

# Manifesto

Published on May 17, 2000  
in a public conference celebrated in Barcelona

## For Peace, say no to the military parade

As a reaction against the military parade to take place the next May 27 in Barcelona, the signing organisations want public opinion to realise the following:

- We consider that military parades are absurd and anti-pedagogical ceremonies that should be suppressed (as the compulsory military service has recently been suppressed). **A military parade cannot be a symbol of modernity or normality, but of being completely outdated.**

- We reject that **the parade, a statement in support of militarism and armamentistic ostentation**, takes place coinciding with the so-declared Year of Peace Culture, and despite the fact that the United Nations have called the Governments to take clear attitudes in favour of peace.

- We state that **armies are not peace agents**, because:

- **The army is the clearest symbol of militarism and violence:** it praises values of blind obedience, hierarchy, lack of critical sense, male chauvinism, homophobia and oppression towards the weakest. This is not the society we want to build.

- **The existence of armies perpetuates an unfair international order:** we want the relations among the several nations in the world to be established by means of brotherhood, equality and mutual co-operation, and not by means of threats and persuasion.

-**The military budget hinders the reduction of social inequality.** The high expenses the maintenance and the military preparedness the army generates, cuts back social, education and health budgets.

-**Arms trade and research for military purposes do not help keeping peace, nor**

**guarantee people's and nations' security.** They just benefit military industries.

At the moment, the Spanish army is a part of several offensive military structures, such as the NATO. And, quite often, these structures cover up with humanitarian interventions actions that actually represent their own interests. It is not to be forgotten the role taken by the Spanish Government along the current century. And the anachronism that represents the Army to be, according to the Spanish Constitution, guarantor of the unity of Spain.



*On May 27 out into the streets for peace  
No to the military parade in Barcelona  
No to militarism*

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*For peace  
No to militarism  
No to the military parade  
Towards a world without armies*

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*"Stop the military parade in Barcelona"*

If we want to guarantee peace and human rights, what we need is to make States and international society strongly supports suppression of inequalities between North and South and promote ecological balance, as well as real democracy and effective disarmament.

Barcelona and Catalonia have been often the scene of solidarity demonstrations. In our Country, there have been important actions and movements supporting peace: in Catalonia, the 'no' option won the referendum celebrated in Spain when it was supposed to be admitted to the NATO; there are hundreds of insubmissives to the military service and conscientious objectors in Catalonia -more than anywhere else-; the amount of tax resistances is growing, etc. A military parade is an unnecessary and incoherent gesture, in Barcelona or anywhere else. **We want Barcelona, and Catalonia, to be the scene of Peace Culture, and not of violence culture.**

For all that reasons, we call on the citizenry to take part in the unitary activities against the military parade and in support of peace. ■

#### **Call for unitary activities in the context of the Platform:**

Hanging of white sheets from balconies and windows for the whole week (from May 20 to May 27)

Demonstration and street band parade on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. (starting at Passeig de Gràcia/ Ronda Sant Pere)

Camping in Avinguda Diagonal, from May 23 at 6 p.m.

Festival for Peace on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> from 12 a.m. until 9 p.m. in Parc de la Ciutadella

Platform's office: 901.51 52 53 (10 a.m. to 10 p.m.)

Platform's current account (for financial support): 2100-3000-12-2201636568



# Report of a large popular action for peace and for demilitarisation

## The announcement of the military parade

At the beginning of April, the press announced that the Ministry of Defence was preparing a military parade in Barcelona on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day. After that, the technical aspects were immediately being discussed.

Later, many NGOs for peace and human rights organise a first meeting to assess the news. Also, many organisations and groups from the Plataforma Anti-Guerra (anti-war platform), which had mobilised when conflicts such those in Kosovo, East Timor, Chechnya, etc. broke out, agreed on opposing the military parade. Both initiatives joined swiftly and created the "*Plataforma Unitària per la Pau: diguem no a la desfilada militar*" (Pro-Peace Unitary Platform: say no to the military parade).

Among political parties arose different kind of reactions: PSC-PSOE support the military parade. PP does, also, expressing a considerably warlike spirit against the critical voices. Convergència i Unió (CiU) seems to take a cold and distant attitude towards the military parade. Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya (ERC), Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds (IC-V), Esquerra Unida i Alternativa (EuiA), Els Verds, etc. declared themselves against the parade. A few days later Ciutadans pel Canvi did so as well.. Finally, the youth groups of all political parties, except the so-called NNGG (new generations) of PP, gave support to the actions of the platform.

In a more general level, it turned to be noticed what became the general trend in the following days: letters published in the press, interventions on the radio, associations' statements,

etc. They all pointed out to the same direction: a clear rejection towards the military parade.

## Reasons for saying NO: a military parade out of place

We are not going to enlarge upon the reasons why we think the parade should be rejected. This points are discussed enough in the manifesto. The several statements done during the events also give us to understand about the hole issue. Even though, we will point out some important ideas.

Firstly, it is clear enough that nowadays organising a military parade falls completely out of place: it is out of time, far away from the ethics and, also, from the aesthetics. Even when it comes from an army's favourable point of view, the idea of organising a military parade is thought to be obsolete.

Secondly, when the Peace Culture is becoming a project assumed by the United Nations, Governments, international community, etc. even being often just in a formal way, we must be clear and forceful,; making events on military apology and armamentistic ostentation is clearly anti educational, anti pedagogical, and, in any case, neighbouring the violence culture more than the Peace Culture.

In the heart of the matter, there is the discussion around the



role that the army should take: it is understood that security does no longer depend on strengthening, rejuvenating or humanising armies. A safer world will only be aimed by the development of global fair and equitable economical policies; by policies promoting human rights; by the establishment of mechanisms to prevent conflicts and the creation of instances to mediate and solve conflicts in a non-violent way; by the disarmament and the demilitarisation; and the creation of a new Peace Culture able to take advantage to the so deeply rooted war culture.

Finally, it must be remembered that the link between the Catalan society and the army is, for many reasons (political, historical, antimilitary tradition, etc.) really weak. In this respect, the levels of conscientious military objection and the refusal to do military service in Catalonia have been the highest ones registered in Spain. The first information on the professional army shows the same trend: Catalonia is one of the regions in Spain where the number of men adhered to the army is lower.

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Being aware of this well known by the Government fact it might have been thought that doing a military parade in Barcelona was a provocation or, perhaps, a way to promote the army in order to obtain more adhesions to the Armed Forces. Whichever it was, the military parade was obviously not welcome by most of the society. And this fact was shown beyond what could be expected.

**The popular answer**

The Set of Demands grew quickly to multitudinous dimensions. Before its public presentation, it was supported by more than 150 organisations. At the end, there were more than 200 organisations, gathering together the diversity of a large social issue: NGOs for peace, human right and co-operation; antimilitary groups; cultural associations; neighbouring associations; labour and student unions; youth councils; free-time groups; youth political organisations except for the ones of PP etc. In short, an unambiguous sign of the wide feeling of a population contrary to the military parade.

As a matter of fact, because of the resonance and spring the opposition to the military parade was taking during the previous two weeks the event was going to take place, we had to put up with some statements by the Spanish Government and some PP high posts. They were ridiculous ("NGOs support the military parade and they will take part in it", according to the Minister of Defence, Federico Trillo), criminal offending (Minister Josep Piqué's words accusing the opposition to the military parade of having violent sectors pro-ETA infiltrated into it), and out of place (insults by Fraga). As unreal and untrue statements, they deprive authority to many mass media, and they even helped many organisations, which had kept out of the discussion, to declare themselves plainly contrary to the military parade.

The Platform convoked four activities: calling the citizens to hung white sheets in windows and balconies to show rejection to the parade and militarism; the demonstration on May 20 through the city centre with the participation of tens of thousand people and a popular camp on the Plaça d'Espanya which defied the realisation of the parade. From Tuesday 23 on the afternoon since Saturday morning (when it was violently removed by the police), the camp attracted attention and also displayed the citizens' reject to the parade.

Finally, we have to talk about the celebration of the Peace Festival in Parc de la Ciutadella, which took place on the same day of the parade on May 27, and was a complete participation success with a wide social, civic and mediatic repercussion although it seems TVE did not realise anything. More than 50.000 people attended the Festival where, during the whole day, there were musical



shows, speeches, etc. with a wide support of culture and arts' people.

Apart from the Platform, there appeared other initiatives that, from different parameters, also called citizenry to reject the parade: the co-ordinating committee Against Military Occupation, the Platform "I also stand firm", etc.

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We have also to remark that, in different places of Catalonia, such as Mataró, Vilafranca del Penedès, Badalona, etc., some protest activities were organised as well.

### The impact

First, a true fact: we have had to wait a long time to see such a great civic mobilisation. And, what is more positive, from a peace perspective, this big mobilisation developed around the central idea of peace-militarism. Very few times during the last 20 years (OTAN, Gulf War, objection- unsubmission) peace has been a topic for political, social and mediatic debate. Now it has really been. In a great deal of ambits (organisations, press, institutions, etc.) the parade, and, by extension, the role of armies, had to be discussed. Moreover, it was a well utilised occasion: in every declaration on the media (which were a lot even

some international ones during the two weeks previous to the parade) there was a place to speak about military expenses, disarmament, weapons commerce, the necessity of building a Peace Culture, etc. No doubt, it has been more possible to spread and denounce the subjects of peace and army in two weeks than in a long time.

It has to be said that a valuation was spread which considered the success of the mobilisation to be a consequence, on the one side, of political factors (parties' position, institutional confrontation) and, on the other side, of the importance of the nationalist dimension underlying the parade.

It would be absurd to deny it: the army in Catalonia (and anywhere: let's remember the Civil War or the attempt of overthrowing the Government), can not be exempt from a political and historical analysis. In spite of all, in the Platform, even though there coexisted a lot of sensitivities, it was clear the absolute pre-eminence of pacifist, antimilitarist and no-violent analysis in the opposition's approach to the parade. And, even though it is true that the media highlighted the subject due to its important political implications (the role of the Generalitat, the relationship PP-CiU, the differences in Barcelona's town council, etc.), it is also true that they always took the Platform into account, which recognised the importance of the axis militarism-antimilitarism in the debate.

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Apart from all that, it has to be said that some institutional and political doubts about the convenience of organising the parade were motivated, precisely, by the growing civic mobilisation against this celebration, and not the other way round.

In short, we can state that the Platform and, in general,

*"Bye war, hello peace"*

Republican activists





all the citizenry against the parade, confronted clearly with the Government and all its capacities and instruments (for instance: full-page adverts in every newspaper praising the army's paper and inviting the population to attend the parade; the informative manipulation done by TVE; clearly repressive, intimidating police actions, etc.), coming out more than victorious. The Ministry of Defence had to change four times the official route of the parade; reduced its duration; tried to disguise its content, etc. And all that with the goal of controlling a popular outburst.

On the other side, the mobilisation in Barcelona has become useful to achieve that no other city in the state has to suffer similar spectacles: the Government has stated that there will be no more parades on the next celebrations of the Day of the Armed Forces.

The statements by the Government, some hours before the parade took place, leave no doubt on the valuation we have to make: they said the citizens would give the politicians a lesson and then we would know who had majority and who represented people's interests. That is exactly what happened: 20.000 people attended the parade in Montjuïc, with full support by the Spanish Government; more than 50.000 people participated in the Peace Festival at the Ciutadella, organised by the Platform.

### The future

The history of the peace movement, in our country and everywhere, has plenty of high and low moments. Social movements are collective expressions of wide sensibilities of citizenry, which are difficult to foresee and control.

That is why it would be absurd to claim that the mobilisation we have seen this days predicts a cycle of massive mobilisation of the peace movement. What we can say, however, with no fear of being wrong, is that the mobilisation against the parade is one more prove of the antimilitarist, pacifist sensibility of an important part of the Catalan society, which connects, we have to say, with various historical signs of rejection to the militarism.

It is the responsibility, however, of the different organisations, groups and collectives composing the peace movement, to make good use of all this energy and capability to mobilise to denounce key aspects about the militarism that is surrounding us (like the scandalous numbers of military expenses, the scientific research on the military field or the violence defence) and, thus, to assist to the construction of a global, solidary, non-militarised and peaceful future. ■



# The organization of the unitary platform for peace: say no to the parade



It is interesting to point out that the civic outburst was not unrelated to the platform's character as a living, dynamic organisation, which was also a loudspeaker that echoed citizens' feelings toward the parade. In view of the results, the construction of a flexible, unitary platform, which integrated at the same time a wide range of tendencies, collectives, organisations, associations, groups and institutions of the Catalan society was most successful.

The antimilitarist collectives, such as draft objectors, pacifist organisations and a great deal of young people were the seed around which progressively a very important part of civil society gathered. Also, government officials were supportive or at most neutral, except for a few others who wielded institutional obligations as an excuse.

Two tendencies were clearly defined. One, coming from social movements sectors, mainly new ones, but also traditional ones such as unions and residents' associations, emphasised anti-militarism, pacifism and rejections of the new professional army or the army as a whole. The other, coming from democratic

national Catalan groups, worried more about the Spanish character of the army. However, there were a clear dividing line between the two tendencies.

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Another significant, destructive aspect of the platform was the existence of anti-system activists, belligerent, against both institutions and traditional parties, without drawing a clear difference between the two of them. But they sided with political organisations and participating institutional parties.

In other words, on this occasion, the entire social and political left converged, with the only exception of PSC high-level politicians. The platform encompassed all left-wing and nationalist youth organisations, and obtained the support of significant Catalan civic associations from the beginning. In the following weeks these were formed by the most active Catholic associations. And finally, groups such as scout associations, recreational centres and all kinds of other associations, even folk and dance groups, brought in additional "social fabric" to the platform.

Growing civic uneasiness acted as a catalyst and unifying force of this diverse but converging groups. The fact that such different sectors, organisations and tendencies could come together, instead of going their own way or confronting each other, owes a lot to the experienced, patient non stop work that was done in the "stop-the-war" platform.

"Stop-the-war emerged from the movement against the wars in Bosnia, Timor, Kosovo and Chechnya, in which different groups of pacifist, anti-militarist, social and political left-wing, nationalist, pro-sovereign, and independentist people met and began to know each other. They developed mutual trust, and with it a flexibility for co-ordinating and fostering events, actions and mobilisations, with a clear emphasis on the common good.

The Platform's campaign was flexible enough as to make everybody feel comfortable, and at the same time it implied minimal responsibilities and organisational structure. Both aspects assured efficiency.

The platform was constituted by open assemblies of 30, 60, 100 and, once, up to 600 representatives and participants. Decisions were taken by consensus, or sometimes by large majority, but with everyone's

agreement that they would remain together, respecting each other's social and ideological diversity and plurality.

The structure, if one can call it so, was formed by committees of volunteers and group representatives, under the criteria that those who worked more were the most valuable ones. A committee was established for each activity, that is, demonstration, camp, Festival, technical secretariat, communication, finances, press and manifesto. This last committee became also the co-ordination committee, growing and waning in size according to the actions undertaken. However, each committee presented their work to the Assembly, where decisions were taken. Moreover, the Assembly, also formally elected, chose its spokespersons for the press.

A conscious effort was made during the weeks of preparation and during the mobilisation to maintain the report and an open line of communication with the most radical independentist sectors.

After discarding some excessively rigid procedures, the cohesion and effectiveness of the platform was exemplary and the success of the platform overcame the few small disagreements and errors that appeared. The openness, mutual trust and loyalty that existed across the board gave the platform great strength and guaranteed its success.

The platform included active and dedicated volunteers but also a few sympathetic professionals, in the technical secretariat, communications and the organisation of the Festival. The combination of the assembly system and the flexible co-ordination structure, was effective and efficient, rejected any potential excessive individualisms and allowed all participants to feel themselves reflected in the platform. ■



*No army defends peace:  
no to the military parade*

# Report on the actions and meetings of the pro-peace unitary platform: Say no to the military parade

## THE DEMONSTRATION (May 20, 2000)

Many proposals were presented at the meetings of the platform against the parade. One was immediately successful: a demonstration. The discussion was only about how, when and where it was the best to carry it out. Basically, there were three proposals: a) that the demonstration should take place on the same day of the parade and that it should end up in Ciutadella's afternoon Festival; b) that it should take place on Friday 19; and c) that it should take place several days before the parade to set up the tone and serve as an opening act for the other events, ending with the Festival.

Finally, the third option was settled on and it was decided that the demonstration would take place a week before the parade, that is, on May 20 at 6 p.m. The demonstration would be lead by the representatives of the entities and collectives forming the platform and they would be carrying the banner: "NO ARMY DEFENDS PEACE. SAY NO TO THE MILITARY PARADE. Say No to the Military Parade" platform.

The committees for publicity, licences and security service started to work immediately with the usual problems that arise when organising this kind of mobilisations. 10.000 posters were edited with the slogan: "For a culture of peace. Say no to the military parade". 5.000 leaflets with the manifesto's main issues were distributed as well. During the street posting of publicity some problems arose with the police. They IDed the volunteers and took down the posters. More than 120 people were retained by the police while they were being identified. The total number of people arrested during the mobilisation was 10.

The day before the demonstration, Minister Josep Piqué downplayed the representativity of the platform and linked it to violent groups, statement that what platform representatives denied.

The demonstration against the military parade was one of the most massive ever done in Barcelona (50.000 people). It started at the corner of Passeig de Gràcia with Ronda de St. Pere, went along Plaça Urquinaona and Via Laietana and ended at Moll de la Fusta.



The demonstration went on without any incidents. There was some degree of discussion with the people who thought that there were too many political party leaders. Also, there was a tense moment when the demonstration passed by the national police headquarters at Via Laietana, but the situation led to no serious consequences.

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The demonstration, a massive, festive and critical event against militarist culture and values mostly rejected by society, flowed down Via Laietana to Moll de la Fusta. Once there, Joan Gomis, in representation of the platform, read the concerted manifesto.

On the same day and time (May 27) the military parade. A different platform carried out a demonstration in Sants district. The aim was to reach Plaça Espanya, but demonstrators could not get there due to the police, who broke it up with excessive force and violence. Over 10 people were arrested and held at Verneda police station until Sunday, May 28.

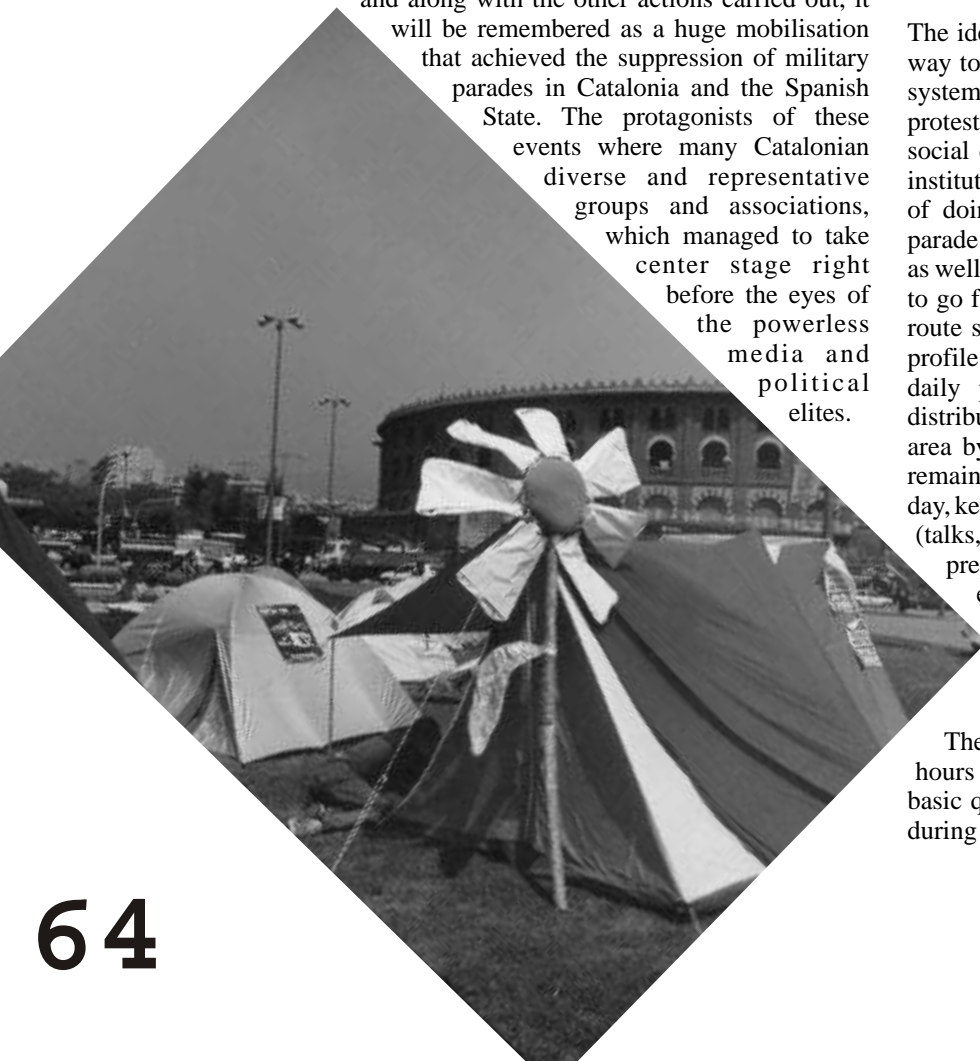
The demonstration on May 20 was a great success, and along with the other actions carried out, it will be remembered as a huge mobilisation that achieved the suppression of military parades in Catalonia and the Spanish State. The protagonists of these events were many Catalonian diverse and representative groups and associations, which managed to take center stage right before the eyes of the powerless media and political elites.

## THE CAMP (from May 23 to May 27, 2000)

One of the main goals of the unitary platform was to allow a great part of society to take part without problems in the campaign against the parade. It had to be possible for very different organisations to be part of the same platform. There platform gathered more than 200 groups and associations: big and small politic parties, trade unions, NGOs, pacifist, antimilitarist, feminist and antiracist organisations, resident's associations, squatters, associations against foreign debt, educational organisations, etc. Anyone who was interested was welcome to participate actively. In this respect, the camping was the most delicate and problematic action. The camp expressed an anti-military sensitivity, but it also wanted to create a direct opposition to the parade to prevent it from taking place and create a way of active political participation. It did not simply voice the discontent of a large segment of Catalan society; It was also a way to exert power bottom up. Obviously, the intent was not to win or to really prevent the parade from taking place, for the situation of different social powers would not make this easy. From the beginning, it was clear that there would be violent situations. However, many people could see the sit down protest as a good idea, a place where they could receive information concerning the campaign and perhaps side with the platform against militarism and armies, and maybe, at the end, commit themselves to the campaign and with the movement further in the future.

The idea was to encourage political implication as a way to favour the construction of a truly democratic system. According to evaluations, the sitting down protest contributed in a very active way to open a social debate that, to some extent, went beyond the institutions and the Ministry of Defence. The "threat" of doing the camping in the Diagonal (the initial parade route) and the large demonstration of May 20, as well as other mobilisations, forced the Government to go for a more modest parade and to keep its final route secret. The sitting down protest gave a higher profile to the platform and it even generated its own daily publication (called *info-acampada*), widely distributed around Barcelona and its metropolitan area by campdown participants. The protesters that remained in the camp (a minority) during the entire day, kept up the place and organised different activities (talks, debates, meetings, film showing, banner preparing, etc.). At the end, once more, the establishment showed that power not only does not encourage participation, but actually represses and destroy popular participation when it structures and organises itself.

The violent situations that, as expected, arose few hours before the parade, posed to the platform the basic question of which strategy should be followed during the sit down protest (re: extreme right groups)



and during the eviction from Plaça Espanya (re: the police, which is not totally unrelated to the right). The platform, while accepting that the issue had to be discussed thoroughly in the camp, proposed a strategy based on passive resistance:

*"We acknowledge that the people and the assembly at the camp are the ones who will have the last word about which strategy be followed, and how it should be implemented. At any rate, this platform, as organisers of the sit down protest, has to take a stand, make proposals and try to create a clear and defined strategy.*

*What we propose is a group strategy so as to generate collective attitudes, actions and behaviour, and avoid spontaneous actions (sometimes not so spontaneous but premeditated by some individuals), which could end up shaping the image of the whole of the people that take part of the action.*

*The strategy proposed is completely passive resistance. Nowadays violent attitudes damage us in society's eyes because it is easy to depict active resistance as criminal and through that to be the emphasis away from the real issues. In other words, eviction from the camp should not be made easy. People should not leave when they are asked to do so. We should force them to throw us out of the camp, maybe more than once, if they want to have a parade without protests expressing their disapproval in their way (...) We suggest that campers should not respond violently when provoked.*

*(...) We should be aware of the possibility that supporters of militarism, authoritarianism and violence come to the camp to "get up our noses" or something worse (...) We propose to create a well organised security service."*

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which contrasted with police violence*

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After a lengthy debate and discussion, passive resistance to the police was adopted as strategy. Eviction by the police was faced with a total peaceful attitude, which contrasted with police violence. There was not enough resistance, though. That is something we should work on in the future. Overcoming fear is not easy, but the goal of this strategy is to practice civil disobedience as an exercise that gives fresh air to the concept of freedom. As for security, it was practically non-existent.

Considering that there were over 200 groups involved in the mobilisation, the amount of tents (max. 130) and of people taking part of the organisation of the sitting

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down protest was very small. We have to work on getting groups to assure them responsibilities once they have confirmed their participation on a social movement. Whatever strategy guidance there was, it was thanks to the camp internal organisation and to the assembly, in which, by the way, it was not easy to make decisions. The platform was not paying attention enough to the issues that came up in relation to the camp, an action that the platform had itself organised. It is true, however, that after the fact there has been considerable self-criticism and the need for improvement is acknowledged.

THE FESTIVAL FOR PEACE  
IN PARC DE LA CIUTADELLA  
(May 27, 2000)

After the lively demonstration, the sit down protest and the hanging of white sheets from balconies, the events programmed by the Unitary Platform concluded with the Festival for the Culture of Peace concluded on May 27, coinciding with the military parade. Parc de la Ciutadella (barracks that became a public place) was the venue of a number of activities for the assertion of pacifism and fostering of a peace culture. The Festival attracted throngs of people who wanted to show their rejection of the parade and, therefore, of a culture of violence.

Volunteer from the different groups worked very hard from 7 a.m., so the first activities could start as scheduled at 12 p.m. The show was led by actor Joel Joan, and various famous artists showed their wares on stage, wares totally unrelated to those that were being paraded by the in Avinguda Rius i Taulat. Jordi Batiste, Gerard Quintana, Lúdia Pujol, Maria del Mar Bonet and Lluís Llach concluded the cast in the morning show. Titot, Dusminguet, Brazuca Matraca, Reverendo Raga, Elèctrica Dharma and Sangtraït livened up the younger public during the afternoon.



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*notary public Eladi Crehuet  
certified that at around 1 p.m.  
in the afternoon there were  
45.000 people at the Festival*

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But once again we see that society  
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and political and institutional leaders  
go the other.*

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For an entire day the Festival entertained children and grown-ups alike, which turned Parc de la Ciutadella to an unassailable fortress of the peace culture.

In between the performances there were speeches by important people from the cultural, university and civic spheres, such as historian Josep Maria Solé i Sabaté, philosopher Josep Maria Terricabres, economist Arcadi Oliveres, law professor Mertxe Garcia Aran and artists Jordi Dauder and Carme Sansa. Members from the set down committee read a statement of rejection to the eviction from the camp, which had taken place the previous night with excessive force and uncalled for violence.

Given that attendance figures as tallied by the local police, ourselves and the media, which always reported unfavourably to our own tallies during the previous week, at the demonstration the decision was made to have a notary to certify the amount of people that attended the Festival. Notary public Eladi Crehuet certified that at around 1 p.m. in the afternoon there were 45.000 people in Parc de la Ciutadella. However, it is likely that later in the day, specially considering that the performances for the younger people took place later in the afternoon, there were twice the number of people. This means that the Festival was a spectacular success, which clearly overstaged the military parade.

It has to be mentioned, however, that the three weeks previous to the Festival were not easy for the organising committee. There were many hurdles that had to be overcome to act with the maximum quality and effectiveness. The political and institutional leaders gave warm speeches about Peace (specially now, during the UN-declared international year of the peace culture). But once again we see that society and the general public go one way, and political and institutional leaders go the other. The Barcelona City Council, for instance, was a good example for this in how they responded to the organisation of the Festival. We requested only for the simplification of administrative and technical issues and instead we found all kind of obstacles. For instance, the City Council did not allow us access to the power supply, or even allowed to borrow stage supplier, fencing or even portable toilets. So the organising committee had to rent power generation and portable toilets, had to get fences from the El Prat de Llobregat City Council, and platform volunteers had to do the cleaning of Parc de la Ciutadella themselves after the Festival. Our most sincere congratulations to the Barcelona City Council for their behaviour on the International Year of the Peace Culture!

In sum, despite of hurdless objections raised by some, the Peace Festival was a success in every sense. Thus, it was again demonstrated that society and the people are always right, even when if political leaders ignore their demands most of the times. ■



## Words in favor of peace

Only that which we strive to build lasts and grows  
in the spirit of man and the peoples of the earth  
until it becomes the sphere where all voices resound.  
Thus peace, which is earned stubbornly every day  
by wanting it above all other things,  
the mirror that makes all dreams possible.  
I speak of peace in peace, from the time allotted to me  
for living and suffering, from my height  
as common man who believes that peace is possible,  
from the profound love for my people and the language  
that have made me what I am, giving me support and drive.  
The afternoon is a space of lost slowness  
that peacefully and openly drowns on my eyes.  
From the midst of this silence I proclaim hope,  
peace is not a gift nor an unattainable summit  
but the starting over of many springtimes,  
the will and risk of loving and understanding.  
All the vastness of the years and their mystery  
echo in the words I write that they may serve  
as flag and shield, as aim and purpose.  
More than with the strident echo of drums and trumpets  
lording over time and violating silence,  
more than with the din of victorious songs  
that drown out the sigh of the weak and helpless,  
more than with the coarse disdain of the high and mighty  
that proclaim themselves heirs to all riches,  
let us, solemn and convinced, steady the here and now  
with a desire for peace that will set all eyes ablaze.  
Let us think of the future from the erupting present,  
from within and without, and let us make shelter  
of light to preserve the power.  
We must want peace in peace, without grudging hands  
because in the order of time only that which we strive  
to build lasts and grows and enriches the blood  
and the spirit of man and the peoples of the earth.

Miquel Martí i Pol

Original title: Paraules per la pau

Translated by Sam Abrams





*"We don't want the army"*



# Acts against the parade celebrated in different Catalan towns

During the week previous to the parade on May 27, many acts against it, not prepared by the Unitary Platform, were summoned. We enclose here a brief commented list of the various summons and acts developed, taking into account that it is not a complete list, since a great deal of the hold acts were unknown to us.

⇒ Besides the Platform calls, the most remarkable acts were those organised by the Co-ordinating Committee against military occupation. This committee had some confluent space with the Unitary Platform, but it also summoned some different acts under an antimonarchical, independent manifesto. Besides of calling the unitary demonstration of May 20, together with the Unitary Platform, it has to be remarked the street band hold on May 26, from the university area in Pedralbes to Bruc's quarter, with a wide students' support and, on the other side, the demonstration on the same 27, which sought to reach the place where the parade was hold, after a lunch in Plaça del Centre. This demonstration ended when the police dissolved it violently. Nine people were arrested, and the group was also attacked by fascist groups that supported the parade.

⇒ In Barcelona, a group called Mujeres Preocupando organised a bicycle ride against the parade on May 13, which ended with an attack by the municipal Police and some arrests.

⇒ A massive sending of e-mails to Joan Clos, Mayor of Barcelona, was made, asking him for the suspension of the act.

⇒ A newspaper called *Trenquem les files*, which gathered articles criticising militarism from different pints of view, was edited.

⇒ In Torredembarra a group of people assembled at the principal town square and lighted candles against the parade.

⇒ In Vilafranca there were leisure activities and talks hold on May 21.

⇒ On Sunday, 21 of May, the so-called Centre per la pau i el desenvolupament, in Reus, summoned an act of repulse.

⇒ In Mataró and other towns in the area of Maresme there were different activities summoned by a co-ordinating committee formed by more than thirty



*Students on fight. No to the parade*

entities. Among the activities it is remarkable a barbecue on May 21.

⇒ In Girona the Antifascist Platform hung a placard on the Pont de Pedra (Stone Bridge).

⇒ JERC protested in front of the Ministry of Defence in Madrid and chained themselves at the Military Government of Barcelona.

⇒ IC youth sectors summoned concentrations at the Cathedral of Barcelona, where a dove of peace was formed with candles. They also called for concentrations in Sant Feliu de Llobregat, Prat del Llobregat, L'Hospitalet and Terrassa.



⇒ Also in Badalona some sheets were distributed to be hung in the balconies. In this case, some stands in the street offered material to draw the dove of peace.

⇒ In Vic there was a demonstration on May 22.

⇒ Movibaix, an entity devoted to child and young leisure, was holding its annual party. PP's leader in Catalonia wanted to attend it, but once he arrived he was asked not to enter, being declared persona non grata because of his statements in favour of the parade.

⇒ A gay and lesbian collective made a protest act in front of the Military Government. Six people got naked and painted themselves in pink.

⇒ Students of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona in Bellaterra cut the A-7 highway on May 25.

⇒ In Lleida a shutting-in was celebrated in the cathedral from May 25 to show disagreement for the parade, and a protest act was done in front of the military Government of that city.

⇒ In Manresa two demonstrations of repulse were held on May 26, one in the morning, held by students, and the another, a unitary one, in the afternoon.

⇒ In Tarragona a concentration was held on May 26, called by Platform Tarragona Patrimony of Peace.

⇒ On May 26, the Unsubmissive Assembly of Barcelona removed some street plates with military names.

⇒ In Barcelona, the Moviment Popular, led by Lluís Maria Xirinacs, carried out different acts against the parade. The most remarkable one was a human chain on Plaça Catalunya with whistlers for each participant, on Friday 26 of May.

⇒ Students organisations of secondary school convoked a stop on Friday 26 of May, which was followed all over Catalonia in a great number of high schools.

⇒ In Sant Cugat del Vallès a concentration was done on May 26.

⇒ In Santa Coloma de Gramenet an act of repulse was carried out on the same May 27.

⇒ In Sant Adrià del Besòs an act was convoked on May 27.

⇒ The day after the parade, a group of people went to the place where it had been held to sweep and mop the street to leave it clean. In spite of some wrong news that appeared in some newspapers, this is not a Catalan tradition, but an act carried out in the Basque Country more or less two hundred years ago.

⇒ In Sant Boi de Llobregat a concentration took place in front of the quarter placed at the centre of the town, which was used as a logistic centre for the parade. ■

#### **Public institutions that approved motions against the parade:**

Town council of Badalona  
Town council of Vilanova i la Geltrú  
Town council of Molins de Rei  
Town council of Montornès del Vallès  
Town council of Reus  
Town council of Rubí  
Town council of Granollers  
Local Council of Pla de l'Estany  
Town council of Calella  
Town council of Torelló  
Town council of La Garriga  
Deputation of Lleida  
Town council of Igualada  
Town council of Castellar del Vallès

*(which offered two coaches to attend the Festival on May 27 in Barcelona)*

Town council of Sant Sadurní d'Anoia  
Town council of Olot  
Town council of Sant Vicenç dels Horts  
Town council of Esparreguera  
Town council of Palamós  
Town council of Gelida  
Town council of Sallent  
Town council of Premià de Mar  
Town council of Monistrol de Montserrat  
Town council of Cassà de la Selva

# Compilation of pronouncements published by the press

*The aim of this compilation is to show some of the repercussions in the media (Catalan or Spanish diary press) through the statement of some famous people, mainly politicians and governors.*

## Some previous clarifications:

### Press that appears in the compilation:

Catalan press: Avui, El Periódico, La Vanguardia

Spanish press: El País, El Mundo, La Razón

**The Spanish Government** is presided by Mr. Aznar and his ministers, all of them from Partido Popular (PP), a Spanish nationalist, conservative and right-wing party.

**The regional Catalan Government (Generalitat de Catalunya)** is presided by Mr. Pujol and his ministers, all of them from Convergència i Unió (CiU), a Catalan conservative party.

**Vilaweb** was the web page where we were able to find the most complete information about the mobilisation.

**15/5/2000**

### El Periódico

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defense: "A lot of NGOs (Nongovernmental Organisations) will take part actively in it [in the military parade]", although he explained that "we have yet to see how they participate in the march".

**17/5/2000**

### El Periódico

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: He expressed his wish that the day of the military parade become a "day of respect" demonstrating the "fraternisation among the citizens and the Army, which protects them from security and peace".

**18/5/2000**

### El Periódico

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: He admitted that his announcement about the participation of the NGOs in the military parade was a "misunderstanding".

Medicus Mundi: Published a release in which the organisation reiterates its "opposition to the march" and regrets the utilisation of its name.

Intermón: Intermon's cooperation manager, Fernando Almansa, endorsed the fact that the organisation will not take part in the march celebration.

Metges sense Fronteres (Doctors Without Borders): Issued a release in which Trillo's utilisation of the NGOs is defined as a "political appropriation".

Càritas Diocesana de Barcelona: Like Creu Roja Catalunya, denied the participation of the organisation in the military parade.

### La Razón

Statement by sources close to the Department of Defence: Clarified that "the Minister had never stated that the ONGs would take part in the military parade" and his intention was to "encourage the humanitarian organisations that have collaborated with the Army to participate in the exhibition that will take place in Moll de la Fusta (Barcelona's old port)".

### El País

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: The Minister of Defence yesterday once again asked all the critical organisations to "respect" the Army.

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: During his visit last Tuesday to Barcelona, he mentioned that this city was chosen as the site for the Armed Forces' Day because of the "particularly solidary nature of the Catalan society". It was an acknowledgement of the work done by the social and nonGovernmental organisations, which in recent years have increased in Catalonia.

### El Mundo

Médicos Sin Fronteras (Doctors Without Borders): The organisation will send a letter to José María Aznar "in order to express our indignation" about what we consider to be "political utilisation of the humanitarian aims".

Statement by Jaume Llansó, spokesperson of the Plataforma per la Pau, diguem no a la desfilada militar (Pro-peace platform: say no to the military parade):

"The replanning of the route through the city and Federico Trillo's intending to rely on organisations' participation shows that the department of Defence felt overwhelmed with the generated opposition".

Statement by Josep Antoni Duran Lleida, Minister in the Catalan Government: He reiterated yesterday that there is a "lack of enthusiasm [in the Generalitat of Catalonia] for the march, indicating that the Spanish Department of Defence announced the celebration of the military parade to the media before announcing it to the Generalitat.

#### **Avui**

Metges Sense Fronteres (Doctors without Borders): Trillo's statement are a political appropriation of humanitarian aims".

Medicus Mundi: "Trillo's attitude shows an undervaluation of humanitarian organisations, which work in an independent and impartial way".

Solidaris per al Desenvolupament: "What Trillo says is madness. We don't want to be invited to anything nor become an aftersales service".

Intermón: "Talking about an alliance between the army and the NGOs reflects the Spanish armed forces pressing need to preserve an image of peaceful service".

Consell Nacional de la Joventut de Catalunya: "We are talking about a military exhibition in a context in which the army doesn't enjoy popularity in Catalan society".

### **20/5/2000**

#### **La Vanguardia**

Headline: "Aznar [Prime Minister of the Spanish Government], angry with Pujol [Prime Minister of the Catalan Government, the Generalitat de Catalunya] about the military parade. The Executive Power believes that the Government of Catalonia fuels controversy instead of giving support to the Army".

Statement by José María Aznar, President of the Spanish Government: Aznars' cabinet sources consulted by this newspaper expressed yesterday their dissatisfaction about the attitude taken by the Catalan Executive Power and by CiU. The cabinet considers that their "ambiguous and cold" attitude obstructs the "normal" course of the military parade.

Statement by Josep Piqué, Foreign secretary: He referred to some of the groups which are organising the protests as "groups that call themselves pacifists, but then they stimulate violence in other fields". Although he did not say so explicitly, he was referring to some Catalan radical groups with connections with Jarrai.

### **21/5/2000**

#### **La Vanguardia**

Headline: "The PP brands CiU's attitude as bastard".

Statement of Manuel Fraga, President of the Xunta de Galicia (Galicia's Regional Government) and exminister of Government during Francisco Franco's dictatorship: using a ringing tone, he recalled that the Army is an "essential part of Spain" and he was "indignant" about criticism of the march.

Statement by Alberto Fernández Díaz, President of PP in Catalonia: described the attitude of CiU and the Generalitat concerning the military parade as "bastard", and he considered such attitude to be "absolutely unacceptable. I hope he added that in the coming days they will correct what they had said, because, otherwise, they will have to assume any incident that may arise during the Armed Forces' Day".

Statement by Xavier Trias, CiU's spokesperson in the Spanish Parliament: "The Catalan Government maintained a position of institutional respect towards the military parade, although without any enthusiasm, and it has not changed its intention of attending the ceremony in a "respectful mood". The Spanish Government did not inform us about its intention to hold the military parade and, despite that, we did not make a great fuss".

#### **El Periódico**

Headline: Jorge Fernández Díaz: "Rejection of the military parade reveals preconstitutional ticks in Catalonia".

Statement of Jorge Fernández Díaz, Secretary of State for Las Cortes: "Too many people fail to understand the evolution the Armed Forces are undergoing, its full democratisation and its growing participation in humanitarian missions".

#### **La Razón**

Front page headline: "Two buses carrying members of Jarrai [youth organisation for the independence in Basque Country] arrived in Barcelona to break up the military parade".

### **22/5/2000**

#### **El País**

Statement by Jordi Pujol, President of the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Regional Government): "Fernández Díaz cannot control his language and he does not express himself well", emphasised Pujol, who asserted that "in spite of being the highest authority in Catalonia", he got to know about the celebration of the military parade in Barcelona "through the press".

Federació catalana de l'Esplai (Catalan Youth Leisure Federation): The representatives of the Federació catalana de l'Esplai, who declared Fernández Díaz

persona nongrata, consider the statements made by the leader of Partido Popular an "insult" to a section of the Catalan population. [The Federació tried to avoid Fernández Díaz's presence at its annual celebration, where he wanted to get come what may].

### **La Vanguardia**

Headline: "Pujol reminds that he was not informed about the parade although he is himself the highest authority in Catalonia".

Statement by Jordi Pujol, President of the Generalitat de Catalunya: The President of the Generalitat also asserted that the President of the Partit Popular de Catalunya, Alberto Fernández Díaz, "cannot control his language, he does not express himself well and, therefore, we do not have to pay too much attention to him".

Statement by Josep Montilla, Mayor of Cornellà (and Secretary General of the PSC since June, 2000): "We have a modern and democratic army. Therefore, parties can be celebrated".

**23/5/2000**

### **El País**

Delegation Lleida: "A military parade including a display of armament does not meet Catalonia and Barcelona's desire of being an international benchmark for peace. All the more so, when year 2000 has been designated by UNESCO as the International Year of Peace Culture".

**24/5/2000**

### **La Vanguardia**

Headline: "Aznar expects the parade to be "a lesson in maturity" by citizens for certain politicians".

Statement by José María Aznar, President of the Spanish Government: "I honestly believe that citizens sometimes show signs of maturity that may surprise Government leaders. That is why I know that citizens will understand armed forces have to parade in some city or another.

### **Avui**

Headline: "Catalonian Parliament approves a motion in favour of peace three days before the march. A hundred pacifists pitch their tents in Plaça d'Espanya, 200 hundred meters away from the route the military parade will follow".

**25/5/2000**

### **La Vanguardia**

Headline: "Trillo asks for respect for the Army. As a reply to CiU, the Minister says the parade is going to be neither ostentatious nor intimidating".

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence:

Trillo announced that NGOs that have given their support to the parade include Red Cross, Cáritas, Movimiento por la Paz, el Desarme y la Libertad, Farmacéuticos Mundi, Fundación Olof Palme, Consorcio España por Kosovo and Fundación Cánovas del Castillo".

Statement by several NGOs: However, this announcement created controversy once again. Cruz Roja denied taking part "in the parade, or in the exhibition due to take place in Moll de la Fusta", like Farmacéuticos Mundi, that added they have not been sent any invitation by the Ministry of Defence. Fundación Olof Palme turned down their invitation, although they recognised the Army "has helped a great deal" in the missions where they take part. Fundación Cánovas del Castillo, close to PP's ideas, did announce their presence in the exhibition in Moll de la Fusta.

Ciutadans pel Canvi (Citizens for the Change): "Ciutadans pel Canvi condemns any kind of public and impressive exhibition of war material since this does not contribute to the strengthening of the Peace Culture".

Catalan Parliament: Just 72 hours before the military parade the Catalan Parliament agreed to take into account a proposed bill presented by IC-V (Initiative for Catalonia The Greens), which proposes a set of measures to "promote Peace Culture". The Catalan political parties CiU, PSC-CiPC and ERC supported the proposal and PP abstained.

Joan Ridao, ERC member of Parliament: "The fact that the Spanish Army parades its death machinery in an unashamed way is unacceptable, especially taking into account the current great transformation the armies are undergoing.

### **El Periódico**

Headline: "Trillo asks for respect towards the King and the Army. The head of the Defence Department assures the military parade is not going to be "intimidating", but it will be "a party for everyone".

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: "Trillo struggled to play down reactions against the military parade and predicted that "normality will be the day's dominant feature". He thought that "the great majority of the population knows and values highly the Armed Forces" and he announced that the main aim of the military parade is make people see it as a normal thing "and make it be a party for everyone".

Josep Maria Terricabras, philosopher: "This kind of military display not only reveals a dangerous nationalist ideology but also reveals an out-of-date and obsolete aesthetic outlook".

### **Avui**

Headline: "The Catalan Parliament accepts, with the abstention of PP, the Peace Promotion Act. Ciutadans pel Canvi asks for an attitude of "condemnation" towards the military parade".

Statement by Lluís Maria Xirinacs, philosopher: Xirinacs considered the Army's parade through the streets of Barcelona a "provocative act".

**26/5/2000**

**La Vanguardia**

Note by the Associació Catalana de Juristes Demòcrates (ACJD Catalan Association of Democratic Lawyers) published by this newspaper: "The ACJD does not set out to evaluate "the Army's constitutional legitimisation", but it considers the organisation of the military parade "an outofdate option that does not fit with the modern times".

Statement of Josep Borrell, PSOE's deputy: Borrell said there is no need to discredit the military parade by resorting to the collective memory, since the Civil War "was not between Catalonia and Spain, but between the Republic and fascism".

Statement by Pasqual Maragall, PSC's President: Maragall criticised the fact that the Spanish Government "has reverted to the initial scheme" of the Armed Forces' Day, after the socialists, when Narcís Serra was Minister in the Spanish Government, changed the "nature of this celebration".

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: "The critics of the Army have more to do with a reactionary mentality than with democratic nationalism".

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: "Those who set themselves up as the voice of the people will face a disappointment when they see the military parade is well received by the people".

**El Periódico**

Statement of Jaume Llansó, spokesperson of the Plataforma per la Pau, diguem no a la desfilada militar (Propeace platform, let us say no to the military march): "If they were clever, they would cancel the military parade. They say Joan Clos is a mayor without charisma. If he withdrew authorisation for the military parade through the streets of Barcelona, he would become one of the most popular mayors that the city has ever had".

**Avui**

Statement by Jordi Pujol, President of the Generalitat de Catalunya: Pujol plumped for opening collective introspection on the reasons why the Spanish Army is still distrusted in Catalonia, taking into account the fact that opposition towards it remains despite "the

rightness of the Army, the consolidation of democracy and the in general positive atmosphere in society".

**27/5/2000**

**Avui**

Headline: "Aznar and Pujol keep up the tension over the military parade till the last minute".

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: The Minister insisted yesterday that his predecessor, Eduardo Serra, told the President of the Generalitat "a long time ago" the Armed Forces Day parade would take place in Barcelona. This was in response to the repeated complaints by the Catalan Government, that was excluded from preparations for the military parade".

**El Periódico**

Statement from Generalitat sources: Generalitat Presidency sources denied that Serra had told Pujol of the decision. They argued the Minister had merely made a comment on the fact that Defence was thinking of Barcelona as the venue for the military parade".

**El País**

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: "When I took my place in the Ministry, from May 2nd or 3th, the first thing I did was contacting the President of the Generalitat, who is, also, the first authority of the State in Catalonia. He knew about the matter and all that happened was that during the 10 or 15 days of handover from one Government to the other, there was possibly a lack of fluent communication, a lack of specific attention to this point".

**La Vanguardia**

Headline: "Pujol advises everyone to shut up, as he could also say a great deal about the whole affair".

**El Periódico**

Statement by Xabier Arzalluz, President of PNV (Basque Nationalist Party): "Military parades should not exist. I do not know whether, during the time of the Republic, the Army displayed itself like that. I do not know where else such military parades take place...so why the hell do we have them here?"

**28/5/2000**

**La Vanguardia**

Headline: "The presence of the King in the military parade returns it to fold of the institutional peace".

**Avui**

Headline: The number of people attending the Festival for Peace is twice the number of people attending the military parade".

**El País**

Headline: "The military parade gets thousands of Catalonians out onto the streets both in favour of and against the Army".

**El Periódico**

Headline: "Trillo announces he will reduce the number of military parades".

**El Mundo**

Headline: "Pujol was booed by some guests from the Ministry of Defence during the military parade".

**La Vanguardia**

Statement by Federico Trillo, Minister of Defence: "Barcelona has thrown itself into the dispute against the Army and common sense has prevailed. The watchwords claimed by a few have not made any impression on the people".

Statement by Lluís Llach, singer: "It is thanks to Aznar that we are celebrating this Festival for Peace Culture".

Statement by Jordi Armadans, spokesperson of the Plataforma per la Pau, diguem no a la desfilada militar: "The Festival has taken on the role of an alternative civic space where citizens could express their opposition towards the military parade and what it represents".

Statement by Joan Saura, IC-V Deputy to the Congreso (± House of Commons): He was "indignant" because afternoon TVE (Spanish public TV network) news bulletin had "manipulated" the information about the opposition to the military parade and had "passed over in silence" the celebration of the Festival and showed just the images of "a few radical young people".

**El Mundo**

Statement by Artur Mas, spokesperson of the Generalitat Government: Mas regrets the incidents in the streets of the Sants district of Barcelona, and recalled that "the Government had never advocated violence". He also pointed up the fact that the alternative party Festival in Parc de la Ciutadella had proved very popular".

**La Vanguardia**

Statement by Josep Antoni Duran Lleida, Minister by the Catalan Government: Duran Lleida played down the importance of booing Jordi Pujol, was subjected to consider them "minor incidents, a logic reaction taking into account the kind of public that attended the military parade".

**Vilaweb**

Statement by Jordi Carbonell, ERC President (Catalonian Left Republican party): The estimate that 20.000 people attended the military parade was "exaggerated" and that there were also people who had travelled to Barcelona by bus for to the military parade".

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The demonstrations were followed up by several international media: a report was broadcast by the BBC and two German networks reported them as well. The Guardian and Metropolitan also gave them coverage. ■



# Text presented to Catalanian Parliament during the campaign against the military parade

**The civic mobilisation against the military parade on May 2000 could not stop the military celebration, but its echo was important enough for both the Catalanian Parliament and the Spanish House of Commons to make a pronouncement about it.**

**Here it is the transcription of the text approved as an example of the palpable results of a civic mobilisation.**

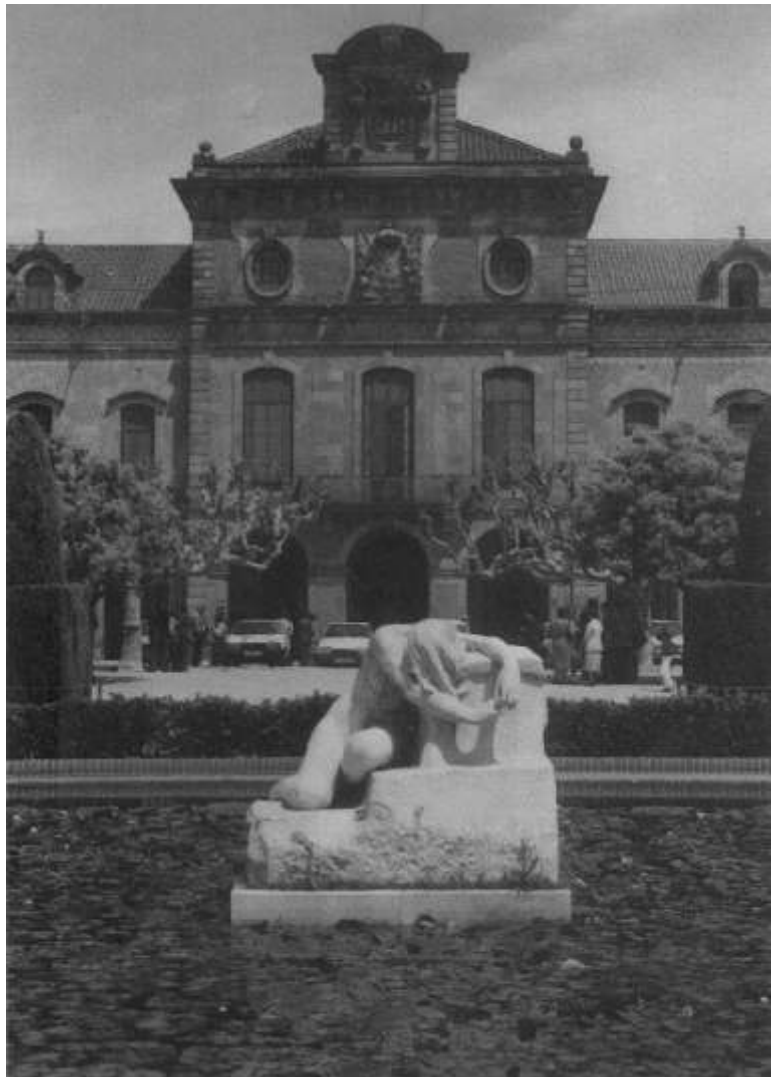
## **Text presented in the Catalanian Parliament on May 24, 2000**

At the proposal of the parliamentary group of Iniciativa per Catalunya-Verds, the Parliament of Catalonia has a motion going through parliament that states:

Catalonia, by rejecting war as a system of resolving international conflicts, the promotion of human rights, of democratic freedoms and international co-operation, recognises peace as a fundamental human right.

*The Government of the Generalitat will promote peace by means of solidary, cultural and researching initiatives, and also of education, co-operation and information, with the goal of making of Catalonia a land of peace.*

*The Government of the Generalitat will collaborate with town and local councils, on the one hand, and with groups and civic entities, on the other, to stimulate initiatives of any group ready to co-operate to promote peace. ■*



# But, how did the military parade end?

After so much stir because of a military parade, it is worth to make a little report about how did the event end. In a first moment, the Spanish Ministry of Defence had scheduled the military parade to go down Diagonal Avenue. This had been the parade's run in 1981 and also the one Franco's army made when entering Barcelona in 1939, at the end of the Spanish Civil War.

Even people who were in favour of the military parade considered that run to be a little bit provocative. That is why it was proposed to go through the same Diagonal avenue, but instead of going toward the city centre, making the run the other way round, as if the army were leaving. The starting point of this alternative should be Plaça de Francesc Macià.

According to official sources, this run could provoke too many traffic jams, so the military event was moved to a corner of the city, near Montjuïc, in Avinguda Rius i Taulet. According to unauthorised sources, this avenue was easiest to defend by the police, in view of the atmosphere, in case of troubles.

Thus, it was agreed that it would be made in Rius i Taulet, what implied to change, at the last moment, the

location of the camp called by the Platform. That option also provoked some changes in the number of soldiers and material to be shown in the parade. In the first place, the military tanks, because it seems they are too heavy to go through a street with a tunnel under it. Then the run turned to be too short for all the soldiers that were supposed to parade, so the number was reduced.

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*In all, there hardly was a uniformed soul,  
with no tanks, nor planes, nor goat,  
which left the spectators unsatisfied*

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Summarising, about one thousand and two hundred uniformed people walked through the street, almost all of them missed the Legion's goat, which it seems had no place either. Casually, in the morning it seemed it was going to rain, so they did not dare to get out their warplanes. It seems that the excuse did not work, because from eleven o'clock in the morning there was an incredible sun.



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*the expenses of the whole mobilisation against the parade were approximately 3.000.000 pesetas, and they were financed by society itself. The military parade expenses were, according to official data, 58.000.000 pesetas.*

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In all, there hardly was a uniformed soul, with no tanks, nor planes, nor goat, which left the spectators unsatisfied. And above all, they left unsatisfied the people of the authorities' tribune. More than one was crazy about leaving and showed it later, at the little snack offered by the king, disappearing before the due time, according to protocol.

Another curious thing is the data corresponding to the attendance. We have to remark the fact that some coaches from outside Catalonia came carrying soldiers' relatives, paid by the Ministry. Official data state that there were twenty thousand (20.000) people. Anyway, if we calculate the square metres of Avinguda Rius i Taulet, we will see that it is impossible to gather twenty thousand people there, and even less if one thousand and two hundred have to parade in the middle of the street. If they really paraded, there were no more of five thousand people. Anyway, it is better to leave them with their numbers, because they could say we are radical and our goal is not to discuss one zero here or there.

Finally it has to be said that the expenses of the whole mobilisation against the parade were approximately three million (3.000.000) pesetas, and they were financed by the contributions of the entities forming the Platform. A great civic society mobilisation (more than 100.000 people) financed by society itself. On the other hand, the military parade expenses were, according to official data, fifty eight million pesetas (58.000.000), we suppose they do not take into account the amortisation of the material they walked the streets with. As if Defence budget was not already scandalously high, on top of that, we had to pay their parties. You know, next year object military expenses in your taxes. ■

