



PARLAMENT DE CATALUNYA

Laura Borràs i Castanyer
President

Mr Henrik Dam
Speaker of the Danish Parliament

Dear President,

Parliaments are the seat of popular sovereignty and tasked with debating the concerns and needs of the society they represent with the aim of turning the conclusions of these debates into regulations and laws. For this to be possible, MPs must be able to speak freely and without hindrance. That is why in democratic systems parliaments are considered inviolable and Members of Parliament are afforded special legal protection.

However, none of this is respected in Spain today. A few days ago we learned of the ruling of the Spanish Constitutional Court overturning the decisions of the Presiding Board of the Parliament of Catalonia of 25 September 2019 in which motions for resolutions calling for self-determination and amnesty for political prisoners were admitted for consideration.

Far from pursuing a solution to the open political conflict with Catalonia, all the Spanish authorities have chosen to deny reality and crack down on opposition. When a majority of the Catalan Parliament calls for the right to self-determination and demands amnesty, the Constitutional Court tries to muzzle the popular will expressed by the democratically elected representatives of the people.

As *The Economist* has noted, democracy in Spain is flawed. The rights of the Catalan national minority are systematically flouted. The Spanish courts seek to decide which issues can be debated in the Parliament of Catalonia, and even which MPs can continue to take part in these debates given that there have already been two cases of seats being taken away by these Spanish courts. The first is that of a President of the Generalitat (Catalan Government) for hanging a banner advocating freedom of speech on the balcony of the Palace of the Generalitat, while the second is that of a secretary of the Presiding Board of the Parliament for two yellow ribbons hung outside his office. I have no choice but to bring this to your attention before the violation of our parliament becomes irreversible.

Yours faithfully,

Palau del Parlament, 11 February 2022