



Ban ANV

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Back in the mid 70's, Basque Country was filled with Nationalist ultra leftist small groups of every kind; Trostkists, Guevarists, Third-Worldists, Culturalists. Among them, ETA was just one more, with the difference that they devoted their energies to kill. In order to control this chaos, ETA created *Herri Batasuna* (HB) in 1978. Its creation met two objectives. In the first place, to finish with the threat of other splits as it already happened in the Fifth and the two Sixth Assemblies; it created an orthodox and strongly politicized safety belt that would avoid more separatist adventures. Secondly, *Herri Batasuna* was after monopolizing the entire *abertzale* vote and bringing it together in one single party, subordinated to ETA.

It is not that HB had any relation with ETA, or that it advocated terrorism or that it avoided condemning the attacks. The fact is that *Herri Batasuna* was the direct doing of ETA's leadership; it served ETA, and it was accountable to ETA. And after HB, came *Euskal Herri-tarrok*, *Batasuna*, AuB, and ANV, chosen by ETA's leadership as substitutes. ANV was part of HB from the begin-

ning, and as such, it took part in the support policy and strategy for ETA.

Neither Spanish Security Forces (FSE) nor threatened councilmen have any doubts that ANV belongs to the criminal enterprise. Zapatero should answer to them; since when that ANV belongs to ETA depends on if ETA kills or not? Would ANV belong less to ETA if it had not killed some days ago? Since when does its banning from political life depend on if ETA decides to kill again? If ETA kills, ANV will be illegal, but what if ETA does not do it? Would it mean that ANV is not ETA?

Nobody knowing about the *abertzale* world doubts that ANV belongs to ETA's criminal enterprise. However, even if the government had doubts, there is an evident fact: if ANV belongs to ETA, it does so regardless of the fact that ETA commits crimes or not. Therefore, it is absolutely unacceptable that Bermejo or Rubalcaba speak of banning this group based on what the terrorists do or not do; or what the ETA terrorists say or not say.

The reader already understands which way the wind is blowing. The govern-

ment is using the banning of ANV, the justice system and the rule of law to exert pressure on the terrorists on the one side while it seeks to calm public opinion on the other side. What Zapatero pursues is that neither one spoils an election campaign he has anti-

pated to win “no matter what”. That is to say, that the country’s plan of action against ANV will depend on Zapatero’s electoral needs. With or without condemnation.

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