

Grupos de Resistencia Antifascista Primero de Octubre (GRAPO)

Letter from a GRAPO prisoner

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<https://armthespiritforrevolutionaryresistance.wordpress.com/2016/12/26/grapo/>

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...it is with great interest that we have received news of the publishing of Red Dragon, which interests us because of its objective of internationalizing our struggles. We have great interest in learning about what occurs in your country and also wish to inform you of the struggle in these parts.

Our activity began at the end of the 60s. It was in the context of the struggle against Franco's dictatorship and the international situation that the OMLÉ (Organization of Marxist-Leninists of Spain) was formed. The OMLÉ was on the path of reconstructing the communist party, picking up its historic tradition of struggle and denouncing the revisionist degeneration which the Spanish CP has suffered. After an intense effort of seven years, the constitutive congress was celebrated in 1975, at that time forming what today is our party, the PCE(r), Communist Part of Spain (reconstituted).

The PCE(r) set as its immediate goals the frontal struggle against the reformist and revisionist politics and the unmasking of the "Democratic Reform" which was then beginning and which was nothing more than the retrenching of the Franco dictatorship with the slogan of "changing the unchangeable so that nothing changes."

From its very first moments, the PCE(r) stimulated all forms of struggle including armed struggle, and in 1975, only a few months after its founding, the GRAPOs appeared (Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups, First of October), which took their name from the date on which four policemen were executed as a response to the shooting by firing squad of five anti-fascists on September 27, 1975.

After fourteen years of struggle and resistance, during which many times the very survival of our organization has been in question, we are today in a stage of reorganization which is already bearing fruit.

Today, the objectives of the Party, as well as of the guerrilla, are the accumulation of forces necessary to make the revolution. The political and social conditions in which our struggle develops and the development of our organizations makes us optimistic. In this sense, even

though it is very hard work, and knowing we can't have overnight results, we know it depends on the imagination, audacity and initiative we bring to our work.

The results are slowly seen in practice, and in this sense I'll cite two recent acts which have a special importance for us. On one side, the plenum of the PCE(r) Central Committee was celebrated a few months ago (which we have not been able to do in the last ten years), and which is testimony to the organic development we have achieved and that we have overcome one of the hardest, if not the worst, stages through which our Party has passed.

On the other side is the expropriation of the Bank of Spain in the city of Santiago de Costela, in the course of which two policemen died. This action had a big political repercussion because of its timing and form, which confirms the solidity of the reorganization. A few days later an interview with GRAPO Central Command was published in *Area Critica*, a progressive magazine in our country, in which we set out the key objectives of the guerrilla in this stage.

In the prisons of our country there are comrade militants from various organizations who have been her for up to twelve years. In prison we have always practiced collective life and dignity. This has led to numerous struggles and hunger strikes, thanks to which we are Soria maintain an organized collective life in the form of the Karl Marx Commune of the PCE(r)'s political prisoners and those of GRAPO.

This current regimen of life was gained through the hunger strikes of 1980 – 1981; not only our regimen of life was at stake, but also our very survival. It was a very hard stage. We endured two years of total isolation; so hard that we found ourselves obliged to enter into a hunger strike and its ultimate consequences. In it, our beloved Juan Jose Crespo Galenda, 'Kepo' died after ninety days on strike and many comrades suffered irreversible injuries from the hunger strike.

The demands of this regimen of dignified life is a result of our conception of prison as another battlefield onto which we continue to carry our small grain of sand for the revolutionary cause. Yes, we are prisoners, but we are not beaten. In this sense, we conduct manual labour, cultural and political activities, handicrafts, and write articles for progressive magazines, fanzines, free radio, etc, as well as other cultural work.

In any case, this regimen of life is something we must continually maintain as a base for struggle, given that the government is not disposed to accept it and each time with greater frequency tries to take it away from us. As it is, for the last two years we have been giving battle to a new campaign whose objective is to end this situation. This campaign began with the transfer of eighteen of our most militant comrades (seven of them women) to different prisons in the Spanish state, dispersing them throughout the whole country.

Today in the prison we maintain conditions of life that are or less "normal" even though we see the government's political repression growing, and the possibility that this could change at any day, at any time.

... I am in agreement with you that for too long the revolutionary struggles in the world have been separated from each other with a lack of knowledge, as such, of the conditions and objectives of other developing struggles. But I don't believe that distance is the major obstacle that causes this separation. It's obvious that this is a difficulty, but the major problem is the well structured, planned strategy by the imperialists about revolutionary

struggles, with the goal of isolating them as much as possible. Evidently, as revolutionaries, we have the duty and the obligation to break this imperialist encirclement and let our struggle be known as well as those revolutionary struggles developing in the rest of the world, on our country and abroad.

In this sense, our continued intent is to get to know the situation in different countries with greater depth, with the goal of getting a better idea of the world situation. The results of this work have been more or less effective. Evidently, there is a general tendency among revolutionaries around the world to overcome these barriers and to offer a more objective source of information to other people which contrasts with the imperialist disinformation. This is a task which revolutionaries must take on, both at the internal and international levels.

Love and Strength, Venceremos!