

**MOTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE SOC-SAT Recuperation of Land IN
ANDALUCÍA:
CERRO LIBERTAD Y SOMONTE
General Assembly of the European Coordination of La Vía Campesina
Brussels, January 16, 2018**

Andalusia is a particular case in Europe due to its unequal distribution of arable land, of which 55'6% is in the hands of 2% of the owners. Andalusia today has more than half a million farmers without land and native and migrants day laborers, who suffer of the worse and worse working conditions.

The situation of land grabbing has worsened since the capitalist crisis that began in 2007, mainly through two channels: the privatization of public lands belonging to the now extinct Andalusian Institute of Agrarian Reform (IARA) and the route of financial embargoes that have impacted thousands of hectares that are now in the hands of large banks, 40% of the large Andalusian farms, according to agents of real estate property.

The SOC-SAT not only defends and fights for the rights of day laborers, it also has among its objectives to recover land to be worked in cooperatives regime. Currently, there are two farms that have been recovered, and at present both are at risk of being evicted. Apart from other 16 cooperatives already consolidated.

The first one is **Somonte** , a public estate of 432H that was going to be auctioned by the Junta de Andalucía and was occupied by the SOC before this happened, in March 2012. A wheat recovery project is currently being developed. traditional Andalusians seeds whose were about to disappear. Somonte has already suffered 5 evictions and 5 times it was reoccupied and worked. The last trial absolved all the compañeros and compañeras but because of a legal irregularity made by an improper State that is saying to be right, it has caused the judgment to be repeated, putting the farm back under threat of eviction.

The second is **Cerro Libertad** . A farm of 74H of olive groves, belonging to BBVA, the second largest Spanish bank, which also finances an infinity of extractive projects in Latin America, such as the South Peru Gas Pipeline. This farm was occupied on April 1 when the day laborer unionist Andrés Bódalo was serving a year in prison for a union action in his town (Jódar, the most landless town in Andalusia) claiming land and work. Since that date, a lot of work has been done by young people and families without work to clean and recover the olive grove and currently the olive is being harvested and oil is being produced with a small artisanal mill. Last week came the final sentence that forces the eviction of the farm at any time.

Only solidarity can save us from the disaster to which capitalism leads us. And to be supportive today with Somonte and Cerro Libertad is to be in solidarity with a land in the hands of the peasantry to feed the people. It is confronting the governments that deliver the public land to the big companies and corporations. It is confronting the financial capital that fines, imprisons and assassinates those who, in any part of Europe and the world, fight for the land, the territory, the common goods, the water, the seeds, for the rights of peoples and not of merchandise.

That is why the organizations present at the General Assembly of ECVC call for solidarity with the lands recovered in Andalusia and against the repression of the trade unionists who have been victimized in these struggles. We commit ourselves to spread this reality within our organizations and support in a way that is human and materially possible.

**THE LAND IS A RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE, NOT A MERCHANDISE!
LET'S GLOBALIZE THE FIGHT, GLOBALISE THE HOPE!**