



## Oifig Mary Lou McDonald TD

Office of Mary Lou McDonald TD

**Micheál Martin TD**  
**An Taoiseach**  
**Government Buildings**  
**Upper Merrion Street**  
**Dublin 2**

Thursday, 14 January 2021

***Re: Catalan independence & continued incarceration of political leaders and representatives***

Micheál, a chara

I am writing to raise my very serious concern regarding the ongoing actions of the Spanish state in Catalonia, including the continued incarceration of Catalan leaders and representatives.

As you will be aware, the unjust imprisonment of Catalan leaders is part of a range of measures introduced by the Spanish government in response to the independence referendum held in October 2017. They have refused to enter negotiations with Catalan Leaders and have chosen aggression and intransigence instead.

The dispute between the people of Catalonia and the Spanish state over independence will not be resolved through incarceration and repression. It will only be resolved through inclusive and meaningful dialogue.

It is critically important that the international community plays its part in ensuring that this happens.

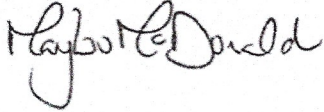
I am asking you, as Taoiseach, to do all that you can to encourage the Spanish government to engage in comprehensive, good faith negotiations with the democratically elected political leaders in Catalonia, acknowledging the national and democratic rights of the Catalan people.

Alongside this, other issues need to be dealt with urgently including the immediate release of political prisoners, the right of those in exile to be allowed to return and an end to the repressive measures being deployed by the Spanish state. The introduction of an amnesty would represent an important first step towards developing a solution.



It is imperative that Ireland now shows leadership in encouraging the Spanish government that dialogue and mediation is the only way to resolve this crisis. I look forward to your reply and to engaging with you further on this very important matter.

Is mise, le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Lou McDonald'.

**Mary Lou McDonald TD**

*Uachtarán Shinn Féin*