike, "this country is of no consequence", which is why we must "listen and act with humility and boldness to channel the current mass disappointment in the face of the lack of solutions for Galiza on the part of the Spanish parties who do nothing more than dish out sedatives".

In the light of the upsurge of the BNG and convinced that the majority of society wants a real change in Galiza, the BNG National Spokesperson ended by saying that "another Galiza is possible, with capacity to decide for itself, looking to innovation to create quality jobs, working to bring young people back from abroad, a Galiza which looks after its land and combats climate change, a feminist Galiza looking to the wider

world without turning its back on its language. This is the Galiza we want to build: it is not an impossible utopia".

International delegations from several countries also took part in the demonstration, including ERC and the CUP (Catalonia); EH-Bildu, Eusko Alkatasuna, Sortu and the PNV (Basque Country); Més per Menorca, Unidad del Pueblo (Canarias), Puyalón de Cuchas (Aragon), Izquierda Castellana (Castile), Plaid Cymru (Wales), the Bloco de Esquerda and the Portuguese Communist Party; the Cuban Consulate in Galiza, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Human Rights Foundation for the Rif (Morocco) and the European Free Alliance, together with other political and grassroots organisations.



Round Table on Stateless Nations

The Galiza Sempre Foundation with the support of the Coppieters Foundation hosted another round table on stateless nations within the Festigal festival under the heading “The myths of pan-Spanish ideology”, where Pernando Barrena (EH-Bildu), Eduard López (ERC) and Ana Miranda (BNG) discussed the political situation in their respective nations and the common challenges posed by a central government which refuses to acknowledge the plurinational nature of the Spanish State.



Participation in the Basque National Day with EH-Bildu

On 21 April, the BNG took part in the political event organised by EH-Bildu as part of the Aberri Eguna (Basque National Day) demonstration held in Iruña (Pamplona), emphasizing the need to strengthen the ties between Galiza, the Basque Country and the Catalan Lands.



European elections

The BNG, together with ERC, EH-Bildu and other pro-sovereignty organisations from the Spanish State set up an electoral coalition for the recent European Elections under the name “Republics Now”.

The BNG received over 170,000 votes in Galiza, effectively doubling its score at the previous elections. In the whole of the State, the “Republics Now” coalition totalled over 1,250,000 votes, securing 3 MEPs and enabling Ana Miranda to continue to be the voice of Galiza in Europe as the BNG’s ongoing elected MEP.



For Galizan nationalism, this is more than an alliance of circumstance, going beyond the elections themselves. “Republics Now” is a strategic alliance set within the long-standing tradition of international solidarity and fraternity between our peoples, beginning with the Triple Alliance of the 1920s, later becoming the republican Galeuzca and continuing until the present day. This coalition has enabled our three nations to join forces in a united front against the constant refusal of the Spanish State to acknowledge our right to decide our own future freely for ourselves.

SUPPORT FOR THE CATALAN SOVEREIGNTY PROCESS



Prisoner visits and denunciation of a sham trial

The BNG has shown its support for and visited the Catalan political prisoners since they were unfairly imprisoned. The National Spokesperson for the BNG, Ana Pontón, the MEP, Ana Miranda, and the head of international relations for the Spanish State, Rubén Cela, have all visited the Catalan political prisoners held at Lledoners, Puig de les Basses, Mas d'Enric and Alcalá Meco on several occasions.

The BNG has also repeatedly denounced the undemocratic nature of the sham trial of the Catalan political prisoners who, even in the absence of a formal conviction have been deprived of their basic rights, including their right to take their seats as MEP and to act as elected representatives.

We have also taken part in all of the united protests organised by the Galiza with Catalunya Platform of which the BNG is a member.



Participation in the Catalan National Day Celebrations

Once again, the BNG took part in the Catalan National Day celebrations held under the banned "Let's make the Catalan Republic", with a delegation comprised of the Head of Organisational Affairs, Bieito Lobeira together with the members of the National Executive responsible for international relations, Ana Miranda and Rubén Cela. By taking part in this demonstration together with members of the BNG living in the diaspora, the BNG sought to reiterate its unflinching support for the Catalan people to exercise its right to decide its own future freely and with all legal guarantees regarding its relations with the Spanish State by holding a referendum on self-determination.



Participation in Madrid in the Demonstration "Self-determination is not a crime. Democracy means"

On 16 March, the BNG, together with the other political and grassroots organisations that make up the Galiza with Catalonia Platform, made up a Galizan cortège at the international demonstration organised by the Catalan pro-sovereignty organisations, ANC and Òmnium Cultural, in Madrid under the banner "Self-determination is not a crime. Democracy means deciding" which drew over 100,000 people.





Support for the Sahraouian People

In early July, the MP for the BNG, Montse Prado, took part in a Galizan Parliamentary Delegation that toured the refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria), home to some 200,000 Sahraouians. The main aim of the visit was to help to break the media blockade, to see for themselves the living conditions there 44 years on and to show solidarity and support for their fight. The Sahraouian people has seen no progress towards a resolution to the conflict with no sight of the promised Self-determination Referendum and a failure to comply with the resolutions which state that Morocco has no rights over the territory of Western Sahara which it is effectively occupying illegally. The Sahraouian people which seeks only to exercise its right to decide its own future and its sovereignty has seen how the 'international community' has been an accessory to the current situation.

Acting on behalf of the BNG, Ana Miranda also recently met again with the Galizan Association for Solidarity with the Sahraouian People (SO-GAPS), the delegate of the Polisario Front in Vigo and the President of the Galizan Friendship Association with the Sahraouian People, Maite Isla, where she repeated the BNG's support in the face of the repression suffered in the occupied territories of Western Sahara.



Condemnation of the attempted coup in Venezuela

The BNG issued an unequivocal condemnation of the last in a long line of attempted coups in Venezuela and other acts intended to destabilise the country carried out by the USA. For the BNG, the stance adopted by the Spanish government and the EU are wholly unacceptable and incompatible with democracy and a relationship between peoples on an equality footing. Once again, it has become clear that the foreign policy carried out by the EU and its member states merely bows to the dictates of the USA, effectively abetting imperialist meddling in a sovereign state by their actions or their omissions.



Against imperialist aggression in Syria

Once again, Galizan nationalism took to the streets to denounce the renewed imperialist attacks unleashed by the United States, France and Great Britain against the Syrian people who have been enduring this type of attacks by the US and its EU allies and the Arab dictatorships for years intended to destabilise and divide the country. We also condemn the attacks and the economic blockade imposed on Yemen by Saudi Arabia that is leading to the death of thousands of people.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY BY THE BNG IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Support for the Kurdish People

The BNG denounced the illegal military operation carried out by Turkey in the Kurdish canton of Afrin in Syria, using IS terrorists to seize the area. Ana Miranda called upon the EU in Brussels to impose harsh economic sanctions on Turkey and to cease the sale of arms to this country, many of which end up in the hands of Islamic State terrorists.

The MEP for the BNG also attended the joint EU- Turkey Parliamentary Assembly held in Ankara that included talks on the state of membership negotiations, where Ana Miranda defended the need to uphold human rights, freedom of expression and the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination. She also denounced the current state of emergency "initially decreed by President Erdoğan as an exceptional measure but which has now become permanent", going on to criticise Erdoğan as an "autocratic president who crushes his people, imprisons the opposition, represses, persecutes, accuses, intimidates and closes schools, trade unions, newspapers and websites". She held a bilateral meeting with the spokespersons for the HDP in the Turkish Parliament, learning first-hand of the grave situation they are undergoing, as well as their will to resist. During the meeting, Ana Miranda expressed the BNG's support for and solidarity with the gaoled leaders.

Support for the Corsican People

The MEP for the BNG took advantage of the presence of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, at the plenary session in Strasbourg to call upon France to recognise 50 years of Corsican nationalist struggle, especially in the light of the recent electoral victory when the nationalist coalition romped away with 56% of the votes, calling for the need to respect Corsican language rights as recognised in the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.



Support for Gaza



Once again, the BNG has denounced Israeli state terrorism and its repeated violations of international law, demanding that the European parliament vigorously condemns the massacre by Israel of 30 peaceful demonstrators in Gaza, with 2,000 more injured. We denounce use of force by the Israeli army against peaceful demonstrators and uphold the Palestinian people's fundamental right to peaceful demonstration and freedom of movement, including the return of the refugees unencumbered by any political constraints and the end of the blockade against the Gaza Strip and the Palestinian people's inalienable right to live freely and in peace in its own State

Protest in London against the Arrest of Assange

The MEP for the BNG took part in the protests in front of Belmarsh Prison where Julian Assange was being held following his arrest at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London. The BNG considers it a scandal that Ecuador stripped him of

his asylum status and believes that the arrest of the journalist has very serious implications for the freedom of the press by imprisoning people for publishing leaked information uncovering governmental misconduct.



Massacre in Yemen

The MEP for the BNG condemned the massacre of minors in Yemen carried out by Saudi Arabia with the complicity of many European states which continue to sell arms to Saudi Arabia, calling on the European Union and the Spanish State to ban arms sales to this country in the wake of the death of over 8,000 civilians and three million displaced persons.

Free Lula!

The BNG has always taken part in all of the acts in support of the former President Lula, denouncing his unfair imprisonment, the sham trial and the severe political and media clampdown..



Strengthening Ties with our Members Abroad

The MEP for the BNG attended meetings with members of the BNG in Berlin and Frankfurt with the crucial aim of "strengthening ties with the BNG membership abroad", supporting their activities that are often fraught with difficulties. Meetings were also held in other European cities, including London and Brussels, which was host to a gathering of the different BNG assemblies in the diaspora, bringing together members from as far afield as Germany, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Switzerland and Catalonia with the aim of setting up a joint working plan to face the challenges which lie ahead in Europe.

Participation in the Official Delegation of Electoral Observers in Paraguay and Colombia

The MEP for the BNG, Ana Miranda, took part in the official delegation of the European Parliament during the elections in Paraguay. The BNG has maintained very close ties with the Paraguayan Guasú Front ever since it visited the country during the 2008 elections (the Front was officially founded two years later) via a series of cooperation protocols with both the BNG and the Galiza Sempre Foundation.



The BNG also represented the Greens/European Free Alliance political group as observers during the crucial Colombian elections held after the signing of the Peace Agreements in a "post-conflict" climate following a peace process that put an end to 53 years of armed conflict thanks to the joint agreement signed by the FARC-EP and the Colombian government in November 2016. As well as closely following the polling itself, this mission also provided the opportunity to engage with several political players on social issues such as the slow pace of the application of the peace process, the role of the oligarchy, the power wielded by the drug barons, the question of land ownership and the killing of activists.



Participation in the EUROLAT Assembly in Bolivia

The MEP for the BNG represented the Greens/European Free Alliance political group at the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) held for the first time in Bolivia where she defended the sovereignty of the peoples of the world, free from outside interference, echoing the words of the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Evo Morales, in his inaugural address when he underlined the fight for peace and respect for the peoples, social justice and dialogue.

Institutional Visit to Uruguay and Argentina by the National Spokesperson for the BNG

The BNG National Spokesperson, Ana Pontón, and the MEP, Ana Miranda, had an intense agenda in Uruguay and Argentina with the aim of strengthening ties with the Galizan community there and with the left-wing political and grassroots organisations, including a meeting with the President of Uruguay, Tavaré Vázquez, his predecessor, José Mújica, and the Vice-President of the Republic, Lucía Topolansky. They also attended meetings in the Senate and the Congress with representatives of the Broad Front (FA) and the Movement of Popular Participation (MPP) in Uruguay. In Argentina, they met with the Front for Victory (FPV) in the Congress of the Nation, as well as with the Galizan community and members of the BNG living there.



Approval of the Resolution against the Advance of Fascism in Europe

The approval by the European Parliament of the resolution against the advance of Fascism in Europe on 25 October marked the culmination of an intense campaign by the BNG in defence of democratic values and against Francoism. The visit by a delegation of MEPs from the Historical Memory group in the European Parliament to the Meirás Manor house, support for the 19 people prosecuted for protesting at the site and the Historical Memory study day are just some examples of the activities organised in the European Parliament.



Meeting with the Judge in the Argentinian Franco Trials



Ana Miranda met the Argentinian judge, María Servini, who instructed the Franco court actions, the only legal proceeding in the world dealing with the crimes against humanity committed

by the Franco regime, which summoned Martín Villa, former Minister in the first governments after the fall of the regime and MP for the Peoples Party (PP) from 1989 to 1997, under investigation for 6 killings during his time as Minister for Governance, the equivalent of the Home Office at the time, committed during the strike in Gas-teiz-Vitoria in March 1976.

Support for refugees

The BNG has recently been involved in extensive political work in defence of refugees' rights, criticising the hypocrisy of the Spanish central government and the EU for failing to provide a safe harbour for vessels engaged in rescue missions in the Mediterranean, as in the case of Open Arms.

Many institutional initiatives have been tabled and together with other MEPs, the BNG's representative in Europe, Ana Miranda, boarded one such vessel in order to denounce in situ the desperate plight of thousands of people fleeing war, political or religious persecution and hunger as well as the criminalisation of organisations who are saving lives.



Assembly of the European Free Alliance

The Assembly of the EFA, founded in 1981 and currently with over 40 member parties who defend the right to self-determination for the peoples, approved a manifesto defending the right of all peoples to decide their own future as they see fit, free from outside interference. The final manifesto also included fundamental principles such as gender equality, the fight against climate change, nature conservation and justice. The European Free Alliance also approved the proposal tabled by the President of the Coppieters Foundation, Xabier Macías, with the backing of the BNG, to award the 2019 European Prize to the former MEP for the BNG, Camilo Nogueira.





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