DECLARATION OF THE FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM BASED ON THE DOCUMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SO CALLED “SOCIAL FORUM TO LAUNCH THE PEACE PROCESS”

The Foundation for Freedom, as a civic platform born in the civil society, and whose work over the last few years has been dedicated to the defence and promotion of the constitutional values as well as the condemnation of terrorism and of the legitimising language which always has accompanied it, wishes at this moment on the occasion of the publication of a document of recommendations proposed by the so called “ Social Peace Forum” backed by the `Lokarri´ group to offer the public opinion its assessment of the said text and of the ideological background which pervades it and to condemn its radical democratic inconsistence. We do so listing the following:

12 condemnations for 12 recommendations

FIRST. We condemn as false the premise which is the basis of the Social Forum text. From its reading one feels the intention of supporting the old theory of `conflict´ which for decades has been used to legitimise ETA terrorism offering it an ideological alibi.

SECOND. We condemn the attempt to build a false directive describing the systematic terrorist aggression against the Spanish democracy as `a conflict between two groups´ to which the writers of the text adopt a position of valid neutrality. We understand that, as there has been no war but rather terrorist violence, the use of the term “peace process” is unacceptable”. Between an attacked democracy and an aggressive criminal group there is no half way in which nobody can stand to issue recipes of political and judicial impunity.

THIRD We condemn the partial oblivion shown by the writers of the text: it must be remembered that, since up to now there has been no explicit declaration of the winding up of the terrorist group ETA, its continuation, even in a latent state affects the free determination of the political wishes of citizens.

FOURTH As long as the “protective presence” of the above mentioned terrorist organization hovers over the reality of Basque politics, this matter being a serious attack on harmony in peace and in freedom, the first thing any social agent has the obligation of demanding is the dissolution of ETA as an unavoidable starting point for any posterior reflections to be made. At the same time we cannot accept that when speaking of the breaking up of ETA one only speaks of “arms and military structures”, deliberately using war-like language and omitting the rest of the structures of the terrorist organization.

FIFTH We denounce as a serious failure of the text the fact that they never allude to the terrorist group ETA in the only way which it could be done correctly: precisely as a terrorist organization.

SIXTH We denounce that the writers of the text have tried to build a collective artificial memory which hides, dilutes and diminishes the responsibilities acquired by the political and social agents who have given dialectic alibis to terror.

SEVENTH we denounce the writers´ attempt to promote with their propaganda the pressure over the democratic institutions in favour of an impunity setting for the terrorists in jail.

EIGHTH We denounce that the writers’ recommendations towards the organization, their prisoners and the democratic governments involved are an unacceptable exercise of hypocrisy in two senses. On the one hand, while the conditions necessary for the obtainment of jail benefits are clearly set out in the legislation and nobody has sufficient democratic legitimacy to rewrite the conditions at their whim, behind the backs of the citizens. On the other hand, as the Spanish penitentiary legislation does not contravene Human Rights which is guaranteed by different entities, both national, European and universal, the recommendations of the “ Social Forum” state the opposite.

NINTH We denounce that the request of “damage recognition” generally proposed in the text as a condition sufficient to demand compensations in the penitentiary policy means a serious blurring. In this way they omit evident damage caused by terrorism, - on people , on their property and their very livelihood - and that this very expression has already been used on other occasions built into a justifying context. It is not the recognition of damage ( which any communication claiming responsibility for any attack announces for example) but the acceptance of blame and the facing up to the responsibilities caused ( firstly with the victims , and then with society as a whole in a wider sense) which should be demanded from those who have been carrying out terrorism .

TENTH .- We denonunce that the text of the recommendations never mentions the victims of ETA and far from recognising their legitimate role, it likens their suffering with that of the terrorists and their followers.

ELEVENTH.- We denounce the delibitrate omission of the cases of people who have fled with lawsuits pending, and the petition of a veiled amnisty when they demand a solution for their integration in society.

TWELFTH.- We wish to communicate to the society as a whole the urgent necessity of undertaking without delay the task of an indispensable political, social and historic deslegitimation of the message that for too many years gave political, social and historic alibies to terrorism.

As a Foundation, we have always believed that it was our responsibility in the struggle to deslegitimise terrorism and its message, by beginning with the condemnation of the document and of its idealogical premises prepared by “Foro Social” : the same ones , so well-known, which moved us at that time to raise our voices to remember from then until today that there is no real peace without freedom, that between democracy and terror there is absolutely no equidistance and that the defeat of terrorism implies necessarily the defeat of its political pretensions.

At the present moment , those people who, far from contributing to relieving the real consequences of decades of terrorism campaigns ( fear, emigration...), give themselves away and hasten to modify the only acceptable democratic end to ETA: its defeat, with a sham disguised as an “armistice”.

Mayo—2013 FOUNDATION FOR FREEDOM – ASKATASUN BIDEA