

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF PROFESSOR GALINDEZ

The case of Professor Galíndez has been given space in all the newspapers in America and in some in Europe. He has become a symbol in the struggle for freedom. He richly deserves to be known and honoured by all who love the cause for which he has been sacrificed.

HIS LIFE

He was born in Amurrio, in the Spanish Basque Country, on the 12th of October 1915. He went to Secondary School in Bilbao and studied for his Law degree in Madrid: the Basques have no University.

He was in Madrid when the insurrection of the army on July 18th 1936 took place, setting alight the Spanish Civil War. He offered his services to the Basque Authorities, and filled successively the posts of Legal Attaché to the Basque Delegation in Madrid, Legal Adviser to the General Administration of Prisons in Valencia, Officer of the Basque-Pyrenean Brigade in Catalonia and Secretary Advocate of the High Court of the Army in the East. In February 1939, after the defeat of the Spanish Republican Army, he passed over into France and was interned in a Concentration camp. During the confusion caused by the advance of the German Army in 1940, he managed to escape, board a ship and thus arrived in the Dominican Republic.

In Ciudad Trujillo he was journalist, speaker on the Radio, private tutor, teacher in the Diplomatic and Consular School, Secretary of the Faculty of Compared Latin-American Legislation in the University of Santo Domingo, Official in the Ministry of State for Foreign Affairs, Secretary of the Basque Delegation, and in 1949, Delegate of the Basque Government.

The liberal spirit of Galíndez was incompatible with the atmosphere in the Dominican Republic, subjected to a brutal and medioeval despotism. Incidents multiplied. His life became difficult. And in 1946 he left to take up residence in New York, where in 1948 he was nominated Delegate of the Basque Government, the post he was occupying at the time of his disappearance.

Elected Auxiliary Professor of International Law in Columbia University, he was there at once Professor and student. As such he studied for his degree of Doctor of Philosophy and Political Sciences. On the 27th of February he presented his doctoral thesis: "Trujillo's Dominican Republic". On the 12th of March, after giving his class in the University and chatting awhile with his students, he left for his home, which he never reached.

HIS WORKS

Galíndez was a "Basque Nationalist Democrat". In the universal sense he can be described as a "Christian Democrat". As such he played his part in the war under the flags of Euzkadi (The Basque Country) and of the Spanish Republic. Of a liberal temperament, he was an impassioned champion of every cause of freedom, whatever its origins, continent, race or creed. Highly gifted intellectually, very studious, his mind in constant quest, he was a politician, humorist, historian, poet and journalist. Himself an exile, he made the cause of all other exiles his.

His published works are as follows:

"In Dreams", Barcelona, 1938; "Elements of Juridical Science", Ciudad Trujillo, 1941; "The Basque Contribution to International Law", Buenos Aires, 1942; "Five Legends of the Tropics", first prize in the literary competition to mark the Centenary of the Dominican Republic, Ciudad Trujillo, 1944; "Principal Conflicts in American Laws", Buenos Aires, 1954; "The Basques in Besieged Madrid", Buenos Aires, 1954; "Basque Law", Buenos Aires, 1947; "Divorce in the Americas" in collaboration with Dr. Gordon Ireland, New York, 1947; "Sketches of the War. Memoirs of a Basque 'Gudari'",

Buenos Aires, 1951; "Ibero-America. Her Political, Social, Economic, Cultural and International Evolution", New York, 1955. A text-book of 650 pages, published by "Las Americas Publishing Co.", it was banned and withdrawn from circulation in several Ibero-American Republics governed by Dictatorships.

He was besides a permanent collaborator of almost all the Basque newspapers and reviews published throughout the world, and of other newspapers and reviews published throughout the world, and of other newspapers and reviews published in various countries of the Western Hemisphere. In this field alone, his work is prodigious.

As Delegate of the Basque Government he was registered in the State Department, to which he paid frequent visits. In this capacity he also figured as an accredited Observer to the United Nations.

HIS DISAPPEARANCE

Professor Galíndez, as we have said, was a constant advocate of all causes of Freedom. To that of his Native Basque Country, and that of the Spanish Republic, were added all the others, but singularly that of the Dominican Republic. He had lived and suffered that hateful tyranny. The years he had spent in New York had made him become Enemy Number One of the dictator Trujillo.

His great worth, his character and his own condition as a Basque, had placed Galíndez in a position to become a link between all the Ibero-Americans resident in New York, and also between them and the North Americans. He did not feel the prejudice against the great Northern Republic which is so frequent among Spaniards and Ibero-Americans. On the contrary: he was on affectionate and familiar terms with the Americans of the States. This rendered him the more valuable and useful in consolidating these relationships, in which service his great personality was finding expression.

There was every right to hope that he had much to give towards furthering understanding and peace.

"Trujillo's Dominican Republic", Galíndez's doctoral thesis, accepted and approved by Columbia University, is a documentary study of some 700 pages, of Trujillo's dictatorship. It is the epitome that defines it. In it is gathered all the material required to form a studied opinion of its origins, development, characteristics and responsibilities.

He was threatened several times and in various ways by agents of Trujillo. Whenever this occurred, he informed the Police. Much evidence of his anxiety on this score has been found among his documents. He had foreseen the possibility of his disappearance and had indicated that the Dominican agents would be responsible for the outrage. Together with this prediction, in 1953, he made his will. Subsequently he spoke of these matters to several people. In connection with his doctoral thesis, he took even greater precautions; besides the original, to be presented to Columbia University, he placed two copies in English in New York and another copy in Spanish in Santiago de Chile.

In February he published an article in "Euzko-Deya", a Basque Review published in Mexico, entitled "Two Governments were Ashamed". In it, he made a study of the meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations held on December 14th., in which Franco's Spain was admitted to membership of the UNO, with the votes of democrats, socialists and dictators, with the sole exceptions of Belgium and Mexico. "Honour to whom honour be due", wrote Galíndez. "I have been called "crazy" - he added - because I continue to uphold the same principles for which I fought years ago among the Pyrenees." "For as long as there is no freedom, I will continue to shout for it. God grant me the strength to go on being CRAZY UNTIL THE DAY I DIE".

These words, with which he ended his last article, have a prophetic ring, a foreboding of his death, which befell him for being so crazy as to give his life in the cause of freedom.

The following is a quotation from his will:

"I declare myself to be a Christian and a Basque. As such, I wish to be buried in the Faith and in the Land of my ancestors, as soon as may be. I beg whoever takes charge of my body and my possessions to ensure that my remains are taken one day to AMURRIO, Province of ALAVA, EUZKADI (Basque Country), to be buried there. I would like it to be on the estate my father has in LARRABEOBE, on the high ground, from where one can see the mountains of my homeland. The necessary sum shall be set aside from my possessions to this effect."

After the various provisions of his will, amongst them the donation of his library to the Library in Amurrio, he ends with the words "Gora Euzkadi Azkatuta!" (Long Live the Free Basque Country). May Jaungoikoa (God) receive me in his bosom."

THOSE RESPONSIBLE

Public opinion, his friends and other and varied testimonies point, as he did himself, to the Dominican Republic as responsible for the kidnapping and disappearance of the Basque Professor.

The Hispanic Committee of New York laid this accusation before the Director of the Federal Office of Investigation in representation of 248 civic, social and fraternal organizations, paying thus a last homage to the President of the Circle of Ibero-American Writers and Poets. The document of petition addressed to the Secretary of Justice was supported by the "American Catholic Trade Union Committee", "American Civil Liberties Union", "American Committee for Cultural Freedom", "Inter-American Association for Democracy and Freedom", "International League for the Rights of Man", "Latin-American Committee of the AFL-CIO", "Pan American Women's Association", "Post War World Council", "Spanish National Beneficent Society", the "Spanish Confederated Societies" and the "Workers' Defence League."

Galíndez is not the first victim of the Dominicans. He has been preceded by Virgilio Martínez Reinas in 1930, Sergio Bencosme in 1935, Mauricio Baez in 1950, Andrés Requena in 1952, Manuel de Jesús Hernández last August and Manue Acevedo about the same time as Galíndez himself. All of these men were refugees from the Dominican Republic. Baez and Hernández fell in Habana, giving rise to Diplomatic Notes from Cuba the outcome of which is still pending. The rest of the victims met their end in New York. Norman Thomas, commenting upon these antecedents, and upholding the accusation against the Dominican Dictatorship, announced a reward of 10,000 dollars, raised by different societies, for any person who might supply facts or proofs sufficient to arrest and condemn those responsible for the kidnapping and murder of Galíndez. As these lines are written, the latest testimony made before the American Authorities affirms that Galíndez was burnt alive in the furnace of a Dominican boat sent to New York expressly in order to kidnap and effect the disappearance of the Professor.

The Press, University Circles and students of the United States and Ibero-America have discussed the case extensively. Deserving of mention, besides the Body of Professors of Columbia University, are the New York Times, Life, Time and the New York Post. Amongst the Press, Associations and political-social bodies of the Ibero-American world, the Argentine has been particularly prominent. The disappearance of the Basque Professor was the subject of several questions put to President Eisenhower at his Press Conference. In the New York Times various communiques have been published from Mr. Grayson Kirt, President of the University of Columbia, from Professors Reginald Parker and Frank Tannenbaum ³/₄ who was a member of the Tribunal which heard and approved Galíndez's Thesis -

Roger N. Baldwin, Norman Thomas, Francis R. Grant, Serafino Romuladi, S. Levitas, Louise Grane, Francine Dunlay, Wanzell Brown and German Ornes, ex-Editor of El Caribe, the official paper of the Dominican Dictator, amongst others. In the New York Post, Judge Graymore accused Dominican agents of being the authors of the kidnapping and murder of the Basque Professor.

He was a member of the "Requena Memorial Committee" set up in 1952 in honour of Andrés Requena, murdered by agents of Trujillo. "The Daily Spectator", the student journal of the University of Columbia, describes the foundation and activities of the University group "Pro-Galíndez Students".

In Europe, the case of Galíndez has not aroused the same profound emotion that has stirred the American public and with which we Basques are following its development. I am his compatriot, his friend, and share his religion and political creed. In the name of the Basque Government I signed his nomination as Legal Attache to the Basque Delegation in Madrid, as Minister of Justice of the Republican Government I authorized his activities as Legal Adviser to the General Administration of Prisons, and as President of the Basque National Council I approved his appointment as Secretary of the Basque Delegation in the Dominican Republic.

I feel myself deeply and sincerely at one with him. I consider the cause of Galíndez to be one of the great human causes, as everything that concerns the freedom of men and peoples is great. Public opinion in Britain made all these great causes hers in the past. It is my earnest desire, in writing these lines, that a knowledge of the facts may contribute towards awakening that same solidarity at the present time. Today, as much as when St. Louis/^{King}of France, first declared it, all human freedoms are our common heritage, in solidarity.
