

Against the repression in Spain,

Solidarity with the accused in the 13 Rosas case

From the beginning of the capitalist system's crisis, the police repression in Spain has been increasingly growing. That has been mainly due to the increase of the level of struggle of political and social movements that took the streets more strongly than ever facing the ongoing destruction of their rights and the achievements of the working class as a whole.

In the afternoon of 3 March 2014, an informative event about the so-called Gag Law and the reform of the Criminal Code was taking place in the city of Alcala de Henares, Madrid. The event was organized by "STOP REPRESSION" (an initiative drove by the UJCE with the aim to organize activities against the police and legal repression) in the local headquarter of Communist Party of Spain (PCE), which is used as an open space to other class movements under the denomination of "Social Centre 13 Roses" in honour to 13 comrades who were killed after the Spanish civil war.

In the event, two militants from the UJCE and prominent activists in the social movements of the city, Jesús and Elena, participated as speakers. That same night, a party was organized in order to raise money to pay the legal assistance and the legal proceedings expenses in the context of a witch-hunt climate against militants and activists. Some hours after that, and when there were only 15 people in the establishment that have closed the door, some local policemen arrived to the PCE headquarters in the city because the volume of the music was too loud – according to their explanation – and despite there is no houses near the place, and asked for the documentation to one of the responsables of the event.

After that, some National Policemen also arrived to the place. It is noteworthy that they were accompanied "by chance" by a camerawoman of the TV programme "Policemen in action" of a well-known television channel of Spain. The officers started to require that they were allowed to go into the place and they were informed that the place was the headquarters of a political party so, in order to be allowed to go inside it, they must have the appropriate legal order that the officers did not have with them. Immediately thereafter, around twenty officers both from the local and national police forcibly entered the place hitting the people there. Five persons that were inside the establishment needed medical assistance in the hospital due to the police attack.

After having arrested Elena and Jesús, the officers searched in the office, including a computer. This is the first time in the recent history of Spain that a party headquarters is searched without any kind of legal order. In addition to that, the recording of the camera of the above mentioned TV programme clearly show one of the officers telling to one of the comrades that was asking for explanations: "this is because your ideology".

As usual, the Spanish police unfairly and intentionally denounced our comrades in an attempt to justify their illegal actuation. As a consequence of that, Elena and Jesus are currently accused of an attack against authorities, resistance and disobedience, and both of them face sentences of 4 years in prison. In addition, they must attend every 15 days (the 1st and 15th of each month) to the court making it tremendously difficult to them to continue with their normal life. The legal service of the PCE is taking the case. Apart from represent the comrades, have filed a complaint against the officers that assaulted the headquarters.

It should also be emphasized that the Social Centre 13 Rosas (PCE's headquarters in the city of Alcalá de Henares, near Madrid) plays an important role in the organization of the popular movement in the city, because it is a centre where several collectives meet and make their activities: Plataforma de Afectados por la Hipoteca (PAH) (Platform for People Affected by Mortgages) or the Antifascist Assembly of Alcalá de Henares. It was also used by the university student's movement, the group of ecological consumption, working committees of the 15- M movement, etc. The reason for the police attack to this specific centre lies in its role, the Social Centre 13 Rosas was a focal point of resistance in the city.

After these events, at the end of the year 2014 the Platform for the Absolution CS 13 Rosas was created in Alcalá de Henares. From the beginning several social movements, political parties and trade unions of the city took part in the platform: <http://absolucioncs13rosas.blogspot.com.es/>

Nowadays, the process is in its final phase, thereby it is necessary the solidarity of all the social and political forces at both the State and international levels.