

Official Statement by the President of the Catalan Government on the terrorist attack in Barcelona

Barcelona, 17 August 2017

The Vice President and the ministers have taken part in the crisis cabinet meeting that I convened to share the latest information on what happened this afternoon in Barcelona and which has left us, and all the good people of the world, shocked. We are all saddened, like Europe and the rest of the world. We know that everyone, from all civilisations, religions and social backgrounds stand with the victims and stand with us in this act of violence that hit the streets of our city, our capital.

London, Brussels, Paris and other European cities have suffered this experience, and now it has happened in Barcelona. The act has left over ninety victims, including twelve deaths, according to provisional reports. Eighty remain hospitalised, fifteen of which are in critical conditions. Therefore, we are talking about an act of very severe proportions and one that we want to condemn in the strongest possible terms.

Democracy and its intrinsic values, freedom and equality, are above terrorist violence. Between all of us, institutions and citizens, there is no doubt that we will defeat those who try to oppose civilisations against each other through the use of violence. Catalonia has been, is and will be a land of peace. A welcoming land. We will not let a minority end our way of being, which has been forged over centuries. We Catalans have been, are and will be a people of peace who open our arms to others.

I especially want to highlight the task of Catalonia's law enforcement, the Mossos d'Esquadra, who are at the forefront of the entire police operation. I would also like to thank the collaboration and support received from the Guardia Urbana as well as the State's security forces. There has been no division or dispute in this matter whatsoever. I would also like to thank the support of both European and international law enforcement agencies and, in a very explicit way, the Guardia Urbana and the City Council of Barcelona, the Generalitat's Emergency system and Health services, as well as all other institutions involved.

I would also like to thank the citizens of Barcelona for the solidarity they have shown with the victims, just as they are demonstrating now by opening their homes to those in need of shelter and flooding our hospitals with blood donations. A huge thank you for the solidarity shown by so many people from Catalonia, and outside of Catalonia. To presidents of autonomous communities, leaders and international political leaders who at this time have expressed their support and warmth. Moreover, thank you to the people of our country, especially the people of Barcelona, who once again have demonstrated their commitment to solidarity.

I would also like to say that the Ministry of Home Affairs, and its Minister, Joaquim Forn, will be delivering regular updates with all the available information and give more details on this



investigation. As you know, this is an open investigation, which has already produced two arrests. We have placed our hopes and support in our police so that they can complete their task successfully.

I urge everyone to follow only formal, rigorous, proven information from official sources, which at this time is essential to maintain the prudence and serenity that the citizens expect from our country.

Thank you to everyone for the many messages of support and condolences we are receiving. Catalonia, as always, will be at the height of the circumstances. In this fight, you will always find us in the preservation of democracy and the values of peace and freedom. Rest assured that democracy will defeat terrorism and barbarity, wherever it occurs. Our solidarity has always been, as I have said, with the European cities that have suffered this experience, today those cities that have shown their solidarity with us.

Good night.

Carles Puigdemont Casamajó
President de la Generalitat de Catalunya