



INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

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*“Let the blood  
of Julian Grimau  
be the last blood  
shed in Spain”*

Angela Grimau.



Ayuntamiento de Madrid

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## Murder in Madrid

In the early hours of April 20th, a man was led out across the prison yard of the notorious Carabanchel Prison in Madrid and executed by a squad of mercenary soldiers from Morocco.

That man was 52-year-old Julian Grimau, member of the Central Committee of the Spanish Communist Party, a Spanish patriot and one of the leaders of the underground fight of the Spanish people for freedom and democracy.

He was arrested in November of last year. On November 9th, Reuter quoted reports that he had thrown himself from a window at police headquarters during "interrogation".

In fact, what had happened was that Grimau had been treated with such savagery that he was not expected to survive.

To complete their task, the police had thrown him out of the upper part of the window in an attempt to simulate suicide.

The injuries he had sustained were severe. Though he was kept incommunicado, one person was found who had seen him in hospital and who reported that Grimau "looked like a monster". The left side of his face was shattered; the frontal bone had collapsed, and there was a large cavity in the right frontal lobe. The jaw was misshapen. There were Colles fractures to both wrists. The arms and spine were affected.

According to this witness the injury to the right frontal lobe was completely incompatible with any injury likely to be received in a fall.

The shifty duplicity of the Franco authorities on the question of the injuries was glaring. In their first statement they said that Grimau's handcuffs were removed in order that he could sign a statement, whereupon he had immediately, and without anyone being able to stop him, flung himself from the window. But when questioned about the similarity of both wrist injuries, it was explained that this was because he was wearing handcuffs at the time in question.

Several days before his court-martial, the Judge-Advocate called to see Grimau in hospital, in order to interrogate him further.

When Grimau said that further operations would be necessary before he would be fit enough to defend himself at a trial, the Judge-Advocate replied: "Oh, we won't put you to all that unnecessary pain. You won't live much longer."

It was while he was in this state of health that he was dragged before a court-martial to face a mockery of a trial on charges of "military rebellion" against the Spanish Government.

No mercy, no compassion whatsoever, was shown to Julian Grimau. Despite his injuries, despite his obvious physical distress, he was not permitted to sit down or rest during the length of his trial.

The prosecutor demanded the death penalty, claiming in justification a number of alleged actions by Grimau in 1938. But not one witness was produced to support these charges.

### **Political execution**

The British barrister, Mr. Gavin Freeman, who attended the trial as an observer, reported in the *Daily Telegraph* that the "evidence" consisted "of a series of hearsay statements made some weeks after the arrest of Grimau and more than twenty-five years after the events in question.

"These 'witnesses' were never confronted by Grimau; they were never made available to the defence for cross-examination. They did not appear before the court-martial, but their statements were read into the court records as facts, whereas there was no evidence which would have satisfied any court with any pretensions to be exercising its judicial functions either that the 'atrocities' in fact occurred or, if they occurred, that Julian Grimau was in any way connected with them.

"Having attended the trial of Julian Grimau I cannot come to any other conclusion than that his conviction and execution were political and not judicial acts."

After a hearing lasting less than four and a half hours, the court-martial met in secret and passed the death sentence. Immediately sentence became known, there were world-wide protests and Julian Grimau's wife Angela, supported by tens of thousands of messages, appealed for her husband's life.

Deaf to the appeals for clemency addressed to him by public figures of all political parties, by high clerics of the Catholic Church like the Cardinal Primate of Spain, Archbishop of Saragosa, Cardinal Feltin of Paris, General Franco upheld the sentence, which, with horrifying haste, was carried out within thirty-six hours.

Murder was done in Madrid that morning and since then the world has echoed to the protests from almost every country, condemning this act of barbarism. And nowhere has the protest been more vehement than in Britain, where an all-party meeting, addressed by Mr. Harold Wilson, in the House of Commons issued the following statement:

"By the execution of a political opponent for acts alleged to have been committed over a quarter of a century ago, the Government of General Franco has revived the bitterness of the Civil War and shocked public opinion the world over.

"We consider the execution of Julian Grimau to be not an act of justice but an act of vindictiveness ill befitting a Government claiming to observe civilised standards. Political repression, summary arrests and trials by military courts in times of peace are practices which foster

neither respect nor the desire for friendship for the Government which resorts to them.

“We express our gravest concern for the fate of political prisoners in Spain and for the fate of the many still awaiting trial. We call upon all with humanitarian feelings to join together in the demand for an amnesty and the restoration of civil rights in Spain.”

### **Behind tourist facade**

The murder in Madrid of Julian Grimau has made millions wonder how it is that in Europe, a fascist regime like that of General Franco can still hold power, in defiance of the will of the Spanish people. It has made millions, who are too young to remember the events of twenty-five years ago, wonder what happened in those days and what is happening in Spain today.

While the travel agencies enthuse about the delights of sunny Spain, the murder of Julian Grimau has shown that behind the glossy tourist brochures, the Spanish people are suffering under a regime which came to power with the help of the bombs and bayonets of Germany's Nazi dictator, Hitler, and Italy's fascist dictator, Mussolini.

The man they brought to power, General Franco, today has the audacity to accuse a man like Julian Grimau of “military rebellion”. Yet if there is one man in Spain today who should stand trial on that charge before all others, it is General Franco himself.

To understand this, we must go back to Spain in the early days of 1936 when the country hummed with political activity following the dissolution of the Spanish Parliament, the Cortes, by President Zamora on January 8th, and the calling of an election for February 16th. This announcement ended the “State of Alarm” which had been imposed by the extreme right wing since October 1934—a month which had seen mass arrests and murders of the miners and other workers of the Asturias.

The people of Spain knew that those elections would decide Spain's fate, fascism or democracy, tyranny or justice. On one side was lined up all the wealth and power of the country which included the big industrialists, the landowners, the Church hierarchy, although not all priests, and the powerful but reactionary leadership of the Army. And on the other side were the people of Spain.

For the first time, all political parties in Spain which counted themselves anti-fascist and pro-democratic, united in a great alliance called the Popular Front. It is important to understand that the Popular Front was in no sense a revolutionary organisation.

Its programme was drawn up when the various parties forming the Popular Front, which included middle-class parties like the Left Republican Party and the Republican Union as well as working-class parties like the Socialists and Communists, agreed to go to the country on a common platform. This Popular Front programme began with these words: “The Republic conceived by the Popular Front parties is not a Republic directed by social or economic motives but a regime of democratic liberty and social progress.”

## **'Moderate programme'**

In a Penguin Special entitled *Searchlight on Spain*, issued at that time, the Duchess of Atholl, who was Conservative M.P. for Kinross and West Perth, wrote: "The Popular Front programme for the election, though extremely comprehensive, was fully entitled to be regarded as moderate. Its most important provisions were for an amnesty for the tens of thousands of political prisoners and exiles, immediate reinstatement of officials and workers who had been dismissed for political reasons . . ."

Other points included a public works programme similar to President Roosevelt's in the U.S., curtailment of the power of the Bank of Spain, a vast new educational programme, aid to the peasants and protection for the farmers, reform of the tax system, the establishment of minimum wages and standard conditions for the industrial worker and the regional autonomy of the various national groups of Spain.

This is the merest outline of a programme which the Duchess of Atholl wrote "revealed on every page a sense of the need for improvements in the conditions of small farmers and workers, but tempered in the case of the latter by a recognition of the necessity for not injuring production. And nothing could be more significant than the specific condemnation—not merely omission—of socialist policies, such as nationalisation of the land and of the banks".

The elections showed that the Spanish people supported this programme, for they resulted in the victory of the Popular Front which secured 268 seats in the Cortes, of which 158 were Republicans, eighty-eight Socialists and seventeen Communists, against the 205 seats of the right wing and centre parties combined, and the Left Republican leader, Señor Azaña, formed a new Government, without socialist participation, but with the assurance of working-class support for the agreed programme.

It is interesting to note that an observer of these elections, the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Christopher Buckley, wrote in his book *Life and Death of the Spanish Republic* that "if these elections had been held under such conditions as prevail at a general election in England, then the Popular Front would have had a far greater victory because the pressure of the Right was so tremendous everywhere that people could not, or feared to, vote freely and gave their votes to the Right to make sure of their bread and butter".

## **Generals plotted**

Within a few hours of the Popular Front victory, the same correspondent reported that the Prime Minister Señor Portela was approached by the Chief of Staff of the Spanish Army who "proposed that he, Señor Portela, should stay in power and refuse to hand over office to the victors of the election. . . . In other words, a military *coup* was proposed to prevent by force the taking over of governing powers by the victorious Popular Front".

That Chief of Staff was General Franco, and although he failed at

that time, he and a group of fascist generals around him continued to plot against the legally elected Government of the Spanish Republic. From February to July 1936, the Government was at work carrying out the agreed programme of the Popular Front.

But it was soon evident that the Right was not prepared to accept peacefully the verdict of the elections. To the vote of the people, the fascists replied with violence. A war of street violence, provocation and riot began on the streets of Madrid and other cities of Spain and continued almost unabated for months until, in July, General Franco, violating his oath of loyalty to the Republican Government, flew from Las Palmas in the Canary Islands to Spanish Morocco to give the signal for a military uprising against the Government of the Spanish Republic.

So now we know who was guilty of "military rebellion" and the history of Spain since those July days in 1936 is the history of how Spanish reaction, backed by German and Italian fascism and aided and abetted by Britain's Tory Government at the time, strangled the Spanish Republic and saddled it with General Franco as a fascist dictator.

From the very first days of the fascist uprising, German and Italian planes were provided to bring Moorish troops and the Spanish Foreign Legion from North Africa to Spain to fight against the Republic. And while the Republic was still trying to form and train new army units, Hitler had already dispatched his Condor Legion to Spain, with planes, military technicians and all kinds of war material, while Mussolini had ordered his air force into action, with planes prepared to carry Italian regiments to Spain.

And so the unequal battle began—Republican Spain against the military might of Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, with Britain, France and the U.S. handcuffing Spain's democratic forces by refusing to allow the legal Government its legal right under international law to buy arms for its defence. Under cover of the so-called "Non-Intervention Committee" Britain's Tory Government swung into action in support of Franco and his fellow rebel generals and against the Republic.

### **'No Pasaran!'**

But all over Spain, the ordinary people rallied to the defence of the Republic. The working people of Madrid marched in their tens of thousands to the heart of the town, the Puerta del Sol, Madrid's Piccadilly Circus and Trafalgar Square combined, to demonstrate their determination to resist the rebel generals. It was in those days that the slogan "No Pasaran!" (they shall not pass) was born. The people demanded that there should be no surrender to fascism. They demanded arms for the people.

And it was those same ordinary people of Madrid who, with their bare hands, stormed the Montaña Barracks, securing Spain's capital for the Republic as did the people of Barcelona, Valencia, Malaga, Cartagena and many other towns. A Popular Front Government was formed which armed the people.

Writing of the heroic action of ordinary people, Christopher Buckley said: "The patient heroism of these simple folk, who up to some days before had nearly all been working in factories, driving trams, clerking, and now found themselves front-line soldiers with few officers and less equipment, was astounding. I had always been a little doubtful as to whether the average man in the street felt sufficiently strongly about the Republic to die for it. Now I saw he did, and was actually dying for this cause."

The world watched the unequal struggle with bated breath. Soon a great world-wide movement began in support of the Spanish Republic. In Britain, Spanish Medical Aid Committees were set up. To the side of the Republican Militia came volunteers from all over the world to form the International Brigades, which united in their ranks men and women of all political parties and of none, in the fight to save Spain from fascism and to try to save the world from war.

Among the men of fifty-three nationalities who comprised the 35,000 men of the International Brigades, the men of the British Battalion played their part. Of the 2,000 British volunteers who fought in Spain, over 500 were killed and over 1,200 wounded. With them was a small band of British women who served as nurses at the front backed by the medical supplies and ambulances provided by the British people.

### **Unity in action**

The unity in action of the Spanish people was matched by the unity of those who went to Spain from so many countries. Anti-fascists sank their differences and many delegations visited Spain. The Labour Party leader Mr. Attlee also visited Spain and a company of the British Battalion was named the Major Attlee Company in his honour.

The Spanish Republican Army, with its untrained, or at best hastily trained, militias, badly armed, with the men of the International Brigades at their side, had to face over 300,000 non-Spanish troops, Moors, Foreign Legionaries, Germans and Italians, equipped with all the modern weapons in plentiful supply which were thrown in on Franco's side. Vast supplies of bombers and fighters, tanks, artillery and other munitions of war were sent to Spain by the fascist powers.

The Soviet Union announced from the start that it would hold itself bound to observe the embargo on the supply of arms to Spain only to the extent to which it was actually observed by other countries. On the diplomatic front, the Spanish Republican Government appealed on five separate occasions to the League of Nations for help against the organised aggression of the fascist powers, but each time in vain.

In May 1937, when Spain again appealed to the League, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Litvinov, produced the indisputable evidence of Italian and German fascist armed intervention and who reminded the League that but for such intervention the Spanish Government would have soon put down the rebellion. And he warned the non-fascist states that if they allowed Republican Spain to go down, then the safety of every European state would be endangered—a prophecy which became only too true.

The chicanery of the British and French Governments reached rock bottom at Geneva in the early summer of 1938 when Spain's Foreign Minister, Alvarez del Vayo, begged the League to restore Spain's right in International Law.

To the eternal disgrace of the British Government, its Tory Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax, led the move to reject the appeal. The vote on the resolution was four to two, with Britain, France, Poland and Rumania voting against; Spain and the Soviet Union voting in favour, while nine abstained. After this the U.S. Government, following Britain's lead, refused to lift the embargo on arms to Republican Spain.

All this time international reaction waged a constant campaign of lies against the Republic, trying to present it to the world as "Red" although its programme was far from being socialist. This was made clear in the thirteen-point programme announced by the new Premier and Defence Minister, Dr. Negrin, on May 1st, 1938, and which told the world what Spain was fighting for.

This included the absolute independence of Spain; liberation of Spain from foreign occupation; a plebiscite on the form of government when the war ended; full social and civic rights for every Spaniard, including liberty of religious worship and conscience; protection of private property; agrarian reform; social legislation guaranteeing workers' rights; a non-political army; amnesty for all Spaniards who desired to co-operate in the work of reconstruction.

### **32-month battle**

There is not space here to tell the full story of the heroic battles waged by the Republic in its attempt to free Spain from fascist domination. For thirty-two months they fought on, abandoned by the so-called democratic governments. In January 1939, Barcelona fell to the fascists and on April 1st that year Franco and his fascist troops staged a military parade through the streets of the Madrid they had never been able to capture, but which finally fell through treachery.

Within five months Warsaw was suffering the fate of Madrid, as Hitler, emboldened by the weak complicity of the Western democracies in the downfall of the Spanish Republic, struck at Poland. The defeat of the Spanish Republic encouraged Hitler and Mussolini to go ahead with their plans and in September 1939 the world was at war—a war which lasted six years before fascism was defeated.

During the war Franco was openly on the side of his fascist masters. Military bases in Spain and war material were abundantly provided to Hitler and Mussolini, and Franco organised the notorious Blue Division to fight alongside the Nazis in the Soviet Union. The commander of that Blue Division was General Muñoz Grandes—named at the Nuremberg Trials as a war criminal—and now Deputy Chief of State to General Franco.

When the end of the war came with the defeat of Hitler and Mussolini and their fascist cohorts, the world hoped that the last vestiges of fascism would be wiped out as well, above all in Spain where General Franco still ruled, although he was every bit as much a



war criminal as those executed by the International Military Tribunals at Nuremberg. For after the defeat of the Republic the first result was an unprecedented reign of terror. According to A. V. Phillips, Madrid correspondent for Reuter and the *News Chronicle*, over 100,000 Republicans had been executed and almost a million imprisoned before the end of 1939. Their only "crime" was that they had remained loyal to the legally elected Government of Spain.

### **Betrayed again**

On the other hand, the Spanish Republicans who had been able to escape from Franco Spain had deserved well of the wartime allies, for thousands of them played a leading part in the French Maquis and other resistance movements in Hitler-occupied Europe, in the underground struggle against the Nazis.

But the Spanish Republic was betrayed a second time. Spain became a major U.S. military base in Europe, while foreign capital poured in from the U.S. and West Germany propping up the Franco dictatorship which would have fallen without their aid.

British big business had long-established interests in Spain, notably the Rio Tinto Company which formerly owned extensive copper and sulphur mining properties. And although in 1954 the Spanish assets were transferred to a Spanish company, Rio Tinto still holds a third of the Spanish company's capital. Apart from that, some forty leading British firms have subsidiaries or associate companies in Spain. They include Babcock and Wilcox, Courtaulds, Crossley Bros., Electrical and Musical Industries, English Electric and I.C.I.

Franco Spain's attraction for big business is above all due to the fact that with a fascist dictatorship in power, free trade unions are banned, wages are low, workers have the lowest standards of living in Europe and so profits are high. Minimum hourly rates at the current rate of exchange for a married man with one child as given in the I.L.O.'s 1961 inquiry are 1s. 5d. for hewers in coal mining, skilled iron and steel workers 1s. 1d., garage mechanics 1s. 2d. and bus drivers 1s. 5d.

As a "New Year present", General Franco raised the minimum daily wage from 36 to 60 pesetas (7s. 6d.) from January 1st, 1963. Yet earlier in 1962 the Archbishop of Seville said that a married industrial worker with two children needed at least 110 to 120 pesetas a day in order to live decently.

On the other hand a pastoral epistle of the Bishop of Bilbao in February 1962 drew attention to the "luxury and urge to extravagance" of the Spanish wealthy classes, which, said the Bishop, was a provocation to those who lack the essential necessities in order to lead a dignified human existence.

It is in these circumstances that, despite the fact that strikes are illegal in Spain and punishable as an act of "military rebellion", Spanish workers have frequently come out on strike in the years of Franco's tyrannical rule, defying Franco's military police, his military courts and the threats of terror and torture which go with them.

Already in the 1940's there were strike movements in the Basque country and elsewhere involving tens of thousands of workers. In 1953 there were large numbers of strikes all over Spain demanding wage increases and as a result, for the first time since 1939, the workers were able to force the Franco regime to grant increases and break the wage freeze.

### **Call for reconciliation**

By the spring of 1956 a powerful wave of strikes involving about 150,000 workers swept Catalonia, the Basque country and other provinces, forcing the regime to grant a 16 per cent wage increase to which was added another 6 per cent in October.

It was in 1956, too, that the Spanish Communist Party issued an appeal for a policy of National Reconciliation and for "a peaceful and democratic solution of the Spanish question". This is still having its repercussions in Spain today, for it is a patriotic call for understanding between all Spaniards to resolve their problems without civil war.

A National Day of Reconciliation was held on May 5th, 1958, which was a tremendous success, marking the first organised, national, political movement against the Franco regime. This Day opened a new phase in the struggle of the Spanish people for freedom and the destruction of the dictatorship. Apart from strikes all over the country on that day there were demonstrations in Madrid and Valencia and boycotts of public transport in those and other towns.

In 1959 a new peak was reached with the twenty-four-hour National Peaceful Strike of June 18th in which over 200,000 workers took part in various provinces of Spain.

The following years witnessed a rising wave of strikes, protests and demonstrations against the Franco dictatorship leading up to the mass strikes of April and May 1962 which astounded the world and which shook the regime to its very foundations.

The strike began in the first days of April 1962 in Nicolasa pit of the Asturian coalfield when the miners there downed tools in protest against the inhuman exploitation to which they were subjected and to demand higher wages. The strike spread and by April 18th covered the whole Caudal coalfield.

But this was only the beginning, for the strike soon spread from the Asturias to Bilbao area, closing down the Navale shipyards, Babcock and Wilcox, General Electric and other engineering plants.

The Franco authorities thought that by suppressing all mention of the strikes in the press and radio, they would prevent the people of Spain from knowing that about 100,000 men were on strike in a country where Franco had ruled that strikes were illegal. They failed, and the strikes spread to the south, to the mines of Penarroya and Linares, to Leon and Guipuzcoa, to the steel plants of Sagunto and the textile mills of Catalonia.

## **Brave women**

And then the students of Madrid and Barcelona came out on to the streets, defying the armed police, staging sit-down strikes in their lecture rooms. The miners of the Asturias were magnificently supported by the solidarity of their wives. In Madrid, too, women staged a demonstration in the Puerta del Sol under the very windows of Franco's police headquarters and many women, including wives of leading intellectuals, artists, actresses and writers, were arrested.

The solidarity movement in Spain revealed quite clearly that in addition to the working people's struggle, the majority of Spain's intellectuals are against the Franco regime and the first protest against the regime's attitude during the strikes came in a statement signed by a number of leading intellectuals headed by the President of the Spanish Academy, Dr. Menendez Pidal.

On May 22nd, the correspondent of the French newspaper *Le Monde* reported from Madrid: "In this sixth week of the strike the situation is confused and it is difficult to forecast developments. One thing, however, is clear—the maturity and resolution of the Spanish workers. This fact is something which from now on has to be reckoned with, something which has surprised the regime and even the opposition itself."

Powerless to stop the growing movement against him, unable to halt the wave of strikes which this time involved well over 500,000 workers, Franco struck out viciously. Mass arrests were made, large forces of troops and armed police were sent to the affected areas. And it speaks volumes on the state of Spain today that while at the beginning of the strike movement Franco was trying to dismiss it as just "another Communist plot" he started arresting and exiling not only Communists, Socialists and other workers but also members of his own Falangist movement and even exiled such a right-wing leader as Gil Robles.

## **Secret meeting**

Following the strikes of spring 1962, the mass movement of the Spanish people against the Franco regime has gathered momentum in the political and economic fields. There have been strikes in almost every pit in the Asturias coalfield in protest against the output rates imposed on the miners as well as for the release of workers arrested during the earlier strikes and for their reinstatement in their jobs.

Thus a series of strikes, sit-downs and go-slow actions forced the release and reinstatement of 295 of the 300 miners arrested during the April and May strikes and there have been over 300 demonstrations of solidarity with the miners deported from the Asturias to other regions of Spain.

The present struggle of the Asturian miners, as of other sections of Spanish workers, is centred on a number of demands. Primarily they are demanding a minimum wage of 140 to 160 pesetas a day. This

demand figures in the programme worked out at a secret meeting of the Committees of the Trade Union Opposition from the main regions of Spain including the Asturias held at the end of November 1962.

The holding of this national meeting of delegates from the most important industrial and agricultural centres of Spain marked a significant step forward, for previously the Trade Union Opposition had only been able to work at factory or local level. The programme adopted has been distributed all over the country and has become the basis for the intensified action that is now taking place.

Apart from demands like the 140 to 160 pesetas daily minimum wage, equal pay for equal work, higher social benefits and the abolition of casual employment, it comes out openly against the Franco regime's phoney trade unions and draws the lessons of last year's strike actions.

"We have learned from these movements," it says, "that at the present stage the workers, while taking full advantage of whatever legal means are available, must also resort with increased determination to illegal forms of actions and struggle, such as strikes and demonstrations, which have proved effective and combine them with legal forms of action."

And the programme also put forward a number of political demands including the right to strike, trade union freedoms, amnesty for all political prisoners and the removal of all foreign military bases from Spain.

The programme also appealed "to all groups and trends, all liberal and democratic personalities, to back the just demands of the Spanish working class. We are appealing especially," it said, "to the Spanish intellectuals, artists and students whose interests and feelings are close to ours, to express their support of and solidarity with our programme, through public demonstrations and all other means they think advisable."

The fact that this programme was agreed on by the various groups represented at the meeting from Communists to Catholics indicates that Franco's campaign of persecution and terror has intensified the mounting wave of protest and opposition to the regime. And the movement has progressed from simple economic demands to demands like the right to strike and freedom of trade union organisation which hit at the very existence of the Franco regime.

It has also opened up the possibility of a general political strike in which, together with wage claims, would be coupled the demands for the right to strike, freedom of trade union organisation, the release of all political prisoners, the return of the exiles to Spain and so on.

### **Mass trials**

Today Spain is in a ferment and the ground is cracking under Franco's feet. The strikes of spring 1962 showed that Spain for him will never be the same again. He has replied by a series of mass trials throughout 1963 in which hundreds have been sentenced to savage sentences of up to twenty and thirty years for their activities during the 1962 strikes.

The murder of Julian Grimau was the culminating point of the campaign of savagery aimed at intimidating all opposition. The Spanish working-class movement has shown that it cannot be intimidated, but Franco hopes to strike fear into the hearts of others by branding as "Communist" any opposition to him, any move to re-establish democratic freedoms in Spain.

British progressive people have many times in the past shown that they support the just aspirations of the Spanish people to live in a democratic system. The British trade union movement has above all consistently supported these aspirations.

Thus, the 1962 T.U.C. in its most recent resolution on Spain recorded "its wholehearted admiration and support for the magnificent fight of the Spanish working people for economic justice, and political and industrial freedom. It condemns the repressive measures of the Franco Government and demands the immediate and unconditional release of all those imprisoned for their opposition to the present tyrannical regime".

Not a single voice in Britain's eight-million-strong trade union movement was raised against this resolution, which was passed unanimously after the proposer, Mr. Ralph Bond of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, had made a moving appeal in which he spoke of the terrible conditions in Spain today. He asked the delegates to pass the resolution "not as a matter of formality, not even just as a matter of conscience, but as a positive declaration to the Spanish people of the determination of this great Congress today, in all its power, to assist them to end this tyranny and to assist them to create a new and democratic Spain".

### **How we can help**

Such resolutions have a powerful effect on the people of Spain, for they show them that despite the propaganda put out by Franco, the truth about their situation is known in the world at large. And they provide powerful support for the people of Spain in their struggle.

The financial support of the British trade union and progressive movement for the strikers and their families in 1962 also showed in a practical way what British people feel.

The wave of horror that has swept Britain at the execution of Julian Grimau showed again where the sympathies of the British people are, and inside Spain despite the dictatorship, despite the censorship, despite the terror, the ordinary people of Spain know that decent people everywhere are with them.

It is in no spirit of vengeance that the opposition to Franco, from Catholic to Communist, speaks today. No one wants a repetition of the horrors of the Spanish war, no one, that is, except Franco who by his savage actions seeks to stir up again the Civil War atmosphere.

The spirit of the opposition was perhaps best expressed by that courageous Spanish woman, Julian Grimau's widow Angela, who spoke not only for herself, not only for their ten-year-old Dolores

and nine-year-old Carmen, but for all the women and all the children of Spain today languishing under a bloody dictatorship.

**“At this hour of mourning,” she said, “when I have suffered an irreparable loss, I solemnly declare that the murder of my husband was an act of vengeance and political hatred on the part of General Franco.**

**“The truth is that twenty-five years after the end of the Spanish war, when all Spaniards want a regime of accord and peace to be established in Spain, General Franco challenges national sentiment and world public opinion by his policy in the spirit of civil war.**

**“In the face of an irreparable loss my greatest desire, as a mother, and the desire of my daughters is—let the blood of Julian Grimau be the last blood shed in Spain, let General Franco be outlawed from civilised society. Our constant desire is that Spain should have peace and that people there should live in a civilised regime. I do not want other Spanish mothers and daughters to suffer, irrespective of what political convictions their dear ones hold. I am thinking of those who are still languishing behind prison bars for the same reason as my husband, and who may face the same tragic fate. . . .”**

Franco is hoping that after a few days the world will have forgotten the murder of Julian Grimau. But decent people the world over must show that this time he is wrong.

The Spanish people have demonstrated their undying courage to the world. The British people have a duty to ensure that the sacrifices of the Spanish people have not been in vain. A mighty wave of protest in Britain and other countries can bring help to those forces inside Spain which are now achieving a new unity to rid Spain of Franco and fascism and ensure the return of democratic freedoms and liberties.

Pass resolutions in your T.U., Co-op., and Labour Party branches, districts and executives demanding the release of political prisoners and an end to torture:

Demand full trade union freedom and democratic rights for the Spanish people:

Press the T.U.C. to implement its 1962 Resolution on Spain:

Write to your M.P. and ask him to demand that the British Embassy in Madrid have observers at all political trials:

**OUTLAW FRANCO!**

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## ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

The volunteers of the International Brigade came from all classes, from various political parties or from none. What united them was their hatred of fascism.

When these men left Spain they made a most solemn promise that though they were laying down their rifles, they would continue the struggle in their own country for a free Spain.

This they have done. It was for this purpose that the International Brigade Association was formed.

Over the long years of the Spanish people's bitter misery, the Association has conducted many campaigns in support of their struggle for freedom. In more recent years seventeen observers, together with interpreters, have been sent to Spain, to be present at political "trials". They have attended the court-martial of Catholics, Socialists, Freemasons, Communists—of anyone on trial for opposition to Franco fascism. These interventions were not without success. Franco is particularly sensitive to the reaction of British public opinion.

But more should have been done.

More must be done.

The struggle in Spain is reaching new intensity. The ground is shaking beneath the feet of Franco. His terrorism will be powerless to stop the Spanish people from breaking free. But in the months immediately ahead, they will need all the support that decent people here in Britain can give them.

If you wish to support the struggle against fascism why not join the International Brigade Association? Membership is open to all who wish to see a free and democratic Spain. The subscription is 10s. per year (under 21, 5s.).

If you do not wish to join us but would like to give your support in some other practical way, send a donation. The sending of an observer, with an interpreter, to Madrid costs about £150, but it helps to save men's lives. The smallest sums are welcome.

If your association or organisation would like a speaker to talk about the latest developments in Spain, one can usually be supplied.

Write to the Hon. Secretary of the Association, Alec Digges, 28 Coppetts Road, London, N.10. -

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