



Dear Mr. Félix Valdés,

Today, we should be celebrating the World Puppetry Day and enjoy the art, but the repression against artists and social movements in Spain makes us protest.

On 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016, puppeteers Raúl García Pérez and Alfonso Lázaro de la Fuente from Títeres Desde Abajo found themselves in an unenviable situation. Their show about witch hunting was misused for a real case of witch hunting. Due to the overreaction of the Spanish authorities, both artists are currently facing up to seven years in prison for fabricated charges of incitement to hatred or violence and glorifying terrorism.

We have been following the situation in Spain for some time and are concerned about the repressive measures taken against social and political activists. It is obvious that tightening anti-terrorist legislation is not aimed only at political opponents of the current authority but used to attack the freedom of speech, which threatens the whole society.

**Therefore we ask you to inform the relevant Spanish authorities about our protest action which demands the following:**

- **dropping of all the charges against puppeteers Raúl García Pérez and Alfonso Lázaro de la Fuente,**
- **immediate withdrawal of the restrictions they are facing after having been released from the custody,**
- **refraining from further criminalization of social movements and tightening of the legislation related to freedom of speech.**

We are looking forward to your response to our protest letter and would like to point out that we will keep informing the public about the politics of the Spanish Kingdom as well as about the case of the two puppeteers until the matter which made us speak up and show solidarity to people in Spain is resolved.

*Solidarity workers' union Priama akcia  
Slovak section of the International Workers' Association (IWA-AIT)*