



ANTOLATZAILEEN AURKEZPENA

SPEAKERS ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZERS

- **Brian Currin**, member of the International Contact Group (ICG).
- **Raymond Kendall**, member of the International Contact Group (ICG).
- **Alberto Spectorovsky**, member of the International Contact Group (ICG).
- **Anaiz Funosas**, President of Bake Bidea.
- **Agus Hernan**, Coordinator of the Permanent Social Forum.

PRESENTATION OF THE ORGANIZERS

• **INTERNATIONAL CONTACT GROUP**

In March 2010, South African lawyer Brian Currin, who during these last years has worked as facilitator for a consensual and democratic resolution of the Basque conflict, promoted the so-called “Brussels Declaration”.

Once it was fully established that the needs identified in that document were widely shared, a contact process began with the persons who would conform the Group, taking into account their experience in the fields of conflict resolution, transitional justice and normalisation in post conflict scenarios.

Finally, the International Contact Group was presented on 12th November 2010, as a result of the consultation process undertaken by Brian Currin with political and social actors both of the Basque Country and Spain.

The Group is made up of six international experts:

- **Brian Currin**, Caucasian South African lawyer who fought apartheid. He participated in the creation of the Peace and Reconciliation Committee in his home country.



- **Silvia Casale**, criminologist. From 1998, she participated in the Commission for the Reviewing of Sentences in Northern Ireland. In 1997, she was a member of the United Nations Committee for the Prevention of Torture, which she presided from 2000 to 2007. She was also the first president of the UN Sub commission for the prevention of torture practices from 2007 to 2009. From 2010 she is Counsellor to the European Committee on the subject of putting an end to torture and mistreatment.
- **Alberto Spektorowski**, Lecturer and associate professor at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Tel Aviv. He has also been professor at the Universities of Columbia and Wisconsin and at the Interdisciplinary College of Herzlia.
- **Nuala O'Loan**, First Police "Ombudswoman" of Northern Ireland, from 1999 to 2007.
- **Pierre Hazan**, He has worked for the UN High Commission for Human Rights, and is an investigator in the United States Institute for Peace. He has also worked as a journalist, covering the Balkans and conflicts in the Great Lakes of Africa.
- **Raymond Edward Kendall** Secretary General of Interpol from 1985 to 2000.

The specific mandate of the International Contact Group is the following:

- To promote, facilitate and make possible the legalization of the abertzale (Basque nationalist) left.
- To promote confidence-building measures:
 - Overcoming the exceptional measures restricting its political activities
 - Adapting penitentiary policy to the current situation.
- To encourage and assist political parties, insofar as requested, in the preparation and development of a schedule for political debate.
- Insofar as political parties request it, to promote, foster, facilitate and enable multilateral dialogue and debate, with no previous conditions or conditionings, and in all cases based on the Mitchell Principles. The aim of this negotiations and multilateral dialogue would be to reach an inclusive political agreement to overcome the political conflict.
- In case of deadlock, and if the parties so demand, to act as intermediary.



- To transmit to society that a successful peace process is really possible, and to create sufficient confidence to believe it.

For further information: <http://icgbasque.org>

- **BAKE BIDEA**

Bake Bidea was presented on 12th October 2012, and is a civil movement of the North of the Basque Country. It is made up of persons who belong to different associations, trade unions or political parties; as well as jurists, elected representatives, and other persons on an individual basis.

Its aims are the following:

- To raise awareness in society in general on the subject of the peace process.
- To create spaces for debate and lead the way on the road map defined in the Aiete Conference

Bake Bidea has participated in the organization of several events since its creation in 2012:

- **Forums for Peace in Baiona.** (2012 and 2014).
- **Public meetings at local level.** (2013).
- **Social Forums to promote the peace process, held in Iruñea, Bilbao, and Gernika.** (2013/2014/2016).
- **Paris Humanitarian Conference for Peace in Euskal Herria (Basque Country) in Paris** (2015).
- **Seminar on “Imprisoned persons and the peace process”, in the Sorbonne University of Paris** (2016).
- **Encounters between promoters of the Basque peace process and international promoters** (from 2012 to 2016).
- **Forum in Biarritz: Disarmament at the service of the peace process** (17th and 18th March 2017).
- **Forum: “Disarmament, one year later. Balance, challenges and perspectives” in Baiona and Biarritz** (6th and 7th April 2018).



- **Unveiling of the sculpture “Arbolaren egia” (The tree’s truth), Baiona (8th April 2018).**

For further information: www.bakebidea.com

- **PERMANENT SOCIAL FORUM**

The Permanent Social Forum is a space for the promotion of transversal and inclusive work on the so-called “consequences of the conflict”. It gathers the following 18 actors of civil society: ELA, LAB, CCOO, Steeilas, ESK (trades unions), Ahotsak, Bilgune Feminista (women’s organisations), Bake Bidea, Uharan, Baketik, Gernika Batzordea, Sare, Etxerat, Egiari Zor Fundazioa (organisations dealing with different aspects of conflict resolution), Herri Eliza (catholics), Hitz&Hitz (dealing with the Basque Language) Antxeta Irratia (a North Basque Country radio station). Several persons participate as well, on an individual basis.

The Permanent Social Forum was created in June 2016, by the desire of its members to contribute, from civil society, to the undoing of the knots that were blocking (and still do so) the resolution. The main reference was the 12 recommendations spelled out in the first Social Forum, held in Bilbao and Pamplona in 2013. Twelve recommendations that can be summed up in the following five points:

1. To reach basic consensus to address the main challenges of the peace process.
2. To outline, develop, and conclude a process of dismantling and disarmament.
3. Facilitate the reintegration of prisoners and persons on the run.
4. To promote and guarantee human rights.
5. To preserve truth and memory in order to face the past honestly, and to set the bases for future coexistence.

Two years after its creation, the Permanent Social Forum has become an important reference in the work that is being done regarding support for the peace process. But there is still a lot to do. The new tasks the Permanent Social Forum faces are:

- To promote the reintegration of prisoners, persons deported and on the run, working on a triangulation pattern, similar to the one that brought about disarmament. In this case, it would be the Basque and Navarre Governments, the prisoners' and fugitives' collectives, and civil society.
- To move forward to a scenario of full recognition of all victims of all forms of violence. Furthermore, to open up a serene debate about unresolved cases, searching for a specific form of that which in other processes has been called transitional justice, and doing complementary work to that of Parliaments and Governments.
- To work in favour of an inclusive memory.

For further information: www.forosoziala.eus

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL EVENT TO ADVANCE IN THE RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE BASQUE COUNTRY:

- Conciliation Resources
- Berghof Foundation