

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 16 October 2017 14:54

**To:** Catalan Delegation to the UK

**Subject:** Letter- The President of the Government of Catalonia makes request to President of the Spanish Government to meet and start negotiations on Catalan tension

Dear friend,

On behalf of the Head of the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland, Mr. Sergi Marcén, I am contacting you to inform you that, as of today, the President of the Government of Catalonia, Mr. Carles Puigdemont has once again formally requested the President of the Spanish Government, Mr. Mariano Rajoy, to meet face-to-face to commence a period of dialogue between the two Governments.

Given the severity of the events that took place on Sunday 1 October, when the Government of Catalonia attempted to hold a referendum for self-determination and to allow the people of Catalonia to decide on their political future, but Spanish police forces interrupted this democratic exercise by brutally attacking and injuring over 894 civilians that were peacefully queuing up to vote, the Catalan Government believes it owes it to the people of Catalonia to negotiate and dialogue to arrive at a common understanding about the Catalan referendum for self-determination. All peoples have the democratic right to self-determination. It is only through dialogue that this conflict will be resolved.

Today, in his letter to President Mariano Rajoy, President Puigdemont made two clear proposals that will set the stage for peaceful negotiations and which we hope the Spanish Government will accept:

1. The first is to reverse the repression against the people and the Government of Catalonia, the details of which are explained in Mr. Puigdemont's letter.
2. The second is to agree to a meeting between both Governments so that both Mr. Puigdemont and Mr. Rajoy can commence a period of dialogue that will put a stop to the rising tension in Catalonia.

The proposal of dialogue of the Government of Catalonia is sincere, but it is not compatible with the current repressive climate and rising tension. It is for this reason that President Puigdemont has insisted, once again, that President Rajoy agrees to a meeting for both Governments to explain their positions and attempt to arrive at a common understanding.

It is also worth noting that the last two pages of President Puigdemont's letter (Annexes attached) are devoted to outlining the high volume of international calls for dialogue and mediation the Catalan Government has received, all of which the Catalan Government has agreed to but the Spanish Government has rejected.

Please find the English version of Mr. Puigdemont's letter and its annexes attached.

In the meantime, if you have any queries please do not hesitate in contacting me. The Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland is at your disposal to complement all the information you may need.

Best wishes,  
[REDACTED]



Como anexo a la carta se adjuntan las referencias documentales siguientes:

- Comparecencia del Presidente de la Generalitat en el Parlament de Catalunya (10 de octubre de 2017)  
[http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres\\_fsvp/docs/2017/10/15/21/52/4291d270-62d3-4db7-a709-5cb2578721a9.pdf](http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres_fsvp/docs/2017/10/15/21/52/4291d270-62d3-4db7-a709-5cb2578721a9.pdf)
- Ley 6/2017, de 6 de septiembre, del referéndum de autodeterminación  
<http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/PDF/7449A/1633376.pdf>
- Resultados definitivos – Referéndum de autodeterminación de Catalunya  
[http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres\\_fsvp/docs/2017/10/06/17/31/a3c84f5f-a902-4f55-b3a9-41e112d7a8d9.pdf](http://premsa.gencat.cat/pres_fsvp/docs/2017/10/06/17/31/a3c84f5f-a902-4f55-b3a9-41e112d7a8d9.pdf)
- Resultados definitivos – Elecciones al Parlament de Catalunya (27 de septiembre de 2015)  
[http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/AppJava/PdfProviderServlet?documentId=707871&type=01&language=es\\_ES](http://portaldogc.gencat.cat/utillsEADOP/AppJava/PdfProviderServlet?documentId=707871&type=01&language=es_ES)
- Preliminary statement – Electoral Observation Mission (#1)  
[http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RESEARCH\\_GROUP\\_STATEMENT\\_ON\\_CATALONIA\\_REFERENDUM-1.pdf](http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RESEARCH_GROUP_STATEMENT_ON_CATALONIA_REFERENDUM-1.pdf)
- Preliminary statement – Electoral Observation Mission (#2)  
[http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RESEARCH\\_GROUP\\_STATEMENT\\_ON\\_CATALONIA\\_REFERENDUM.pdf](http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RESEARCH_GROUP_STATEMENT_ON_CATALONIA_REFERENDUM.pdf)
- Statement – International Parliamentary Delegation  
[http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Statement\\_International\\_Parliamentary\\_Delegation\\_Catalonia\\_Referendum.pdf](http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Statement_International_Parliamentary_Delegation_Catalonia_Referendum.pdf)
- Council of Europe – Calls on Spain to investigate allegations of disproportionate use of police force in Catalonia  
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/commissioner-calls-on-spain-to-investigate-allegations-of-disproportionate-use-of-police-force-in-catalonia>
- Council of Europe – Assembly 'shocked' by police violence against Catalan referendum voters  
<http://www.catalannews.com/politics/item/council-of-europe-assembly-shocked-by-police-violence-against-catalan-referendum-voters>
- OHCHR – UN experts urge political dialogue to defuse Catalonia tensions after referendum  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22197&LangID=E>





- OHCHR – Comment by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on the situation in Catalonia, Spain  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22192&LangID=E&sthash.wXF6dkB9.mjjo>
- Reacciones de políticos internacionales a la violencia del 1 de octubre  
<http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/en/international-statements-about-the-police-re>
- Human Rights Watch – Spain: Police Used Excessive Force in Catalonia  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/12/spain-police-used-excessive-force-catalonia>
- Carta abierta de premios Nobeles de la Paz a los gobiernos de España y Cataluña  
<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/whither-now-democracy-spain/>
- The Elders – Call for dialogue and restraint over Catalonia crisis  
<https://theelders.org/article/elders-call-dialogue-and-restraint-over-catalonia-crisis>
- Amnesty International – Excessive use of force by National Police and Civil Guard in Catalonia  
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/press-releases/2017/10/spain-excessive-use-of-force-by-national-police-and-civil-guard-in-catalonia/>
- Declaraciones del Primer Ministro de Bélgica, Sr. Charles Michel a favor de una mediación  
<http://www.lesoir.be/119219/article/2017-10-14/charles-michel-au-soir-la-crise-catalane-met-leurope-lepreuve>
- L'Assemblée nationale condamne à l'unanimité l'autoritarisme espagnol (Quebec)  
[http://m.quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/10/04/lassemblee-nationale-condamne-a-lunanimite-lautoritarisme-espagnol\\_a\\_23232679/](http://m.quebec.huffingtonpost.ca/2017/10/04/lassemblee-nationale-condamne-a-lunanimite-lautoritarisme-espagnol_a_23232679/)
- Parlamento Flamenco – Propuesta de resolución sobre el referéndum de Cataluña  
<https://www.vlaamsparlement.be/parlementaire-documenten/parlementaire-initiatieven/1195228>
- Parlamento de Eslovenia – Resolución adoptada por unanimidad en apoyo a la autodeterminación de Cataluña  
[http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/20171013\\_Parliament\\_of\\_Slovenia.pdf](http://www.cataloniavotes.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/20171013_Parliament_of_Slovenia.pdf)



Barcelona, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear President Rajoy,

The situation in which we find ourselves at the moment is of such importance that only answers and political solutions of the highest level will suffice. My letter hopes to reach that level, as is expected by the majority in our society and as expected in Europe, which doesn't contemplate any other way to resolve conflicts other than dialogue, negotiation and accord.

With this in mind, I was surprised by your written text of last October 11<sup>th</sup> announcing the intention of your government to put into effect article 155 of the Constitution in order to suspend Catalan self-government.

When, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, attending to the request of numerous international, Spanish and Catalan figures and institutions, I presented to you a sincere offer of dialogue, I did not do so as an expression of weakness, but rather as an honest proposal to find a solution to the relationship between the Spanish state and Catalonia which has been in a state of deadlock for many years.

On Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup>, in the middle of violent police action denounced by the most prestigious international organisms, more than two million Catalans entrusted to the Parliament the democratic mandate to declare independence. One must also add to the result of this referendum the result of the most recent elections to the Parliament of Catalonia, where a clear majority of 47.7% voted for independence parties, as against the 39.1% who voted for parties explicitly against independence. It is also necessary to remember that 80% of citizens have repeatedly expressed their intention to decide their future by way of an agreed referendum. Accepting reality is the way to resolve problems.

The priority of my government is always to seek solutions by way of dialogue. We want to talk, as well-established democracies do, about the problem placed before us by the majority of the Catalan people, who wish to undertake a journey as an independent country within the framework of Europe.

The suspension of the political mandate resulting from the poll of October 1<sup>st</sup> demonstrates our firm intention to find the solution rather than generate confrontation. We would like to do this by way of agreement both in the objectives sought and in the way we find them. Our proposal of dialogue is sincere and



honest. Because of this, over the coming two months, our main objective is to appeal to you to dialogue, and that all of those international, Spanish and Catalan figures and institutions who have expressed their disposition to taking part in negotiation may have the opportunity to explore such an option. This will show the commitment of all sides to finding an agreed solution.

In light of everything I say, I ask of you two things:

The first is to reverse the repression against the people and government of Catalonia. This very Monday two leaders of Catalan civil society, who have been organising the peaceful demonstrations by millions of people since the year 2010, are to appear, charged, in court. Also charged is the chief of the Catalan police (Mossos d'Esquadra), one of the most respected police forces in Europe, which faithfully and rigorously fulfils its duty.

In this episode of repression we have also seen, among other things, the violation of fundamental rights: the intervention with and freezing of bank accounts which prevents us from fulfilling our obligations to people who most need them; internet and media censorship; interference in private post; detention of public servants; brutal police violence against a peaceful population on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our proposal of dialogue is sincere, in spite of all that has occurred, but logically it is not compatible with the current climate of threats and rising tension.

The second request is that we organise a meeting, as soon as possible, which will allow us to explore initial agreement. Let's not allow this situation to deteriorate more. In good faith, recognising and facing the problem head on, I'm sure that we can find a way towards a solution.

Yours sincerely,

Carles Puigdemont i Casamajó