

INDY STRUGGLE GOES ON

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In the elections to the Parliament of Catalonia on February 14, 2021, the pro-independence parties won 74 seats, four more than in the last elections in December 2017 and six above the number needed for an absolute majority. At the same time, the votes for independentist parties reached 52%. These results are commendable considering the major intervention of the Spanish state in these elections, with superior deployment of media and financial means in favour of the pro-Spain candidates. On the other hand, remember that the percentage of votes in favour of Brexit was also 52%.

Despite the repression of the Spanish state, it is clear that the current phase of the struggle for the national liberties of Catalonia, which began with the popular consultations on independence in 2009, continues. The repression of the Spanish state halted the Catalan Republic proclaimed by the majority of the Parliament of Catalonia on October 27, 2017, but has failed to suppress the desire for independence of the Catalan people. In fact, the fight for the national liberties of Catalonia has lasted for centuries. The Catalan national anthem "The reapers" refers to the war of Catalonia with the Spanish monarchy of 1640. And we can consider that the Republic proclaimed three and a half years ago was the sixth in the history

of the thousand year old Catalan nation.

Spain's reaction to the results of the Catalan elections was to strengthen police and judicial repression against the independence movement and democratic freedoms in general. Thus, shortly after the election it brought to trial five academics accused of collaborating in the self-determination referendum of October 1, 2017

votes were in favour of independence.

In fact, it seems that the strategy of the Spanish state, given that it cannot win democratically, is to destabilise Catalonia by all possible means. Not only with arbitrary judicial interference in the decisions of the Parliament of Catalonia, but by deliberately creating chaos it would try to appear later like a saviour because of the supposed

incompetence of the colony to govern itself. It is not a new tactic of outdated Spanish imperialism. Hence the increasing support of the Spanish financial, economic and media oligarchy for Vox, the clearly neo-fascist party.

Meanwhile, the European Union's position on Spain is contradictory. While actions have been taken in the cases of Poland and Hungary, the seriousness of the clear democratic and human rights violations in Catalonia has not been taken into account. Even the European Parliament, bowing to strong pressure from the Spanish state, has lifted the immunity of three MEPs politically persecuted by Spain, despite strong political opposition from many of its members who considered it a violation of democratic principles.

Thus, the democratic authority of the European Union vis-à-vis the world has been weakened. And even Russia's foreign minister recently replied to the accusations of Mr Borrell pointing to the existence of Catalan political prisoners. If the European Union does not adhere to its founding democratic values and continues to allow the neo-fascist drift of Spain, there is no doubt that it will contribute to its own disintegration.



A recent pro-independence march in Barcelona. PERE VIRGILI

and indicted members of the previous parliament and the speaker himself for allowing political debates in October 2019! Mention should also be made of the prison sentence of a rapper. In addition, prominent representatives of Spain reiterated that there was no percentage of votes with which they would recognise the independence of Catalonia. And certainly, in the referendum of October 1, 2017, 90% of the