



**DOCUMENTS OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
VERIFICATION COMMISSION  
(IVC)**

## MEMBERS



- **Ronnie Kasrils** is a South African retired politician and prize-winning author who has played an important role in the liberation struggle against apartheid in South Africa. After the end of apartheid Mr. Kasrils served as Deputy Minister of Defence (1994-1999), Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry (1999-2004) and Minister of Intelligence (2004-2008). He was a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress for more than 16 years.
- **Chris Maccabe** is a former political Director of the British Government's Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and a former British Joint Secretary of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference (2000-2008). Mr. Maccabe was the head of political affairs at NIO during the negotiations that led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. He has also served as an adviser on peace processes to governments and international organizations in places like Kosovo and Tanzania. Mr. Maccabe was appointed a Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 2004.

- **Ram Manikkalingam** is the Director of the Dialogue Advisory Group and a Visiting Professor at the University of Amsterdam. He led the programme on International Security at the Rockefeller Foundation. Subsequently he served as Senior Advisor to the previous President of Sri Lanka on the peace process. Dr. Manikkalingam has been engaged in a number of conflict resolution efforts, including in Iraq and Northern Ireland. In Northern Ireland he has been involved in facilitating a dialogue that led to the decommissioning of weapons of the Irish National Liberation Army. He has written extensively on issues such as conflict, multiculturalism and democracy.
- Lieutenant General **Satish Nambiar** is a Former Indian Deputy Chief of the Army Staff. Served as the first Force Commander and Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992/1993. After his retirement from the military he was Director of the United Service Institution of India for more than 12 years (1996-2008). Lieutenant General Nambiar was also a member of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on 'Threats, Challenges and Change' in 2003/2004. He is a member of the Indian delegation at the India-EU Round Table and the India chapter of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific (CSCAP).
- **Ms Aracelly Santana** is a former Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Nepal (2008) and former Deputy to the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-Conflict Planning for Libya (2011). During her 20-year career with the United Nations, her work focused on several regions of the world, and involved facilitation (South Africa, Colombia), peacemaking (El Salvador and Guatemala), mediation, electoral assistance, and United Nations peace operations (the Balkans, Nepal and Libya). She has taught seminars on conflict prevention and mediation in the context of leadership courses organised by the United Nations and also the Folke Bernadotte Academy (Sweden) for senior civilian and military officials.
- **Fleur Ravensbergen** is the Assistant Director of the Dialogue Advisory Group (DAG) where she manages DAG's mediation operations. She also administers the

office, accounting, and practical aspects of programmes. She previously worked for the Dutch Ministry of Development Cooperation, the Dutch Labour Party and a research agency where she managed research projects in the field of government

**Former members:**

- **Ray Kendall** is a former British law enforcement officer, formerly President of the European Union Anti Fraud Office and Honorary Secretary General of Interpol. Mr. Kendall also served as the Secretary General of Interpol for more than 15 years (1985-2000). He served in the colonial police in Uganda and was a Deputy Assistant Commissioner in the Metropolitan Police, Scotland Yard, in the Special Branch. He is a holder of the Queens Police Medal and a Chevallier of Legion of Honneur (France).

## DOCUMENTS

### 1. Launch of the International Verification Commission

Introduction by Ram Manikkalingam

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the inaugural meeting of the International Verification Commission. On behalf of my fellow commissioners, I would like to thank you for attending this meeting today. We have here a cross section of Basque Society – including political parties, trade unions, the church and the business association. We have before us a challenging task – to verify the ceasefire. Nevertheless, I am confident that we can address this together.

The purpose of this meeting is for you to get to know us, and us you. In this meeting I will address three questions: Who are we? Why are we here? And what will we do?

#### **Who are we?**

We are the International Verification Commission for the Ceasefire in Basque Country. On my extreme right is Mr. Chris Maccabe. Mr. Maccabe was involved with the negotiations of the Good Friday Agreement as Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom Government. He was also Joint Secretary of the Anglo-Irish Conference that led to the drafting of the agreement. He has served as Head of Prison Regimes in Northern Ireland. And he has experience dealing with other peace processes as well.

Next to me, on my right, is Lt. General Satish Nambiar. He was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Indian Army. He also served as the first Force Commander for the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. He was recently on the High Level Panel on Global Security and Threats of the United Nations Secretary General.

On my left is Mr. Ronnie Kasrils. He was Deputy Defence Minister immediately after the transition to Democracy in South Africa. He has also served as Minister of Intelligence, and

Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry. He was actively involved as a leader in the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa. He is a member of the African National Congress.

Next to him is Mr. Ray Kendall. Mr Kendall was most recently Secretary General of Interpol. He has served as Deputy Assistant Commissioner in Scotland Yard and has seen many years service in the Special Branch of the United Kingdom Police. As many of you know, Mr. Kendall served on the International Contact Group dealing with issues in Basque Country. We felt that given his law enforcement experience he could be useful to the work of the commission. He has left the International Contact Group and will now serve as a member of the International Verification Commission.

On my extreme left is Ms. Fleur Ravensbergen. She is the Head of Programmes at the Dialogue Advisory Group. She has experience working in situations of conflict in Northern Ireland and Iraq, among other places. This includes facilitating the decommissioning of weapons and assessing the implementation of the agreement between dissident Republican prisoners and prison authorities in Northern Ireland. She will serve as the Coordinator of the Commission.

Finally, let me introduce myself. I am Ram Manikkalingam. I am a professor at the University of Amsterdam and the Director of the Dialogue Advisory Group. I have been involved in facilitation efforts in different parts of the world. And have was previously Senior Advisor to the President of Sri Lanka. I also headed the programme of the Rockefeller Foundation on International Peace and Security.

### **Why are we here?**

There is an opportunity to definitively end the violence in Basque Country. Basque Society wants it. Spanish Society wants it. The Basque Government wants it. And the Spanish Government wants it.

ETA declared a permanent, general and verifiable ceasefire on 10 January 2011. When ETA declared this ceasefire, there was much scepticism. We shared this scepticism. Now, nine months since the declaration, there is less scepticism and more hope. But we are not yet at the point where violence has definitively ended.

ETA's declaration that the ceasefire was verifiable led to a demand for verification from elements of Basque society, who wanted to hold ETA to its commitment. They expressed this demand to different international interlocutors, including the International Contact Group. The International Contact Group felt that they had neither the competence nor the desire to verify the ceasefire.

They did not have the competence because their members are experts in human rights and related political issues, not military and security issues. They do not have the desire, because they felt some people perceived them to be partial to one side. I personally do not think they are partial. But in dealing with the situation in Basque country they focused on one side in order to get that side to change. This has led to a perception of partiality. For these reasons they asked members of the commission to look into the possibility of verifying the ceasefire.

We came to Bilbao and met with a range of interlocutors – the Church, the business association, the Partido Nacionalista Vasca, the Partido Socialista de Euskadi and the Izquierda Abertzale. Everybody we met agreed on one main point – the ceasefire must continue.

But they differed in their views about how the ceasefire came about. Some attribute the ceasefire to the successful efforts of the law enforcement agencies – police and intelligence – and effective international cooperation. Others attribute the ceasefire to a change of heart amongst those who share the political perspectives (but not the methods) of ETA. Still others attribute the ceasefire to a combination of both factors. This is a debate that people here will continue to have. We, as a commission, are less concerned with precisely how the ceasefire came about, and more concerned with how to sustain it in the future.

So before we could begin our task and enter into verifying the ceasefire we needed to know that ETA accepted our interpretation of the ceasefire. We felt that the terms “permanent” in the ceasefire was insufficient, because there have been previous so-called permanent ceasefires. We also felt that the term “verifiable” was insufficient, because if we were to verify a ceasefire, it had to be one that had the correct characteristics worthy of

being verified. And finally we wanted to ensure that the highest standards of compliance would be met.

It was vital for us that ETA agree with our interpretation that the ceasefire is unilateral and without conditions. Unilateral, in that it is a commitment made solely by ETA irrespective of what the government in Madrid or the government in Bilbao does. And it is without conditions, in that ETA cannot say that someone else or some entity has not done this or that as a reason for violating the ceasefire.

As soon as we received these assurances that ETA agrees with our interpretation of the ceasefire, we put together the commission and arrived in Bilbao.

### **How will we work?**

We depend on you – as key elements of Basque Society – to verify the ceasefire. There are several reasons for this. First you know – better than anyone else – what is going on in Basque Society. Is the ceasefire being fully respected? Is the situation improving or is it getting worse? What are the specific problems people face? And you are in a much better position to know what is going on than we are.

Second – we are a small international group with many other commitments. We cannot be based permanently here. So we have to work with people like you to verify the ceasefire effectively. Without you we simply cannot do this task. We will rely on you to talk to your members and ascertain from them their views and ideas about the ceasefire. How it is working and how it can be improved.

We will then meet with you every few weeks to receive your reports individually and collectively. We will treat these reports with the utmost confidentiality. Once we receive these reports, we will cross check them with other reports we receive. We will then discuss them within the commission and finally make a determination. Once such a determination has been made, we will convey our conclusions to the relevant actors who need to take steps.



We also plan overtime, to develop links to the authorities in Basque Country and in the national government in Madrid to receive their views about the implementation of the ceasefire. There is obviously some information that only government authorities will know. We are just beginning our work. And it is a sensitive time in Spain because of the elections. So we realise that this will take some time to do.

### **What we will not do?**

It is also important that you as our key partners, and Basque society, in general, do not have expectations that we as a small group of outsiders simply cannot fulfill. So we need to be very clear about what we will not do.

We are not a body dealing with political issues, but a technical body dealing with ceasefire related issues. While commissioners may have their own personal views about Spanish politics and Basque politics, this is not our concern as a commission. We cannot and will not address questions like, should some organisation be legalised, or what should happen to prisoners? These are obviously important questions, but it is not for us to engage with them. Our remit is more narrow and limited to ETA's adherence or not to the ceasefire that they, themselves, have declared.

Neither are we a body dealing with all issues related to ETA or its members as an organisation. We do not have the resources, the time or the capacity to deal with all of ETA's activities, legal or otherwise. The Spanish and Basque Authorities are in a better position to do so. Again, our task is limited to ETA's adherence to the ceasefire and whether or not it is fulfilling this commitment.

Finally let me emphasize that we are new to the Basque context. We are learning about the complexity of the issue. And we will make mistakes as we learn. As such, forgive us if, at times, we would appear ignorant. With your help and advice we will learn about the specificities of the situation and be able to do our work as well as possible.

We are here in our individual capacities and not as representatives of our respective governments. We will draw on our collective experience in peace processes, law enforcement and military or intelligence services to do this job. We are at the start of a new

process, but we are committed to the task and are here for the long run. Seeing all of you here today and knowing that even those who are not here support us, gives us confidence that Basque Country is moving towards the definitive end of violence.

Thank you.

## 2. Presentation of the International Verification Commission (IVC)



This press note announces the presentation of the International Verification Commission for the ceasefire in the Basque Country (IVC).

Important advances towards peace in the Basque Country have been made in the past years. We are today at a new and more hopeful stage. Among the many factors that have contributed to getting to this stage, it is worth highlighting the strong and clear demand that Basque society has made for violence to end definitively.

A credible and irreversible ceasefire is a fundamental step in this process. Because of this, different elements in Basque society have expressed the necessity to create a mechanism that will verify the “permanent, general and verifiable” ceasefire announced by ETA on the 10th of January 2011.

The IVC’s creation responds to the request made by different elements of Basque society to members of the Commission to create a mechanism to verify the ceasefire.

Individuals of significant International experience in peace processes and security issues will form the Commission. The objective of the Commission is to contribute to the

verification of ETA's ceasefire through a serious and rigorous process. The Commission will work closely with all possible elements of Basque society.

Over the past two days, members of the commission have met with representatives of political parties, business associations, trade unions and the Church in the Basque Country to discuss the beginning of the Commission's work.

The IVC will hold regular meetings with all the possible elements of Basque society to exchange reports, ideas and projects that can help consolidate the credible and irreversible ceasefire that the Basque country demands.

The members of the IVC are:

- Ronnie Kasrils (South Africa)
- Ray Kendall (United Kingdom)
- Chris Maccabe (United Kingdom)
- Ram Manikkalingam (Sri Lanka)
- Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar (India)

The Coordinator of the IVC will be Fleur Ravensbergen.

### 3. International Verification Commission's (IVC) report



The IVC was created on the 28th of September 2011. The full IVC has reconvened for the second time in Bilbao on the 25th and the 26th of January 2012. In the intervening period, individual members of the IVC have visited the Basque Country to ascertain and monitor the situation.

During that past few days the IVC met with the following relevant political and social agents from Basque society –political parties (PSE-EE, PNV, abertzale left political parties), trade unions (UGT, CCOO, ELA, LAB), business associations (Confebask), representatives of the Church and relevant authorities of the Basque country. At these meeting the IVC has been informed that all assassinations, bombings, attacks, threats and extortion have ceased since the ETA declared a ceasefire on the 8th of January 2011 and a definitive end of violence on the 20th of October of 2011.

The IVC considers that ETA's ceasefire and the end of violence is part of an irreversible process and that ETA has no intention of committing or organizing acts of terrorism or violence in the future.

However, ETA remains a clandestine and armed organisation. As such, it continues to commit illegal acts such as the falsifying of documents and the maintenance of arms caches. Although these acts are illegal they are not necessarily related to the preparation of violent acts.

The IVC has informed ETA that the continued possession of arms and explosives, especially if it involves the carrying of personal weapons, can give rise to potentially dangerous situations.

The IVC has been informed of issues that we do not consider are directly related to the ceasefire. For example, there have been isolated incidents of kale borroka disorder, which have been rejected by all political parties in the Basque Country. The IVC also takes note of fundraising taking place for prisoner's families. In this sensitive period it is imperative that everyone acts with restraint and responsibility.

Through direct contacts, the IVC has received assurances that ETA is committed to both of its declarations: the ceasefire of January 2011 and the definitive end of armed violence in October of the same year.

The IVC has established positive working relationships in the Basque country that it wishes to continue extending. The IVC will continue to carry out its work in a determined and impartial manner with the objective to contribute to this historic opportunity for a lasting peace in the Basque country.

Note: The IVC is composed of the following members:

- Ronnie Kasrils is the former Minister of Intelligence and former Deputy Minister of Defence of South Africa.
- Chris Maccabe is a former political director of the British Government's Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and former head of prisons in Northern Ireland.

- Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, is a Former Indian Deputy Chief of the Army Staff. Served as the first Force Commander and Head of Mission of the United Nations Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992/1993
- Ray Kendall is a former British law enforcement officer, formerly President of the European Union Anti Fraud Office and Honorary Secretary General of Interpol.
- Ram Manikkalingam is the Director of the Dialogue Advisory Group and was the Senior Advisor to the previous President of Sri Lanka in negotiations with the tamil tigers.
- Fleur Ravensbergen is the IVC's Coordinator and the Deputy Director of the Dialogue Advisory Group



## 4. Press Note International Verification Commission (IVC)



The International Verification Commission (IVC) has held a series of meetings in Bilbao on May 3rd and 4th 2012 to gather information on the state of the ceasefire and the end of violence in the Basque Country, and to monitor developments in these two areas.

On May 3rd 2012 the IVC bilaterally reconvened with representatives of political and social actors in the Basque society (list of interlocutors below\*). Among others, the Commission met with the Basque Interior Minister Rodolfo Ares, and the Basque Government's Commissioner for Memory and Coexistence, Jesús Loza. On May 4th the IVC held a plenary meeting with most of the same political and social actors.

The IVC is grateful to all of them for their assistance in the carrying out of its work. The Commission appreciates the numerous messages received highlighting the Basque society's support for its work.

During these meetings, and since the last official visit of the IVC on January 25th and 26th 2012, the Commission has verified that ETA continues to fulfill its commitment to the end of violence.



On its third official visit, the IVC appreciates that steps are being taken to consolidate the peace in the Basque Country. To continue in this direction, the IVC encourages all the political and social actors in the Basque society, and all the other major stakeholders, to maintain a fluid dialogue.

The IVC has taken note of the Spanish Government's new plan for the reintegration of prisoners. This is a first step, and one that we hope will have continuity in the same direction.

Through direct contacts with ETA, the IVC has received a message from the organisation stating that it is ready to engage into dialogue on a series of practical issues relevant for consolidating the process.

The IVC wishes to further develop the positive working relationships it has established in the Basque Country. The Commission will continue to work with determination and impartiality with the aim of contributing to this historic opportunity for a lasting peace in the Basque Country.

On May 3rd 2012 the IVC met with the following political and social actors from Basque society:

- Rodolfo Ares (Interior Minister, Basque Government)
- Jesús Loza (Commissioner for Memory and Coexistence, Basque Government)
- Iñigo Urkullu (PNV)
- José Antonio Pastor (PSE-EE)
- Rufi Etxeberria and Urko Ayarza (Izquierda Abertzale)
- Nuria Lopez de Guerenu (Confebask)
- Xabier Anza (ELA)
- Patxi Aguirrezabala (ELA)
- Ainhoa Etxainde (LAB)
- Jon Etxeberria (LAB)
- Raúl Arza (UGT)
- Emilia Málaga (UGT)

- Loli Garcia (Comisiones Obreras)
- Juan María Uriarte (Catholic Church)

The following members of the IVC took part:

- Ronnie Kasrils, former Minister of Intelligence and Deputy Defence Minister of South Africa
- Chris MacCabe, former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom and former Head of the Prison Service in Northern Ireland
- Ram Manikkalingam, Director of Dialogue Advisory Group and Professor at Amsterdam University, and former Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka for negotiations with the Tamil Tigers
- Satish Nambiar, former Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Indian Armed Forces and former Commander and Head of Mission of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and 1993
- Fleur Ravensbergen, Coordinator of the IVC, Assistant Director of Dialogue Advisory Group

## 5. International Verification Commission (IVC) Report

The International Verification Commission (IVC) has held a series of meetings in Bilbao from February 18th to February 20th 2013 to gather information on the state of the ceasefire and the end of violence in the Basque Country, and to monitor developments in these areas.

On February 18th and 19th the Commission bilaterally met with the President of the Basque Country and representatives of political and social actors in Basque society (the list of interlocutors below\*). On February 20th the Commission held a plenary meeting. The Commission is grateful to all of them for their assistance and support in the carrying out of its work.

During this visit, the Commission has verified that two years after ETA's declaration of a permanent, general and verifiable ceasefire and 16 months after its declaration of a definitive end of violence, ETA continues to fulfill its commitments. Our interlocutors in the Basque Country have informed us that assassinations, bombings, attacks, threats and extortion have ceased.

While the Commission is generally satisfied with ETA's compliance with the ceasefire and its declaration to end violence, it continues to work on improving relevant aspects.

The Commission notes the high expectations that exist in Basque society about the need for further steps to be taken towards the consolidation of peace. We call on any and all relevant actors to seize this opportunity taking new steps and confidence building measures.

Through meetings with all our interlocutors in the Basque Country and contacts with ETA, the Commission is optimistic that these steps will be taken. Nevertheless, to guard against complacency or delay, it is vital that appropriate steps be taken now to grasp this historic opportunity. The Commission is at the disposal of all actors to help in achieving them.

The Commission would like to welcome the election of a new Basque Parliament. The Commission is confident that this newly elected institution will advance the consolidation of peace in the Basque Country. In particular, the Commission hopes that the newly created Commission for Peace and Coexistence in the Parliament will serve to further dialogue among all parties.

The IVC wishes to further develop the positive working relationships it has established in the Basque Country. The Commission will continue to work with determination and impartiality with the aim of contributing to this historic opportunity for a lasting peace in the Basque Country.

On February 20th 2013 the IVC met with the following political and social actors:

- Iñigo Urkullu (Basque Country President)
- Andoni Orutzar (EAJ-PNV)
- Joseba Aurrekoetxea (EAJ-PNV)
- Jesús Loza (PSE-EE)
- José Antonio Pastor (PSE-EE)
- Rufi Etxeberria and Urko Ayarza (Izquierda Abertzale)
- Miguel Ángel Lujua (Confebask)
- Nuria Lopez de Guerenu (Confebask)
- Xabier Anza (ELA)
- Patxi Agirrezabala (ELA)
- Ainhoa Etxainde (LAB)
- Jon Etxeberria (LAB)
- Igor Urrutikoetxea (LAB)
- Raúl Arza (UGT)
- Emilia Málaga (UGT)
- Oscar Arenas (CCOO)
- Loli Garcia (CCOO)
- Sanitago Martinez (CCOO)
- Vicario Ángel María Unzueta (Bilbao diocese, Church)

- Obispo Juan María Uriarte (invited as an individual)

The following members of the IVC took part:

- Ronnie Kasrils, former Minister of Intelligence and Deputy Defence Minister of South Africa
- Chris Maccabe, former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom and former Director of the Prison Service in Northern Ireland
- Ram Manikkalingam, Director of Dialogue Advisory Group and Professor at Amsterdam University, and former Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka for negotiations with the Tamil Tigers
- Satish Nambiar, former Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and former Commander and Head of Mission of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and 1993
- Aracelly Santana, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of Mission, United Nations Mission in Nepal (UMIN) and former Director, Americas Office in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs
- Fleur Ravensbergen, Coordinator of the IVC, Assistant Director of Dialogue Advisory Group

## 6. Statement of the International Verification Commission

*Bilbao, 21 February 2014*

The International Verification Commission (IVC) was established on 28 September 2011 to verify the “permanent, general and verifiable ceasefire” declared by Euskadi Ta Askatasuna (ETA) on 10 January 2011 and its subsequent declaration of a “definitive end of violence” on 20 October 2011. Since its establishment, the Commission has verified that ETA has fulfilled its commitment to cease all assassinations, bombings, attacks, threats and extortion.

Throughout this period the IVC has worked closely with Basque political and social actors including the Basque Government, political parties, trade unions, Confebask (the Basque business association) and representatives of the Church. The IVC is grateful for their assistance and support in its task of verifying the ceasefire and the definitive end of violence.

During the Commission’s last visit in February 2013, exactly one year ago, the IVC observed the positive developments in the Basque Country and expressed hope that efforts to consolidate the end of violence would be intensified. In view of this, the IVC called on any and all relevant actors to take new steps and confidence building measures. In April 2013, ETA confidentially requested the IVC to include in its mandate verifying a unilateral process of sealing and putting beyond operational use ETA’s arms, ammunition and explosives. The Commission agreed. In September 2013, ETA indicated to the IVC that it was ready to take a first step in this process. This first step took place in January 2014, in the presence of the Commission.

The Commission has verified that ETA has sealed and put beyond operational use a specified quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives. A video record of this was taken. The detailed inventory of arms, ammunition and explosives put beyond operational use is attached.

The Commission is confident that this step is significant and credible. We believe it will lead to the putting beyond operational use all ETA's arms, ammunition and explosives.

From our experience of other processes, making an inventory of, and putting beyond operational use, arms, ammunition and explosives, is a necessary stage prior to complete disarmament. We are confident that with the support of all political and social actors this can be achieved. The Commission will continue to work with determination and impartiality towards a durable peace.

[PDF document: Inventory of the material sealed by the ETA organisation](#)

The Commission consists of the following members:

- **Ronald Kasrils**, former Minister of Intelligence and Deputy Defence Minister of South Africa.
- **Chris Maccabe**, former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom.
- **Ram Manikkalingam**, Director of Dialogue Advisory Group and Professor at Amsterdam University, and former Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka for negotiations with the Tamil Tigers.
- **Satish Nambiar**, former Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and former Commander and Head of Mission of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and 1993.
- **Fleur Ravensbergen**, Coordinator of the IVC, Assistant Director of Dialogue Advisory Group.
- **Aracelly Santana**, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of Mission, United Nations Mission in Nepal (UMIN) and former Director, Americas Office in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

## 7. Statement of The International Verification Commission

8 April 2017



The International Verification Commission (IVC) was established on 28 September 2011 to verify Euskadi Ta Askatasuna's (ETA) declaration of a definitive end of violence. For the past six years, the Commission, together with Basque institutions and Basque civil society, has worked towards achieving an orderly end of violence. Since its establishment, the Commission has verified that ETA has fulfilled its commitment to cease all violent actions. In January 2014, the Commission verified that ETA had put beyond operational use a specified quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives. This was the first step towards ETA's disarmament.

On 27 March and 6 April 2017, respectively, the Navarre and Basque parliaments resolved that the Commission "continue to use its good offices to achieve" the "unilateral, complete, definitive and verified" disarmament of ETA.



In pursuance of that objective, today the Commission received, from Jean-Noël Etcheverry, a representative of Basque civil society, information regarding the location of ETA's weapons, ammunition and explosives. This information was immediately conveyed to the relevant French authorities, who will now secure and collect ETA's arsenal. The Commission will not be involved in this stage. The Commission believes that this step constitutes the disarmament of ETA.

The handover of information by civil society representatives took place in the City Hall of Bayonne at the invitation and in the presence of the Mayor of Bayonne Jean-René Etchegaray. It was also witnessed by His Grace Matteo Zuppi, the Archbishop of Bologna, and the Reverend Harold Good, former President of the Methodist Church in Ireland.

Since 2011 the Commission has worked closely with Basque political and social actors, including the Basque Government, political parties, trade unions, the business confederation and the Basque Catholic Church. The Commission would also like to thank the President of the Basque Country, Lehendakari Iñigo Urkullu, for his support over these years. The Commission is grateful for all of their assistance and cooperation in its task of verifying the ceasefire and the end of violence.

The Commission trusts that, with the support of all relevant actors, this historic step will help consolidate peace and coexistence in Basque society.

The Commission consists of the following members:

- **Ronald Kasrils**, former Minister of Intelligence and Deputy Defence Minister of South Africa.
- **Chris Maccabe**, former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom.
- **Ram Manikkalingam**, Chairman of the IVC. Director of Dialogue Advisory Group and Professor at Amsterdam University, and former Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka for negotiations with the Tamil Tigers.
- **Satish Nambiar**, former Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and former Commander and Head of Mission of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and 1993.

- **Fleur Ravensbergen**, Assistant Director of Dialogue Advisory Group.
- **Aracelly Santana**, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of Mission, United Nations Mission in Nepal (UMIN) and former Director, Americas Office in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.

## 8. THE IVC ANNOUNCES THE CONCLUSION ITS WORK

6 July 2017

The International Verification Commission (IVC) was established on 28 September 2011 to verify *Euskadi Ta Askatasuna's* (ETA) end of violence. Working with Basque institutions and Basque civil society, the Commission verified that ETA had fulfilled its commitment to cease all violent actions.

In January 2014, the Commission was able to confirm that ETA had put beyond operational use a specified quantity of arms, ammunition and explosives. This was a first, small but significant step towards ETA's disarmament.

On 8 April 2017, the Commission received, from Basque civil society representatives in France, information regarding the location of ETA's weapons, ammunition and explosives. This information was conveyed to the relevant French authorities, who secured and collected ETA's arsenal. Later that day, it was reported that French police had secured more than 3.5 tonnes of ETA materiel.

The handing over of weapons was described by then French Minister of Interior, Matthias Fekl, as a "great step" towards peace and security in Europe. Basque government President, *Lehendakari* Iñigo Urkullu, stated that it constituted a "fundamental step in the process of an ordered end of violence".

In light of these developments, the Commission concludes that ETA has fulfilled its commitment to disarm.

The Commission now considers its work completed and hereby announces the conclusion of its activity.

The IVC would like to thank all the political and social actors who have made it possible for the Commission to fulfil its tasks. Since 2011, the Commission has worked closely with both the current and former Basque governments, political parties – *Partido Nacionalista*

*Vasco* (EAJ-PNV), *EH Bildu*, *Partido Socialista de Euskadi* (PSE-EE) – trade unions – *Unión General de Trabajadores* (UGT), *Comisiones Obreras* (CCOO), *Eusko Langileen Alkartasuna* (ELA), *Langile Abertzaleen Batzordeak* (LAB) – the business confederation *Confebask* and representatives of the Basque Catholic Church. The Commission is grateful for their support and cooperation. In particular, the Commission appreciates the great trust placed by these actors in the IVC as it was embarking upon a difficult and challenging task with no assurance of success.

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The Commission is thankful for the opportunity to have contributed to this historic step for the future of Basque society. The IVC hopes and trusts that all the relevant political and social actors will continue working together to achieve the aspirations of Basque society for further consolidating peace and coexistence.

The Commission consists of the following members:

- **Ronald Kasrils**, former Minister of Intelligence and Deputy Defence Minister of South Africa.
- **Chris Maccabe**, former Political Director of the Northern Ireland Office of the United Kingdom.

- **Ram Manikkalingam**, Chairman of the IVC. Director of Dialogue Advisory Group and Professor at Amsterdam University, and former Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka for negotiations with the Tamil Tigers.
- **Satish Nambiar**, former Deputy Chief of the Indian Army and former Commander and Head of Mission of the UN Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia in 1992 and 1993.
- **Fleur Ravensbergen**, Assistant Director of Dialogue Advisory Group.
- **Aracelly Santana**, former Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Deputy Head of Mission, United Nations Mission in Nepal (UMIN) and former Director, Americas Office in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs.