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Ever more united, mobilised, and socialist

Submitted by MJS France

It is not easy to find the words to express how we feel today.

The attacks in Paris and its suburbs on Friday the 13th of November are for us the expression of absolute violence and horror.

As in 2011 after the terrible attack in Utoya (Norway), in Ankara (Turkey) a few weeks ago, or in Beirut (Lebanon) and Mali a few days ago, as well as in so many other places around the world in the last years, our deepest thoughts go to the victims of these massacres, their families and friends, regardless of their religion, the colour of their skin or their opinions.

We also express our solidarity to all men and women who gave their strength and even their life to protect and save the life of others.

Even if we might sometimes feel powerless in front of the brutality of such murders, seeing human beings killing other humans, we also know our strength being together. We will continue, as we did in the last days, to show solidarity. We will gather to honour the memory of all the victims. We will write, sing, express ourselves, create and stay together. We will continue, more than ever, to defend our values of freedom, equality and inclusion. We will not remain silent nor surrender towards obscurantism and all those trying to terrorize us.

Most of the victims of the attacks on Friday the 13th were young people. People that were just drinking, dancing, singing, debating- simply enjoying life. Their murderers by attacking this specific quarter of Paris directly targeted the progressive, open, and diverse youth and its will of an inclusive and democratic society.

In these difficult times, where hatred is being fuelled, it remains our duty to establish a world of justice, solidarity and peace. Our duty remains to stay mobilized for our ideals. These terrorists want to stop us, to frighten us. We will not give in.

We will stand up for our dreams and will continue to promote a more open, a more democratic, a more equal and inclusive society.

Therefore, we will continue to oppose all those who defend the idea of a “clash of civilizations” to justify their willingness to divide. We will continue to oppose all those who justify discrimination and segregation, bringing thousands of young people to feel excluded, left aside by our democracy. We will continue to say that human lives matter more than deficit rates and we support States which question these absurd arithmetic rules in order to build safety and cohesion in Europe. It remains our duty not to reproduce the mistakes of the past, which contributed to the world as it is today.

In France, one week ago, French young men killed other French young people. This is the tough reality. There is no simple answer to this dramatic situation but we want to stress the multiplicity of challenges ahead of us. Responses will have to be plural and integrate security aspects at the national, European and international level, but there will be no solution without significant thought be put into in our social, economic, educational policies.

In the face of this situation, more than ever, we need to support and finance education programs, culture and integration policies – the pillars of a pluralistic and united society. We will not let the populists and right wing politicians to manipulate the society. Although the recent terrorist attacks took place in Paris during the

migration crisis, it is necessary to realize that the attackers were violent militants. Our anger should turn against the violence, not against migrants or refugees who were ousted from their homes.

Today, we decide to stay united against the ones who want to divide us.