

Maravillas, maravillas  
Florecica de Larraga  
Amapola del camino  
Te seguiré donde vayas

**Maravillas**  
Larragako loretxoa

# BASQUE MEMORY NEWS

02

September 2010



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## Remembering Maravillas Lamberto, "Larraga's Little Flower"



On the 15th of August 1936 one of the most hideous crimes of the Franco regime in the Basque Country was committed. A month had passed since the fascist coup against the Second Republic had left a territory divided in two and at war. Far from the front line Franco was carrying out a bloodbath against anyone suspected of being leftist, nationalist, libertarian or Republican. Thousands of people were killed in extra-judicial assassinations in the area controlled by the coup leaders during those first few months of terror. Maravillas Lamberto's case is an example to illustrate this cruelty.

Maravillas, a 14-year old girl from Larraga (Nafarroa, Basque Country), was raped and murdered by a group of Falangists. One night a death squad entered her family home in search of her father Vicentón Lamberto, who was accused of belonging to a left-wing workers union. She would not leave his side. The two were taken to the City Hall of Larraga and put into prison by the local authorities who supported the fascist insurrection against republican democracy. She was raped, then killed and her remains were abandoned in a forest in Ibiriku-Deierri (Nafarroa, Basque Country). Her father was shot and then buried but his body was never found, perhaps to be lost forever when reforms and roadworks were carried out in the area. Maravillas body, however, appeared a few days later. It had been improperly buried and found by dogs that had finished destroying their remains. Given the state of the body, neighbours from Ibiriku-Deierri chose to burn what was left in the same place where she was found.



Larraga (2008-10-26)

In recent years there have been various efforts to reclaim her memory and prevent her murder from being forgotten.

In 2008 Ahaztuak held a massive event to pay tribute to Maravillas and the other 45 killed in this area. In the spring of 2010 an event was held in Ibiriku-Deierri to bring to light the story of Maravillas and the stories of other people murdered by the Franco repression in this valley. Over 200 people participated in the presentation of the Deierri 1936 documentary on these events (*which can be viewed at: <http://www.blip.tv/file/3791568>*). The events concluded with a concert by the rock band Berri Txarrak to an audience of a thousand people during which they played "Maravillas" right on the spot where she was killed. Another song dedicated to Maravillas memory by the singer Fermin Balentzia has become a hymn against impunity for crimes and to make sure no victims of Franco's regime are forgotten.



Ibiriku-Deierri (2010-05-29)

Today, 74 years after her assassination Maravillas Lamberto has become a symbol of the condemnation of Franco's repression against women in the Basque Country. She represents all those people brutally murdered, is the living memory of the impunity of Franco's crimes and her name will not be erased from history, ever.

## Acts of homage during the summer



Fuentebella (2010-07-3)

The fight against impunity takes no rest, doesn't take vacations and does not have borders. This summer, Ahaztuak has had the opportunity to participate in a ceremony outside the Basque Country. In early July in the mountains of La Alcarama in Fuentebella (Soria, Spain), a moving tribute was organised in memory of two Basque victims who disappeared in these woods.

They were Antonio Cabrero, Republican mayor of Pitillas (Nafarroa, Basque Country), and Valentin Llorente, Fitero teacher (Nafarroa, Basque Country). In 1936, Cabrero and Llorente, escaped repression and ended up taking refuge in the area, where they spent a month hiding with the help of some farmers. But eventually, they were discovered by the fascists, who didn't hesitate to shoot and bury them in unmarked ground. The families tried for years to discover the whereabouts of their bodies but have never found the common grave. In the end it was decided to place a monument and a plaque to the two republicans in the area they are believed to have been killed.

The reminder was inaugurated in a memorial ceremony which was attended by 150 people. Representatives from Ahaztuak travelled from the Basque Country to Soria on this important day for the families of these two missing Navarres. It was not the only event this summer, for the last few years Ahaztuak has organised tributes to victims of fascist violence in the towns of Bakio, Busturia and Bilbao (Bizkaia, Basque Country). Also in Puerto de La Tejera (Araba, Basque Country) a monolith has been erected marking the "Place of Memory" where three bodies were found last June (see *Basque Memory News 01*: [http://issuu.com/basque-memory-news/docs/basque\\_memory\\_news\\_01](http://issuu.com/basque-memory-news/docs/basque_memory_news_01)) in their memory three trees were planted.



Bakio (2010-07-4)



Bilbao (2010-08-29)



La Tejera (2010-09-4)

Other groups have not missed their summer appointments and have brought together hundreds of people. *San Fermin 78 Gogoan* recalled in Pamplona-Iruñea (Navarre, Basque Country) the 32nd anniversary of the assassination of German Rodriguez shot by the Spanish police, and *EAE-ANV*, the historic left wing nationalist party, held at Mount Albertia (Araba, Basque Country) its annual day in memory of all the gudaris (basque freedom fighters) who have fallen in battle fighting against fascism.



Iruñea (2010-07-8)



Albertia (2010-07-4)

## Gasteiz Cathedral: Cathedral of Shame

It has been six months since Ahaztuak publicly challenged Miguel Asurmendi, Bishop of Gasteiz (Araba, Basque Country), to take the necessary measures in removing a great shield stone from the city's New Cathedral. This is a symbol which glorifies Franco's dictatorship. Given the passivity of the institution, Ahaztuak took the initiative and denounced this situation. In late March, after a simple act of remembrance for the victims of political retaliation, a delegation from the group delivered a public letter to the Bishop asking him to take immediate action as a sign of respect to the victims.

Gasteiz (2010-03-31)



The cathedral has been renamed by the popular movement as the Cathedral of Shame. Not only because of the existence of the fascist shield, but because it was opened in September 1969 by Franco himself in a great act of propaganda by the national-Catholic regime. As part of the ceremony, the dictator, true to his self given title of "*Caudillo (Leader) of Spain by the Grace of God*", was paraded through the church under a canopy. The cathedral has been corrupted from the day of its consecration and continues to insult the memory of all those freedom fighters who were murdered by the dictatorship.

Miguel Asurmendi

Gasteiz (1969-09-24)



The 3.2m high crest features the fascist imperial eagle accompanied by the quotation "*Una, Grande y Libre*" (*One Great and Free*). Refusal to take action in the removal of this symbol is a clear example of the collaboration which existed between the hierarchy of the church and the Franco regime. They can no longer look the other way. Half a year has gone by since Ahaztuak delivered the letter and we want to know what action the Bishop will be taking. The campaign to have this shameful symbol removed will continue in the coming months, because only social awareness and public pressure will change this situation.

## DRIL & ETA: The Spanish government manipulates history



The Iberian Revolutionary Liberation Directory (DRIL) was an organisation that in the 1960s practised armed resistance in response to the dictatorships of Franco in the Spanish State and Salazar in Portugal. Now it is back in the public eye, half a century after ceasing to exist, due to a manipulation of history.

The DRIL members were a mix of communists and anarchists. Its first action was in Madrid (Spain) in February 1960, several suitcases filled with explosives were placed at the City Hall and at the headquarters of the Spanish Falange. One of the bombs went off while being manipulated by the militant Ramón Perez, who died on the spot. His companion Antonio Abad was wounded and arrested by the police. Abad was sentenced to death and executed by the garrote on the 8th of March 1960.

As a response to this, in June of that year, the DRIL placed a new batch of bombs spread over rail lines throughout the Iberian Peninsula. One of the bombs was placed at the train station in Donostia (Gipuzkoa, Basque Country) leaving several people wounded and one dead, two year old Begoña Urroz. In 2010, 50 years after her tragic death, the Spanish media and the Spanish government have orchestrated a campaign to attribute the action to ETA, considering Begoña Urroz the first death caused by the Basque armed organisation. However, there exists evidence such as, documents, books, biographies and testimonies from the protagonists which certify and prove the facts, the context of the action and the short life of the DRIL, which disappeared in 1965.



B. Urroz



Pardines

The reason behind this manipulation is that of the many armed groups active during Franco's dictatorship, only ETA has survived to this day and is therefore the only one that currently poses a political problem for the Spanish State.



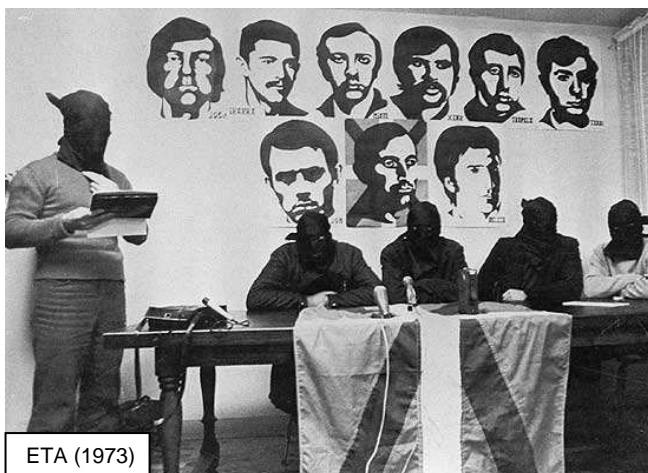
Manzanás

ETA was born in 1959, but its first lethal action was not until 1968, when in an unintended clash between the civil guard and members of the armed group a civil guard, José Pardines, was killed and after the persecution which followed the shooting, Txabi Etxebarrieta, militant and ideologist of the organisation was killed. Two months after this death, ETA planned its first action against a person's life, on August 2 1968 Melitón Manzanás, head of the Spanish fascist police, known torturer and once Nazi Gestapo collaborator was executed.



Txabi Etxebarrieta

Now, as the doors open to a new political cycle in Basque Country, when the struggle of the past 50 years are leaving way to a new era in Basque politics, it is not a coincidence that the Spanish government are trying to reinvent the origins of ETA in order to make the Basque organisation appear responsible for the death of this innocent child. They have unsuccessfully tried to conceal the truth because many groups, historians and politicians from different fields have raised their voice against this crude attempt at manipulation clearly aimed at influencing the present and the future of the Basque political conflict.



ETA (1973)



ETA (2010)

# BASQUE MEMORY NEWS

Basque Memory News\_01 (July 2010)



[http://issuu.com/basque-memory-news/docs/basque\\_memory\\_news\\_01](http://issuu.com/basque-memory-news/docs/basque_memory_news_01)

**AHAZTUAK 1936-1977**



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