

STATEMENT BY THE INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS CATALANS IN DEFENCE OF THE CATALAN INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC OFFICERS AND CITIZENS

1. Defence of elected officers, politicians and citizens in general

The Institut d'Estudis Catalans declares its support for all Catalan mayors and councillors who are summoned by public prosecutors and judges in relation with the preparations for participation in the referendum on 1 October; for senior officers of the Government of Catalonia who have been arrested, and citizens who, using their different areas of expertise, have supported the right of the people of Catalonia to freely express themselves. Seeking to prevent the democratically-elected political representatives of Catalonia from carrying out the mandate of the electorate to exercise the right to decide is a serious disruption of democratic life and an affront to citizens.

2. Defence of the Catalan institutions

The Institut d'Estudis Catalans declares its rejection of the use – by the Spanish Government – of the Constitutional Court and the Spanish legal system, which have acted with exceptional diligence to impede the normal working of the Catalan Parliament, undermine the inviolability of its members and invalidate any initiatives by the Catalan Parliament, not only political but those intended to improve the conditions of the social life of the Catalan people.

3. Condemnation of antidemocratic procedures

From a legal point of view, the action of the Spanish Government, the Constitutional Court, the Spanish Public Prosecutor and other judicial powers can be classified, unreservedly, as a mockery of the separation of powers. The use made by the Spanish executive of the judiciary to annul Catalan legislative powers is particularly serious and ethically unjustified.

4. Condemnation of the state of exception

The suspension of the Government of Catalonia's financial control, the arrest of public officers, the requisitioning of material prepared for the referendum on 1 October and the disruption of Catalan public life that this involves means the de facto application of a state of exception, undeclared and clearly contrary to what is set out in the Spanish Constitution itself and state legislation, which is sadly reminiscent of attitudes of a past we believed had been left behind.

Liberties and individual and collective rights have been restricted, such as freedom of expression, assembly and political participation, all recognised in Spanish, European and international law.

The Institut d'Estudis Catalans, which throughout its history has always acted in defence of the Catalan language and culture, and that recently expressed its support for the Catalan nation's right to decide, publicly issues this statement in defence of democracy, the Catalan institutions and the dignity of the Catalan people.