



ELEN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017 RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION IN CATALONIA

Proposed by Plataforma per la Llengua

Saturday 11th November, Valencia

Voting result: Passed unanimously

The current political situation in Catalonia has entailed a dramatic increase in attacks on the linguistic rights of the Catalan people. Within the framework of the actions of the Spanish state to undermine the right to self-determination of the Catalan people, the Spanish government has directed a campaign against the Catalan-speaking school system in Catalonia. The Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alfonso Dastis, stated to several international media outlets that Spanish wasn't taught in Catalan schools, which is blatantly false, and implied that the use of Catalan as the working language in the education system was a means to boost anti-Spanish sentiments in Catalonia.

In addition, numerous civil and political rights have been violated in Catalonia. The self-determination referendum on October 1st was brutally repressed by Spanish police forces; direct rule has been imposed on Catalonia; the members of its legitimate government have either been imprisoned or exiled; the two leaders of the two main Catalan civil society organizations have been imprisoned; the Spanish Government is threatening to extend the imposition of direct rule on Catalonia if Catalans do not elect a pro-unity government; the Catalan education system and public broadcasting are a potential target of possible upcoming for more repressive measures.

With regard to the seriousness of the situation outlined above, ELEN calls on the Spanish Government and the European Union to undertake the following actions:

To the Spanish Government

-Ensure that Government representatives stop misleading the general public and the media on the use of Catalan as the working language in the school system and guarantee its current status.

-Free all imprisoned members of the Catalan government and civil society leaders, whom we consider to be political prisoners.

-Withdraw the imposition of direct rule on Catalonia.

To the European Union

-Launch an impartial inquiry into the police violence against hundreds of citizens during the Referendum on October 1st.

-Open infringement proceedings against Spain under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union for not complying with the obligations set out in Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

-For the same reason, consider the suspension of certain rights deriving from the application of the Treaties to Spain, including the voting rights of the government of Spain in the EU Council, as established by Article 7 of the Treaty on the European Union.