



## **VÍCAR COMMITMENT**

### **Final Declaration of the 1st International Meeting LA DESBANDÁ 2020 and Announcement of the 1st INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON LA DESBANDÁ AND A CENTURY OF POPULAR ANTI-FASCIST STRUGGLES**

Anti-fascism constitutes, in theory, one of the founding values of the European Union. However, one of its states has consistently refused to embrace this commitment.

The Kingdom of Spain, whose monarchical Head of State is a successor to the genocidal dictator Francisco Franco, refuses to accept both the principles of the European Union and international law.

Spanish democracy is still yet to recognise the genocide carried out by a sector of the Army, the *coup d'état*, Italian fascism, and German Nazism during the (misnamed) Spanish Civil War and Franco's subsequent dictatorship.

The Nazi-fascist attacks on the Spanish Republic constitute one of the most despicable acts of the run-up to the Second World War. The Nazi/Fascist intervention was made possible by the inaction (if not active blockade) by the French and British "democracies", the financing of the intervention by US companies, and the endorsement of said financing by the Vatican.

The story of LA DESBANDÁ, the flight from Malaga to Almería by hundreds of thousands of Andalusian civilians in February 1937 to escape fascist terror and continue living in republican territory, constitutes an epic of freedom and democracy. It is an example, like others of popular resistance to Nazism/Fascism, in the face of bourgeois democracies that looked the other way, or even collaborated with it.

Hundreds of thousands of Andalusians began a march towards Almería. For days, by

land, sea and air, the insurrectionist sector of the Spanish Army, Italian fascists, and German Nazis bombarded and gunned down this immense human caravan, leaving thousands of corpses strewn on the road. Today we can confirm that they did so knowing that these were hungry, unarmed elderly people, women and children. The crime on the Málaga-Almería Highway in 1937 constitutes one of the greatest war crimes evidencing the Francoists' genocidal capacity.

83 years later, after 42 years of supposed democracy, this genocide is still not recognised in our country. Justifications of it and the impunity of their crimes are easily accepted. The City of Madrid is able to mock our democratic memory by removing the names of republican representatives from street signs and destroying plaques and memorials to those who fought for freedom, and the victims of *el franquismo*, with impunity.

We will continue striding towards TRUTH, JUSTICE and ATONEMENT. We demand that those responsible for the genocide - the Spanish Army, and its Commander-in-Chief, the King of Spain, and Germany and Italy - apologise.

We will continue marching together with so many others who confronted and continue to confront fascism in Europe and around the world. This is why we are calling for, in the spring of 2022, **the First International Congress on La Desbandá and a Century of Popular Anti-fascist Struggles.**

**STEP BY STEP, NAME BY NAME. ANTIFASCISTS.**