

Newsletter

ELA

EUSKAL SINDIKATUA

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Thousands of people followed ELA's strike calls to demand governments and companies to boycott Israel

On 15 October, thousands of workers followed the strikes and protests called by ELA to call on the governments of South Euskal Herria (Basque Country and Navarra), as well as the Spanish Executive and the European Commission to break military, commercial and diplomatic relations with the genocidal state of Israel. ►

South Euskal Herria has demonstrated its capacity to mobilise in favour of Palestine, with its own message: nothing can be bought or sold to Israel. Thus, the mobilizations that have taken place in the last months in South Euskal Herria demand a total boycott of Israel, a message that was essential for ELA when it came to calling the strikes.

For this reason, the call of ELA for the strikes and mobilizations of October 15, had more concrete and committed demands than those raised in the Spanish calls, demanding that governments and companies suspend all relations with Israel. ELA argues that all the tools should be used to stop the genocide against Palestine and therefore advocates that the Basque parties should boycott Israel a condition to support the Sanchez Government in all the votes of the Spanish Congress.

On 15 October, the workers of the Basque Country demonstrated once again their solidarity with the Palestinian people. The strikes had a very important follow-up, and the mobilizations carried out throughout the Basque Country were multitudinous.

There is a lot of pressure that the Basque working class can put on institutions and companies to take measures to stop the genocide. For example, Sidenor stopped selling steel to Israel through trade union pressure; at CAF, the workforce is facing management to stop building the train for colonization in Palestine; and the Artiach Works Council has asked the company's management to break all its trade relations with the State of Israel and with companies related to it.

Stopping genocide and saving as many lives as possible is the cry that thousands of people and institutions have made urgently throughout the world. Many people expected the bombs to stop falling on Gaza and humanitarian aid to end the famine. But despite the relief that is felt at the moment, caution must be exercised, as Israel has repeatedly broken



some previous truce agreements. International pressure must be maintained to put an end to the bombing and humanitarian aid must be distributed. But pressure must also be maintained to make sure that the peace in Gaza and Palestine is a peace with justice, with rights, with reparation, with recognition, with the end of apartheid and with sovereignty over their own territory.

Solidarity with the Palestinian people demands, now and in the future, that the pressures and mobilizations

of society continue in order to put a definitive stop to genocide, but we must also prevent Israel from continuing to usurp land, displacing the local population, applying social structures of apartheid and persecuting an entire people. In this regard, ELA will continue to demand the application of international law, in particular the application of the right of self-determination of peoples, throughout Palestine, from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, guaranteeing the right to return of all refugees. ■

ELA calls on institutions and political parties to make care services public

More than 500 care sector workers joined the mobilization called by ELA on October 8 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. In the last twenty years, 25,000 workers have followed the 5,000 days of strike called in this sector

More than 500 care professionals followed the mobilization called by ELA day on October 8 in Vitoria-Gasteiz. Workers from nursing homes, day-care centers, home services, social intervention or functional diversity, among others, demanded that care be made public under the slogan "On the path to a Basque model of quality care, make it public now!". The protest made various stops at public and private nursing homes and in front of the Basque Parliament.

At the end of the mobilization, an act was held in which ELA's head of social action, Leire Gallego, denounced that care is privatized and consequently precarized. "ELA has been working for years to improve working conditions in this sector," she said, and gave the following information: "25,000 workers have participated in the 5,000 days of strike in this sector over the past 20 years." This has made it possible to establish a 35-hour working week in many care sectors and "in twenty years we have been able to double the minimum wage for many workers".

Gallego said that, in spite of the progress made, these sectors remain precarious. An example of this are the sectoral strikes in nursing homes in Araba, Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa and Navarra. ELA also reminded



the institutions and political parties of their responsibility in the way of making services public, as they leave these services in the hands of private companies, both the Basque Government and the Navarra Government, as well as the Institutions of Bizkaia, Gipuzkoa and Araba and the Municipalities (many of the home care services depend on the councils). The publication of the care system is a historic demand of the feminist movement, and was

central to the general strike held in November 2023. Since then, the situation has not improved.

Therefore, in addition to promoting mobilization and strike, it is essential to make public these services: "We need a Basque public care model to offer a decent and quality service." A model that ELA will continue to defend through collective bargaining.

Rejection of racism and colonialism on October 12th

October 12th, officially known in the Spanish State as “Hispanic Day”, commemorates the arrival of Christopher Columbus in America in 1492. While governments present it as a day of national pride and unity, for many people and social movements it represents the beginning of a historical process of colonization, genocide and dispossession that profoundly marked the history of the Global South. That is why, for years, this date has been claimed as a day of anti-colonial and anti-fascist struggle in various parts of the world.

October 12th also reminds us that colonial logics do not belong to the past: they are still alive at the borders that kill, in the laws that discriminate, in the precariousness that falls on the migrated and racialized people, and in the global inequalities that allow the North to enrich at the expense of the South. Rejecting its celebration is therefore an act of justice, memory and reparation. It means recognizing that colonialism did not end in 1492, but continues today under new forms of economic, cultural and political domination.

ELA join this collective voice and defend an internationalist, anti-racist and feminist trade unionism, which faces these structures of power and works for a society based on real equality and solidarity between peoples. We are committed to a model that places life at the center, recognizes the knowledge and contributions of the migrated people, and promotes fair relations between the North and the South. Because there will be no freedom or democracy as long as some lives are valued more than others, and no social justice possible without decolonization.

This year, the need for this claim was evident. In Vitoria-Gasteiz, a concentration of hatred against the migrant community had been convened on 12th October. Faced with this, ELA participated with the Vitoria-Gasteiz People's Movement in an anti-racist and anti-fascist mobilization to express our revulsion to all forms of racism and violence. The call brought together hundreds of people and groups who defend an Basque Country that is diverse, welcoming and committed to social justice. ■

