

Un Porro recorre el Mundo

Manifest of the Association Ramon Santos for the Study of Cannabis

Un porro recorre el mundo*, a joint crosses the world. All the forces of the so-called new international order have united in a holy crusade to harass it: the leaders of all modern states; whether Catholics, Protestants, Jews, Mohammedans or atheists; whether they are democrats, monarchists, republicans, socialists or communists.

What smoker has not been classified with the galling epithet of "drug addict" by the agents of the medical profession and the officers of the law? From this fact results a double lesson: that cannabis is already recognized as a psychoactive element by all the States and that it is time for cannabis consumers to present their ideas, aims and aspirations to society. To this end, smokers of diverse origins have met in Barcelona and have written the following foundational Manifesto of A.R.S.E.C.

The history of all the civilizations that have existed to this day is the history of the struggle for biological freedom. In this long journey, marked by love, hatred, riches, poverty, wars and parties, the human species has enjoyed all the benefits its "companion plant" bequeathed.

This plant species - known as cannabis - from whose provenance on earth the early Sanskrit writings bear witness, was cultivated in all latitudes of the globe with no other limits than those imposed by the extreme forces of nature. Its consumption, in multiple forms, has constituted a cultural event of the first order. It is enough to follow the trace of its curative effects to find common elements in the pharmacopoeia of as many civilizations as have existed.

Source of pleasure and protection for body and mind is, in the image and likeness of the human species, of dioecious [male and female plants] sexual structure. Its presence in parties, banquets and ceremonies throughout history is a beautiful and rich example of interaction between human beings and nature.

However, this harmonious journey between the human being and his companion plant has been subject to multiple sabotages by those who have held power. Since the triumph of the Industrial Revolution and the appearance of the medical-legal bodies, a new pharmacological power threatens to end this idyllic journey.

Today, at the end of the twentieth century, the ignorance surrounding the cannabis sativa plant and its indica and ruderalis varieties is a feature of our globalized world. The governments that protect the wealth of the well-to-do, are the same ones that try to impose a blank silence on humanity through the official discourse backed up by the forces of the law. The great prohibitionist crusade undertaken by the US in the 1930s, advances under through ignorance, defamation and fear.

The ARSEC was born when the prohibitionist campaign in our country intensified as never before. Our biggest encouragement is to continue, through study and research on cannabis, this journey of laughter and freedom carved out by our ancestors.

We associate to make the trip more enjoyable. In company ideas flow more strongly. The results of our research and the measures taken about marihuana are amplified as they are shared. Collectivizing information about the legal tangle that our modern inquisitors weave can be an effective weapon to find the inevitable loopholes, to delve into the contradictions inherent in laws, codes and regulations. The existing legislation in our country regarding the consumption of substances whose traffic is legally prohibited leaves, because of its ambiguity and the resulting jurisprudential void, much room for the arbitrary action of Public Administrations. As a consequence, serious attacks on the autonomy and rights of individuals are perpetrated with impunity by those who claim to represent order, law and justice.

But, at the same time, the defense against such attacks is an incentive for those of us who do not want to resign ourselves to the role of victims. The vital and professional career of our patron saint, Ramón Santos (R.I.P.), is an example to be continued by those who knew his masterful actions as a defense counsel for addicts and inducers. The favorable sentences handed out to many of his clients, attest to the kindness and intelligence of the arguments he presented in their defenses before the different courts in this country.

The ratification in 1961 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs elaborated by the United Nations and ratified by the Spanish State, supposed the consolidation at the international level of the pharmacist conspiracy led by the United States of America. Under this powerful legal cover hide the disproportionate economic interests of co-authors and colonizers. Speculation and adulteration, encouraged by corruptions of all kinds, are at home in the market of hashish, a market sequestered by the same powers that make free arms trafficking a panacea for democracy.

We affirm, without needing to underline it that only the lifting of the prohibition can end the demonic phantom of drug addiction. Let no one be deceived: the ritual persecution of scapegoats, neither prevents ailments, nor provides deities. Only conscientious study and free research open avenues for our knowledge of ancestral habits, once freely enjoyed.

* Written under the direction and read, in February 1992, by Josep Baltierrez i Alíer at the 1st Assembly of ARSEC at the house of a member called Ventura in the Gothic Quarter of Barcelona, memorable day when the members of Barcelona, presided over by Felipe Borrallo, joined the 'band of the farmers from Vic, 'captained' by Jaime Prats.