

Institutional statement of the President of the Government

Friday, 7th of March 2008

The President of the Government, Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, made the following institutional statement after the terrorist blast that killed the ex Alderman of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), Mr. Isaias Carrasco, in Mondragon.

Good afternoon.

Today, the terrorist group ETA has killed Isaias Carrasco in a terrorist blast that took place after midday in Mondragon.

In the first place, the Government would like to communicate its deepest sorrow to the family of Isaias Carrasco, to his friends and to his mates in the Socialist Party of the Basque Country and in the General Workers' Union in these awful moments. By doing so, the Government would also like to express the grief, support and affection of all the good-willed Spanish citizens.

This criminal blast shows, once more, the cruelty of those who want to keep on carrying out their execrable activities against the most elementary of rights: the right to life.

Apart from expressing the firmest condemn, which all democrats do, the Government would like to express, in the most adamant of manners, that those who have taken part in this blast will be arrested in the end and taken before Justice so that they may rigorously serve the sentence matching their hideous act; just like those who have committed terrorist acts before, and who have been arrested, judged and condemned.

The Government will prosecute terrorists and those who collaborate with them, support them and justify their actions with all the instruments of the Rule of Law and it will set down with determination to provide all the necessary means in order to keep on defending the life and the freedom of Spanish citizens.

We knew that ETA could still hurt and cause irreparable damage to Spanish citizens. Today it has added one more victim to its long ignominious list; a victim that, just like all the previous ones, will remain in our memories and in our hearts.

But we also know, and we know it for sure, that ETA has already been defeated by democracy, it has been repudiated and isolated both by the Spanish society and by the Basque society. That is why it is bound to disappear and that is why its members are bound to end up in jail.

Today, the terrorist group has killed a worker who had devoted part of his life to the defence of the interests of his fellow citizens in the municipality of Mondragon, where he worked as an Alderman of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party.

Thus, just like so many times in the past, today terrorists have intended to interfere in the peaceful manifestation of the willingness of citizens, who have been summoned to vote. But the Spanish democracy has already proved that it does not accept a challenge from those who oppose to its basic principles and its most essential values; it has never accepted such challenges in the past, it does not accept them today and it will never accept them.

Together - the Government, the political parties, the social organisations and the civil society - we will defend our institutions and our freedom. Together we will put an end to this blot that has been hitting the Spanish society for decades.

Thank you very much.