

Nahuel Moreno

Speech on Pacheco's Massacre



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At midnight on 29 May 1974, fifteen armed thugs broke into the *Partido Socialista de los Trabajadores* (PST) premises in Pacheco and took six militants. Three of them — Oscar Dalmacio Meza, Mario Zidda, and Antonio Moses — were murdered. We reproduce here the speech by Nahuel Moreno, the next day, at national headquarters of the PST on 24 de Noviembre Street, in the neighbourhood of Once, at the funeral and rally of repudiation to the Pacheco Massacre.

“We don’t want unity of action to accompany our hearses We want it to crush fascism!”

On behalf of the leadership of our Party, I would like to offer our deepest condolences to the relatives of the three comrades who fell in the struggle. Tell them also that these three comrades will continue to live not only in the memory of our Party, they will continue to live in the memory of their class and of all the fellow anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist and revolutionary fighters of the country. They will remain next to us despite having physically disappeared.

Secondly, on behalf of the Party, I want to point out these three comrades were great, they were huge and we do not say it because of the personal biography of these three militants. It is not about adopting a hypocritical attitude, in the style of the panegyrics that the bourgeois obituaries draw when one of their characters dies. They were young; they had no extraordinary biography, neither international nor of any kind. They were three modest militants. But that’s why they were much bigger still. They were great because their struggle was great! They were great because our Party is great! They were great because their ideology is great!

They died for what they were: socialists, revolutionaries, legitimate internationalists and for all of that we want to vindicate them. We also want to claim them as fighters of the entire left, as a whole, in the face of a danger that threatens us all: fascism and the reactionary coup. That part of the comrades’ personality that is common heritage, that part of the comrades’ biography that twins them — in our opinion — more than to those of the [Massacre of] Trelew, to those facts as much or more serious than those of Trelew: the famous Massacre Operation of Jose Leon Suarez. And just as that attack qualified the *Libertadora*,¹ this one today is qualifying this neo-*Libertadora* government, of General Peron.

Thirdly, comrades, I want to thank in a fraternal way all the parties and organisations that have contributed their solidarity and especially to all the parties and organisations that are present here with their mobilisation. In this gratitude, we know how to distinguish with care the socialist tendencies, those of our brothers in the final objective and those other tendencies that do not coincide with our final objective but, nevertheless, are united to us against the fascist monster and danger. With all due respect, we say they have given a high example of the unity of action those humanists, democratic, or liberal currents that are present here to salute us and left aside the deep ideological differences we may have with them. These two facts should lead us to reflection. There is an old phrase of a philosopher that says: “Neither laugh nor cry: understand”. Today the revolutionaries have to say: “Let’s not cry; let’s understand and fight.”

This is also the time to reflect on the situation presented by the country and to make a call on behalf of the Executive Committee of our Party. It is evident that there is a fascist escalation in the country. A fascist escalation that is not a simple hysterical outbreak because it is not the fascist escalation of a movement outside of government but is predicated by the government itself. A categorical element proves it, as soon as we reflect a little. So far they have not discovered a single

¹ *Revolucion Libertadora* [Liberating Revolution]) is the name by which the civic-military dictatorship that ruled Argentina after having overthrown Juan Domingo Peron in 1955. [Editor.]

attack against militants of the left, or the death of a communist worker, or the tortures, or the death of Montoneros, or of JP [Peronist Youth] militants, nor of our dead! Never! It is a fantastic inefficiency of the police and all the secret services of the regime to discover the murderers of leftist militants. However, they have an amazing efficiency to discover, according to them, the attacks the left does. This has as meaning for us that fascism is preached by the government itself; the government itself feeds those fascist sectors that prepare a white coup. There is a complicit silence of the government in all this.

Faced with this danger, faced with this escalation that comes from a long time ago, today we are here crying for the unity of action. Our Party is deeply concerned whether this unity of action is to accompany the hearses to the cemetery or will be the unity of action on the street to defeat and crush the fascist beast. We do not want the unity of action to accompany our hearses. We want it to crush fascism and to hold the parade of victory! We consider the unity of action in front of the fascist enemies as indispensable. But we do not want it for 10 or 20 years from now. It is true that Mussolini's fascism dominated for 20 years and that Hitler's lasted for 10 years. It is also true that the army of a socialist country had to go to liberate them. But we want to prevent fascism from coming and we want to stop it now! We do not want to celebrate its fall after 20 years of terror and retreat!

It's like this, comrades, how you can get the experience. The fascist gangs have acted so far and will continue to act. They have made no distinction between the JP, the CP, or the PST. Its aim is to try to break all organisations. The time has come for us to draw a very important conclusion that comes to us from Chile, which comes from the world experience. Fascism is not defeated by way of elections! Fascism is not defeated by fronts! There is the experience of Allende in Chile; that great front of the electoral type that fell like water between hands at the first impact of fascism. Fascism is not discussed either. It is not a political or intellectual trend. Fascism, comrades, is destroyed in the streets, with the same methods they use!

If we want to honour the dead of the CP, if we want to honour the dead of the JP and our dead, we also have to make our reflection. Let's learn about fascism in Chile, let's learn that before they kill us we have to stop them! This is why the leadership of our Party, as a resolution of its Executive Committee, invites all the tendencies present here and those which are not, for next Wednesday at 7:00 pm, in our headquarters, let's begin to make the anti-fascist, workers' and popular brigades or pickets, which will be the tool with which we will definitely beat the fascist gangs in our country.