

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! FREEDOM!

The Praga Collective, the Defense Commission of the Bar Association of Barcelona and the «Drets», Coordinating committee of Catalonia's Lawyers, Jurists for Human Rights, Catalan Association for Human Rights, Constituïm and «ServidorsCAT» associations, having analysed the two rulings issued yesterday by the investigating judge of the Supreme Court, that formally indict 25 political and civic leaders and order unconditional prison for the five who still have the status of Members of the Parliament of Catalonia, including the candidate to the Presidency of the Generalitat,

EXPRESS OUR COMPLETE OPPOSITION to both court decisions on the following grounds:

Firstly, and as the Catalan and Spanish legal communities have repeatedly stated, as there has been no public or violent uprising, **there has been no rebellion.**

Secondly, the hypothetical assumptions of **embezzlement of public funds have not been accredited** by any public accounts verification institution.

Thirdly, given the lack of evidence and even signs of offences, **provisional prison is inappropriate, disproportionate, and even cruel.**

Fourth, **none of the other requirements to decide on provisional imprisonment are fulfilled**, since the actions of the prisoners, which always have to be assessed individually, show that there is no risk of escape, criminal repetition or destruction of evidence.

And **in fifth place**, **the considerations about the ideology of the defendants clash frontally with the fundamental rights of ideological freedom and of political participation.**

WE LIKEWISE RECALL that all the Spanish State's actions aimed at preventing Members of Parliament from the legitimate exercise of their functions and from being invested as President of the Generalitat violate the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other universal democratic norms and principles. For this reason, the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations has recently issued a precautionary measure calling on the Spanish State to respect the political rights of the then Member of Parliament Jordi Sánchez.

WE ACCORDINGLY DEMAND THAT THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE SPANISH STATE MAKE AN URGENT RECTIFICATION, RELEASE ALL IMPRISONED POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND FULLY RESPECT THE INSTITUTIONS THAT REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF CATALONIA

Barcelona, March 24, 2018