

You don't argue with fascism, you destroy it

Buenaventura Durruti

13 September 1936

Comrades: the worker militias aren't slacking on the Aragón front. They attack and defeat the enemy and win ground for the revolutionary cause. And this is only a prelude to the great offensive that we will soon initiate across the entire Aragón front. You, workers of Spain, also have an important role to play, because we can't win the revolution with guns alone; we also have to produce. There is no such thing as a frontline and a rearguard, because we all form one block that has to struggle in unity toward the same goal. And our objective can be none other than building a Spain that represents the working class.

The workers fighting on the front and in the rearguard don't fight to defend bourgeois privileges. They fight for the right to live with dignity. Spain's strength is in the working class and its organizations. After victory, the CNT and the UGT will meet and come to an agreement about the country's economic and political structures.

Those of us on the battlefield aren't fighting for medals. We don't fight to be deputies or ministers. And when we're victorious and return to the cities and villages, we'll fulfill our responsibilities in the factories, workshops, fields, and mines that we left. Our great victory will be the one that we win in the workplaces.

We are peasants and we sow against the tempests that can put our harvest in danger. We're ready and know how to resist. The harvest is ripe. We must collect the grain! And it will be for everyone. There will be no privileges in its distribution. Neither Azaña nor Caballero nor Durruti will have a right to more when it's shared out. The harvest belongs to everyone, to all those working steadfastly and sincerely with their complete intelligence, will, and strength in order to prevent the harvest from being stolen from us.

Workers of Catalonia, I spoke to you a few days ago from Sariñena to make it clear to you that I'm proud to represent you on the Aragón front. I also told you that we will be worthy of the trust that you put in us and our rifles. But for that trust and fraternity to continue, we have to devote ourselves completely to the struggle and even stop thinking of ourselves. You, female comrades, don't follow your heart's cries: let those on the Aragón front focus on fighting. Don't write to tell them bad news. Endure it on your own. Let us fight. Remember that Spain's future, and our children's future, depends on us. Help us be strong in this war that demands every ounce of our will if we want to win!

Comrades, the weapons have to be at the front. We need all the arms to build a wall of iron against the enemy. Trust us. The militias will never defend the bourgeoisie's interests. They are

and will always be the proletarian vanguard in the struggle that we've launched against capitalism. International fascism is determined to win the battle and we have to be determined not to lose it. To you, workers listening to me from behind enemy lines, we tell you that the hour of your liberation is near. The libertarian militias are advancing and nothing will stop them. The will of an entire people drives them forward. Help us in our work by sabotaging the fascist war industry, by creating centers of resistance and guerrilla cells in the cities as well as the mountains. Fight, anyone who can, while there is a drop of blood in your veins!

Workers of Spain, courage! If it's written that there's a moment in a man's life when he has to show his strength, that moment has arrived. The time is now!

Comrades, we should be hopeful. Our ideal accompanies us. That is our strength. Courage and forward! You don't argue with fascism, you destroy it, because fascism and capitalism are the same thing!

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Durruti in the Spanish Revolution by Abel Paz.
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