

# MANIFESTO

**Oriol Junqueras is a good person.**

A man with strong democratic convictions. Oriol Junqueras is a father, a husband, a companion. He is a teacher, a neighbour and a friend. Oriol Junqueras is like you, is like me, one among many, who works to construct a better world for everyone. His place is with us, not within the four walls of a cell in Estremera.

**We denounce that Spain acts in a spirit of vengeance against Oriol Junqueras.**

He has been in pre-trial detention for more than 100 days. The Spanish state accuses him, without foundation, of the crimes of rebellion, sedition and embezzlement for having organised the referendum of the 1st of October. The imprisonment of Oriol Junqueras, along with that of Jordi Cuixart, Jordi Sánchez and Quim Forn, shows the limits and the weakness of a state that is capable of violating fundamental rights to defeat its political opponents.

**We denounce that the imprisonment and forced exile of political adversaries are the definitive confirmation of the failure of the Spanish government**

to address in a mature and democratic manner the demand always scrupulously peaceful of a very significant part of Catalan society.

**We denounce that the reaction of the state endangers the most elementary democratic principles.**

The rejection of dialogue and the commitment to the repressive path of the Spanish state are a very bad omen that puts at risk hard-won rights. The imprisonment of Oriol is not just a punishment of a person, not even of a political position or of the inhabitants of a territory, but a direct threat to all minorities and dissenters within the European Union. And with it, to the pillars of every democratic society.

**We must denounce the violation of fundamental rights today in order to save the democracy of the whole world tomorrow.**

Today it is the case of Oriol Junqueras, Jordi Sánchez, Jordi Cuixart or Quim Forn; tomorrow it could be any person or entity accused of dissent or any political option that is annoying to the ruling party.

**We denounce that the European Union has aligned itself with the profoundly undemocratic reaction of the Spanish state,**

betraying its founding principles in refusing to defend the rights and freedoms of Catalan citizens, who are also Europeans and want to remain European citizens.

**We demand the immediate release of Oriol Junqueras**

and the other political prisoners, the return of those exiled and the restitution of all of their political rights as elected representatives of the people of Catalonia.

They can imprison a good man, but they cannot imprison goodness. They will be able to imprison a just man, but not justice. They can imprison a brave man, but they cannot impose fear on us. They will be able to imprison Oriol, the Jordis or Quim, but there are not enough prisons to imprison an entire country or their longings for freedom.

**Freedom for Oriol Junqueras!  
Freedom for all Catalan political prisoners!**

**FREE  
CATALAN  
POLITICAL  
PRISONERS  
NOW**