

TESTIMONIES

in search
of freedom

1968-2018

SPAIN



ABOUT

A total of 47 video recorded testimonies were analysed by the students of the University of Barcelona and the local curators of the exhibition "In Search of Freedom". All of them had witnessed the 1960s and 1970s revolutionary events in Spain: students' uprisings, underground trade unions protests and social movements demonstrations. These testimonies are part of the Audiovisual Bank of Testimonies promoted by the Government of Catalonia, one of the main public audiovisual sources of the period that includes the struggle for democratic freedom and the transition to democracy after Franco's dictatorship. Furthermore, this project collected three new testimonies that are transcribed here.

QUICO PI DE LA SERRA

MUSICIAN



(...) We were four friends and we created a fictional party that was called OPC- Pacifist Organization of Catalonia. One night we were arrested in Barcelona, painting walls in the streets. We spent three days in Via Laietana, but finally they realized that we were not from the Communist Party and brought us to the court. We were rebuked by the judge and I was sent to the military service. A police couple brought me by train and boat to Africa. They left me in the barracks, it was the Reguares, number 3. There I denied to do everything: to parade, did not answer when they called me, and things like that. I made friends with three more guys, two guerrillas from South America, and the son of the Talgo inventor, the youngest lawyer in Spain. With these three we destroyed weapons, they hooked us, we opened letters from the General Staff, and then I received the prize for the best record in Spain. I've received many telegrams, and the colonel called me. "What's up with this? You sing Well, sing!" I told him that I needed a guitar and I asked to be sent one from Barcelona. I remember the officers were having dinner and the colonel says "Let's see, sing something!" And I started to sing The Man in the Street. "But what do you say?" And I say "It's what I sing." And he says: "In Spanish!" And I: "No, I sing in Catalan". "Well, get off!" It was in Ceuta, that.

(...) One day I went home. I went out the door and left. My mother was crying and a lawyer. I had to return, because the penalty for those who escaped the army was two years in prison. I finished the mile in 18 months. It was the year 65.

(...) In May of 68 I was with Paco Ibáñez. We decided to go to France, where there was a general strike. We loaded my car with gasoline and went to some cities in the south of France, to play and sing. One day someone told us that General De Gaulle sent the tank division from Berlin to Paris. We all mourned.



I was, fortunately or unfortunately, member of the last board of delegates of the University of Barcelona. I say thankfully, because, unlike many colleagues, I was not then dispatched, neither at prison nor at the military service. And I say sadly because I saw the front line as the end of a movement, which I believe is the most profoundly democratic that I have known. For many people, the Caputxinada is associated to a protest act of confinement. And some even say that it took the opportunity to create a union. This does not correspond well to reality. First because in the 60s the protests did not stretch, and secondly because the confinement, in this case, suggests the idea of a group of people who voluntarily close to protest or to vindicate. EU).

That March 9 in the convent of the Capuchins we were not a group of friends confined to protest. We met there because we were the delegates democratically chosen by all students of the UB, with a very specific mandate: the constitution of the Democratic Union of the Students of the University of Barcelona. This is what happened on March 9, 1966.

All, students and guests, we thought we were going to have dinner at home.

But, suddenly, when the assembly had finished, the police appeared and the siege began. We did not want to leave because we did not want to be signed. And the monks welcomed us, despite the mishap that this meant for the convent life.

The police cleared the door, took us out, grabbed the identity cards of the students, and our guests, the reputable anti-Franco intellectuals who had wanted to be on our side in this act, were arrested. Thus the siege, which is not a confinement protest, is still an important anecdote, which served as a loudspeaker to publicize the constitution of the union, because it provoked a solidarity with the Barcelona society. I think that, perhaps without this siege, this would not be remembered. It was an anecdote about this long struggle of the students for their self-organization, the culmination of a process that began the " year 56 in Madrid and 57 in Barcelona, for the dismissal of the Francoist Students Union (SEU).

MARIONA PETIT

SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHER, MEMBER OF THE DEMOCRATIC STUDENTS UNION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BARCELONA IN 1966



CARLES VALLEJO

**PRESIDENT OF THE CATALAN ASSOCIATION OF THE
POLITICAL PRISONERS OF FRANCOISM**



In 1968 I joined the Communist Youths and organized the district workers' commissions (CCOO) in Poble Nou. The following year, an announcement at La Vanguardia asking for Italian translators allows me to enter work in SEAT where I know, among many others, residents of Cornellà like Pepe Fernández and Isidre Junyent.

My relationship with the workers movement began through the CCOO of SEAT where I was responsible for organizing until my detention and dismissal, in a state of emergency, in December 1970. In this period I joined the PSUC. Together with Silvestre Gilaberte and Armando Varo, we spent twenty days at the Police Headquarters of Via Laietana, interrogated and tortured by police officers such as Commissioner Genuino Navales, responsible for the repression of the SEAT, which premonitively told me : "I am a professional, I am a policeman with Franco, I will be with democracy and I will continue to be when they send yours"; time gave him the reason since during the transition he was promoted to general director of Civil Protection. From the police station we went to the Model prison where we will remain six months during which a hunger strike of political prisoners is organized.

Despite being in jail, our candidature is presented to the partial selections of the SEAT corporate jury, being mostly voted by the workers despite not being accepted by the CNS vertical union.

In June 1971 we released the provisional release and prepared the campaign for readmission of the dismissals of SEAT that culminates on October 18 of that year with the occupation of the factory during which the worker is murdered by the police Antonio Ruiz Villalba.



In November I was arrested again and after a month in prison I was released temporarily thanks to the mobilizations of the companions of SEAT. Given the fiscal request of more than twenty years of imprisonment for various reasons, the SEAT Workers Commission decides that it is more convenient to continue the work abroad promoting international solidarity and coordination with the Italian unions.

In 1972 , I started my exile in Paris, I worked in the CCOO Foreign Delegation with Angel Rozas and Carlos Elvira; the producer of exiled films Pere Fages facilitates me the accommodation. I have the opportunity to be a spokesman for the delegation of the Spanish opposition to the Versailles Conference.

AUDIOVISUAL BANK OF TESTIMONIES

LIST OF WITNESSES STUDIED WITHIN THIS PROJECT

[HTTP://BANCMEMORIAL.GENCAT.CAT/WEB/HOME/](http://BANCMEMORIAL.GENCAT.CAT/WEB/HOME/)

ANA HERO SIRVENT

ANTONIO CHACÓN GIMÉNEZ

AURORA HUERGA BARQUÍN

BIENVENIDO TEJERO MIRANDA

ENRIC PUBILL ARNÓ

FELIP CASTELL PAPELL

FÉLIX JOSÉ GASSIOT

FÉLIZ ALVARÉZ NIEBLA

FRANCESC BLANC CANYELLES

GABRIEL BALCELLS XURIACH

IGNASI RIERA GASSIOT

JAUME ESTAPÉ ALIAGA

JAUME ESTAPÉ ALIAGA

JOAN CHERTÓ AGRAMUNT

JOAN RODÉS CERQUEIRA

JOAN ZAMORRA TERRÉS

JOAQUIM NADAL FARRERAS

JOAQUIM SAMPERE CARRERAS

JORDI CAUPENA NOGUÉ

JORDI PORTA RIBALTA

JOSEP AGULLÓ CUCÓ

JOSEP MARIA MORATÓ

JOSEP PISA NOVILLAS

JOSEP RIERA PORTA

JOSEP SEMENTÉ MOYA

JOSEP SEMENTÉ MOYA

JULI ESPÍ MIGUEL

LLIBERT CUATRECASES

LLUIS BOSCH MARTÍ

LLUIS DOMENECH ACCENSI

LUIS ROMERO HUERTAS

MAITE MORENO CONESA

MANUEL CAMPO VIDAL

MANUEL GONZÁLEZ FERNANDEZ

MARC TAXONERA I COMAS

MARINO VILA RUBIO

MERCÉ SALLES COMELLES

MIGUEL AGÚNDEZ MORENO

MIQUEL COLL ALEMANY

MONTSERRAT SOLIVA TORRENTÓ

PACO FRUTOS GRAS

PAQUI MUÑOZ PÉREZ

PERE MADRENYS CABALLÉ

RAFAEL MELLADO MONTES

SALVADOR GOYA ROSET

VENTURA MARGÓ VIVES

XAVIER FOLCH RESCASENS