



Manifesto in honor of Moncho Reboiras.

Early in the morning of August 12th 1975, in the city of Ferrol, general Franco's police force shot down Xosé Ramón Reboiras Noia, 25, militant and member of the high board of UPG (Unión do Pobo Galego). His murder was the heaviest part of the crude repression undergone by this communist party. In those days, a great number of UPG militants faced uncountable detentions, imprisonments, torture and exile.

Franco would die three months after the facts, and his dictatorship was followed by a camarilla of his heirs and a lip opposition which, in betrayal of popular will, started the process known as the "Spanish transition to democracy". The compromise constitution that followed was the key piece of a long-lasting operation which, amongst its non-spoken goals, served to cover up the genocide that followed the fascist coup d'état against the Republic and later targeted killings of people who fought for the freedom of their people. Moncho Reboiras was one of them.

More than 30 years had to pass after Franco's death for a Spanish government to pass such a law as the Historical Memory Law, which planted the seeds for confronting the pact of silence and for developing a process of moral reparation of those who were hunted and murdered in the struggle for democracy. However, a calculated public procrastination, together with the law's own faults, would have it dead on its own, had it not been for a strong grassroots movement that pushed for its enforcement.

In this new setting, and after his family's reclamation, the Council of Ministers recognized that Moncho Reboiras had suffered illegitimate prosecution and violence up to his death because of his political affiliation and his implication in the trade union struggle. In accordance to said law, which honors those who suffered such repression during the civil war and under the dictatorship, the Ministry of Justice issued a Declaration of reparation and personal recognition of Moncho Reboiras, thus cleaning his name and undoing the invisibility a coward democracy had cast upon martyred Galiza.

"There are those who struggle all their lives: those are the indispensable ones". Thus Bertolt Brecht concluded one of his most quoted poems, the echoes of which reach Moncho Reboiras. His permanent struggle for a free and sovereign Galiza in every field he was called to, or that he considered necessary to be in, be it at an intellectual, cultural, trade union, agitative or armed level, caused him to abandon a would-be relaxed professional life his degree in industrial engineering entitled him to. He chose, instead, a self-sacrificing dangerous life in the underground.

Always ready to listen, to understand, to discuss, to debate; an avid reader, with great synthetical and organizational capabilities; a sober and reflexive person, Moncho irradiated confidence and serenity around him wherever he went, never asking of others anything he himself wouldn't be willing to do. Such was his leadership.

Now publicly restored, Moncho Reboiras is now part of the heritage of all good-hearted Galicians. As Castelao said, in Galiza, the wills of the martyrs shall be fulfilled. His words shine now upon Moncho Reboiras' legacy and his wish for a sovereign and democratic Galiza. May his memory strengthen this wish in us for the days to come.