

Press release:

**For a serious investigation of the eviction of Barcelona's encampment on May 27th 2011**  
**Against police impunity.**

The events that took place on May 27th 2011 during the eviction of Barcelona's encampment in Plaça Catalunya shook an important part of Catalan society. The response of Catalan politicians to one of the major protests against social injustice in the last years (the May 15th Movement) was extremely violent.

A large number of mass media and social networks showed hundreds of images of demonstrators being beaten or physically attacked by police officers, suffering harassing situations, or being held in confinement for up to 7 hours in extreme physical circumstances. The protest against police brutality was massive, in social networks as well as in demonstrations. The government has flagrantly violated freedom of assembly and the right to protest in a disproportionate use of violence.

In October 2011 a group of 56 people presented a lawsuit against these events so that a serious investigation could be carried out and not let police brutality go unpunished. The suit was accepted and a court in Barcelona began a penal proceeding. Nonetheless, on March 1st 2012 the case was dismissed, while still in a pre-trial phase and without having undertaken a thorough investigation.

Referring to the case's dismissal we want to state that:

- the measures of inquiry that were required by the prosecution haven't been carried out.
- members of the prosecution have not had the opportunity to make a statement yet.
- much of the evidence presented by the prosecution hasn't even been looked at.
- on May 27th police officers didn't carry any ID badges (this is illegal). However there hasn't been an investigation in order to clarify who they were, although some officers have already been identified.

The dismissal of this case strengthens the impunity of Catalan police (Mossos d'Esquadra). The lawsuit for the May 27th events doesn't only refer to this one example, but also seeks to fight against police brutality in general.

In the light of the court's decision the undersigned organizations and associations do hereby declare that:

- we refuse to accept the dismissal of this case.
- we consider that the court's decision only reinforces police impunity.
- we believe it is necessary to reopen the penal process and carry out a rigorous investigation
- we demand the dismissal of Felip Puig (the highest security official in the Catalan government) and Manel Prat (the chief of police), as well as all the police officers who were involved in the police brutality of May 27th.

Finally, we support the decision to carry on this lawsuit in order to put an end to the impunity which the police force enjoys with their use of non-justifiable violence as well as on May 27th or in more recent cases in Valencia, and throughout Spain.

**To give support to this press release, send an email before the 7th march to:**  
**[som27m@gmail.com](mailto:som27m@gmail.com) or <http://som27m.wordpress.com/signatures/>**

We also want to show our refuse to the judicial decision and to the police impunity. Join us the **7th March at 7,30 pm in Catalunya Square.**