

Beat: Politics

Catalonia makes a farce its intended referendum of independence

Independence consultation fails

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USPA NEWS - The supposed independence referendum in Catalonia, northeast of Spain, was reduced to an antidemocratic farce supported by lying, manipulative, obsessive and unreliable political leaders, who gave a spectacle more typical of banana republics with dictatorial regimes than of the supposed democracy that have wanted to sell to the world.

The Spanish Government had promised to declare independence and, since 5 am, hundreds of police and civil guards were deployed through the polling stations of the four Catalan provinces to prevent voters from gaining access. Given this deployment, the regional government of Catalonia changed the rules of the game and, obsessed with votes, announced that anyone could vote in as many polling stations as he wanted, without the need for envelopes that guaranteed the secrecy of the vote and without guarantees of legality. But the farce of the referendum was uncovered when an urn that was moved to a polling place was accidentally opened and found to be filled with ballot papers.

The police deployment triggered some clashes between anti-riot agents and anti-system and separatist militants, even with shots fired when the police were surrounded by the independentistas. Finally, several people were arrested and twelve police officers and the Civil Guard were injured. Despite this, the day passed without serious incidents. Meanwhile from the Spanish government, the vice president Soraya Sáenz de Santamaría announced the failure of the referendum, from the Catalan government the economic vice-president Oriol Junqueras admitted, in the early hours of the afternoon, that the electoral appointment had not been celebrated. Total failure, therefore, and unknown about what the Catalan authorities will do from now. Catalan media point to the possibility of the Catalan government transferring to the regional Parliament the responsibility of declaring the independence of Catalonia unilaterally. However, that statement could lead to imprisonment of the president of the regional government, Carles Puigdemont, and the president of the Parliament of Catalonia, Carme Forcadell.

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Editorial program service of General News Agency:

UPA United Press Agency LTD

483 Green Lanes

UK, London N13NV 4BS

contact (at) unitedpressagency.com

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