

Nº 10, SEPTEMBER 2018

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN OF GALIZA NOVA

youth wing of the BNG (BLOQUE NACIONALISTA GALEGO)



Galiza Nova is a Galizan nationalist youth organisation, standing for the national and social liberation of Galiza and fighting against the capitalist and anti-Galizan policies which go against the interests of the majority of society imposed by the Spanish State and the European Union. We organise young people in order to defend our right to decent jobs in our own country, public, Galizan, quality education, women's equality, the right to live and learn in the Galizan language, demanding sovereignty for the peoples of the world and speaking out against imperialism.



GALIZA NOVA: “30 YEARS OF STRUGGLES”

Galiza Nova commemorated its 30th Anniversary as an organisation with three decades of untiring political work, serving as a school for our members active in the BNG and other grassroots, cultural and language associations. We also celebrated our participation in important social movements such as the campaign against Spanish military service and the Government’s part in the Prestige oil spill in 2002, feminist and students’ struggles, etc.

After weeks of constant activity around the country with talks, debates, educational events, visual actions, concerts, etc., all focusing on our need for sovereignty, the central event was held on 24 July in the capital, Santiago de Compostela, with addresses by former General Secretaries together with Ana Pontón, National Spokesperson for the BNG, and Alberte Fernández, our current General Secretary who highlighted the key role played by Galizan youth over the past three decades of political work, remembering the main struggles that

Galiza Nova has taken part in since it was founded in 1988, and reiterating the need to join forces to defend our country’s national and social rights. The event was attended by hundreds of members and sympathisers, as well as many historical members of Galiza Nova and several international delegations.

The commemoration of our 30th Anniversary also included the traditional tribute to Rosalía and Castelao, symbols of our people’s struggle for freedom and examples of the defence of our rights, followed by a march demanding independence for Galiza as the solution to the harsh situation that Galizan young people are suffering. We also played our part in the 17th edition of the Festigal, a festival with various cultural activities and concerts which takes place on 24-25 July, defending our sovereignty in the cultural sphere as well.

Through these initiatives we hope to attract more young people to join the struggle for Galiza’s full national

sovereignty and promote national and patriotic awareness amongst Galizans, especially young people. Galiza Nova will continue to play an active and central role in the struggle for the national and social liberation of our country.



GALIZA NOVA DEFENDS THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

Recent unemployment figures only confirm what we have been saying all along, i.e. a rise in temporary employment and increased job insecurity, with an on-going fall in permanent contracts. At the same time, the welfare system continues to come under attack, with half of all unemployed people no longer entitled to benefits.

While the Galizan and central governments do their best to convince us that employment and contracts are on the rise, jobs continue to be lost and the new contracts offer appalling working conditions, one third of which were for less than a single week's duration last year. The only thing that the so-called "economic up-turn" has brought with it is the creation of ever more "impoverished workers", people with jobs who cannot afford a

decent life and to satisfy their basic needs.

We are witnessing a severe decline of working conditions, leading directly to worse living conditions for the Galizan population who once again see emigration as their only way out. This situation is worse still for Galizan young people who are the hardest hit by zero-hours contracts with employers avoiding paying social security, as well as trainee contracts, outsourcing and subcontracting.

While temporary, seasonal work did already exist in Galiza, especially in the hotel and tourist trade, it soared to new heights during the crisis, due primarily to the labour reforms brought in by the Socialist Party (PSOE) and People's Party (PP). Nor do we hold out any hopes that the change in government in Madrid will bring with it any real changes in employment, as it was the newly ruling Socialist Party which first set about slashing workers' rights.

High quality jobs could be created in Galiza if the rights steps were taken, which is why Galiza Nova calls for the repeal of the two labour reforms undertaken by both the PSOE and the PP which facilitate layoffs and increase job insecurity,

moving instead towards funding a wide range of R&D projects designed to create high quality jobs here, together with measures to halt and reverse emigration, reducing working hours and over-time and eradicating temping agencies, etc., in order to build employment in Galiza and improve the living conditions of the Galizan working class and people as a whole.

In Galiza Nova we monitor the inroads made by Capitalism, concentrating and centralising power and wealth in the hands of a few, together with imperialist domination and neoliberal globalisation. We also analyse the way the superpowers intervene in and plunder countries rich in natural resources, convinced that the defence of our national rights and the recognition of the right to self-determination are essential in order to counter the imperialist offensive waged by capital which is at a peak today.

For all of these reasons, we call upon Galizan youth to rise up, organise and fight to defend the right to decide our own future and build the Republic of Galiza with decent work, freedoms and rights for all.



THE SPANISH STATE IN THE FACE OF THE RIGHT TO NATIONAL SELF-DETERMINATION

The Spanish State fails to guarantee freedom, which it constantly flaunts and systematically denies. Even the most basic rights are now at stake, with people incarcerated without a trial or a sentence simply for "refusing to renounce their ideas", with hundreds of people in gaol for political reasons, including musicians convicted for their lyrics and others accused of posting "offensive" tweets which the State is quick to label as hate crimes, incitement to terrorism or rebellion and sedition.

This clearly shows the true neo-Francoist and anti-democratic nature of the Spanish State whose Constitution of 1978 fails to admit any democratic means of achieving self-determination or a Republic, safeguarding instead the "unity of Spain" and the monarchy.

When confronted with the issue of self-determination,

the State uses all of the means at its disposal, ranging from the political (applying article 155 of the Constitution) to police repression (charges against demonstrators) and especially the judicial system, in order to curb democratic freedoms. The Catalans are the current chosen target, but the ultimate aim is to stamp out any movement which questions the State as it stands, which while having all the trappings of a democracy does not act as one in practice. This behaviour enjoys the backing of the EU and other international bodies acting in their own vested economic interests rather than protecting the democratic values which they claim to uphold.

In the current context, pro-sovereignty movements are the only ones to truly question the Regime set up in 1978, unlike the Spanish left which prefers to turn a blind eye rather than stand up for the rights and freedoms of the

people and the peoples within the State, demonstrating that sovereignty and national independence are the only means possible to build the country that we Galizans deserve. Our desire to throw off the shackles that bind us to the Spanish State does not stem from merely historical or cultural reasons, but the need to free ourselves of an anti-democratic, capitalist, oppressive and corrupt system and ever more aggressive economic and financial subjugation and a judiciary founded on the very domination it is designed to perpetuate. It is more vital than ever to claim our right to self-determination and to reaffirm the fight for Galizian national sovereignty, our social rights and international solidarity between the peoples of the world.

