

LA FRANJA NO SE MANCHA DE RACISMO

VALLECAS - FEBRUARY 2017

Due to the latest events, as the transfer of the player Roman Zozulya to Rayo Vallecano, and the opposition of a big sector of the Rayo fanbase, as shown by several press notes and opinions, we, Plataforma ADRV, association that reunites most of the Rayo fanclubs, want to offer this dossier about what we think are more than enough facts for our refusal to the arrival of this player.

We feel ourselves forced to edit this document as a result of the misinformation campaign about the real reason for the Rayo fans statement. And also, to remark the legitimacy of our protest and our right to protest, defending what, for us, our Club means.

We feel that is our social duty, as neighbors of Vallecas and Rayo Vallecano fans, to express our strong opposition to this transfer movement. It's not about coercion, as the LFP tried to manipulate. It is as simple as the expression and demonstration of our generalized, and settled in evident facts, sense.

And, what's the problem of the fan base with this player? Which is the point for all that? We're talking about a person who has openly showed his support and participation in some ideas which are completely opposed to what Rayo fans feel or defend. We have never asked no-one for his beliefs or ideology, but the singularities of this case make us feel the obligation to stand up.

It's not all about an isolated action that you could avoid. It's all about the purpose he has of his "football player" situation, as a public figure, encouraging attitudes, campaigns and symbols that later have developed into fact that attack even human rights.

He has, actively, supported Azov Battalion, he has raised funds and expanded the Word for parties and organizations stained with crimes, and has openly showed admiration for war criminals. He did it openly, not in private. Now, he denies it all, and uses something as terrible as war to camouflage it. He had and used his right to express those terrible ideas, as we have and use our right to reject it, and even more, at our own home.

It's not about "ideological intolerance", because some ideas can not just been accepted by a society who claims itself as civic. We can not just forget about a social context where xenophobia or hate to the foreigners are growing in our society. We, the Rayo fans can not, and won't.

We also want to point the huge hypocrisy of Clubs and institutions, the ones that promoted and use the "Law against violence and xenophobia in sports" and their empty words, that, when a real occasion shows up, chase and point at those who really and firmly oppose to those attitudes. Fighting xenophobia and racism is what we are doing. Our "Match against racism" and opposition to Zozulya are part of the same attitude, you can't just take one and forget about the other.

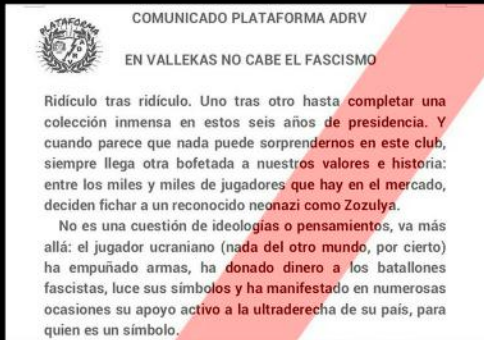
We believe in a different football, we believe in a better neighborhood. His example is not valid for Rayo, neither for Vallecas. It's not about feeling threatened, it's about (not) feeling welcome.



THE TRANSFER

Tuesday, January 31st, we found in the social networks of some journalist who cover Rayo Vallecano topics, the report of the imminent arrival to our club, as a loan, of Roman Zozulya, ukrainian striker that belongs to Betis.

Even before our club confirmed that info, the social network were full of messages from Rayo fans rejecting this controversial movement, and bringing out all the evidences of the link between Roman and far right and paramilitary groups of his country. Highlighting the press note of Plataforma ADRV (Platform of Rayo fans and fanclubs)



The district got full of graffitis against the signing and the pressure came higher, but all that messages were just not listened by Raúl Martín Presa, chairman of Rayo Vallecano.

Once again, he proved his lack of capacity to listen the fans and officialiced the loan of Roman. At the same time, the rest of the board, who was aware of the discomfort that the movement could create, was opposing to the signing. In any other club, all this would be enough for a chairman to meditate about what the rest of the world sees as a mistake and an unnecessary huge problem in the most delicate moment of the club. But this is Presa's way, where everything has to face him and his pigheadedness, even above the logic.



On the next morning, the team trained with normality, in front of a hanging banner that said "Vallekas is not place for nazis. Presa, neither for you. Go Home!". When Zozulya showed up, his manager said that with those conditions of disagreement, the player didn't want to wear Rayo's colours, something that looked correct for the fans.



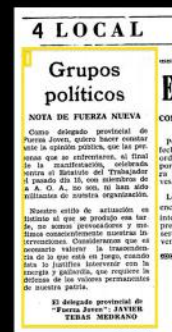
After this, the media turned their attention to the problem. Raúl Martín Presa visited some radio programs, being attacked by different sport journalist accusing him of surrendering to “the radicals”, ignoring the fact that it’s a general opinion among Rayo fans and fanclubs the opposition to the signing of Zozulya.



Opinions were growing so fast that we could even listen how some of those journalist abused Rayo fans, calling them “retardeds” or “ignorants”. In fact, here are some journalist that asked for forgiveness for their colleagues ways and opinion, and even, some others, like Juanma Castaño, re-studying the problem, understood the legitimacy of the fans’ protest. Also important was the understanding and support of the journalist that day by day cover our situation.



But maybe even more painful that all that is the extended and no-discussed idea that the fans have no right to have their say or contradict the club owners. The one in charge is the one who decides. But we were only missing the last one to show up, Javier Tebas, chairman of La Liga, former member of extreme right party Fuerza Nueva, who made his entrance under the threatening of reporting to the courts those fans who went to the training to show their opinion. He stays strong on his threatening, and ask their close ones to don't give up nothing in the hand of the “radicals” (always the radicals).



Right now, in Seville, surrounded by manager and Family, Zozoulya thinks about coming back to Vallecas, or stay in Seville, without the oportunity of playing (three clubs in a year), labeled, maybe forever, as a problematic player.

ROMAN ZOZULYA

Roman Vyacheslavovych Zozulya (November 17th, 1989, Kiev, Ukraine), international Ukrainian football player that acts as striker. Currently belongs to Real Betis Balmpié, and appears as enrolled in Rayo Vallecano de Madrid. He played in Dynamo Kiev from 2005 to 2008, winning ukrainian Premier League in season 2008/2009 and Ukraine Super Cup in 2009. He also played for FC Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk from 2011 to 2016, when he was transfered to Real Betis Balompié.



He played for the national team 16 times, after winning the European u19 in 2009.

He got notorious in Dnipro, where was one of the favourite ones of White Boys, nazi group of fans that uses SS Totenkopf as their logo, and who became part of the Azov Battalion



In fact, one of the most famous images of Zozulya, is not scoring goals, but jumping into the ground (from the terrace where he was located with the fans) to attack rival team and the referee. After that, he got banned from football for three months, having the banning order yet active when he arrived to Betis.



Azov Battalion

This topic is really important to understand the whole problema, because is in his relation with this neonazi battalion where we can find most of the reasons to not accept Zozulya in our Club.



Azov Batalion is a paramilitary force of ukrainian nationalistic and nazi ideas volunteers, created on April 13th, 2014. They're funded, basically, by oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, having the headquarters in the city of Mariupol, important position thar opens access to the Azov sea.

The emblem of the battalion is a shield with the ukrainian national colours. Blue appears represented as a sea wave, and yellow, over it, comes along with a "black sun" (symbol related to nazi occultisem and SS forces). Above both colours, we can see the emblem of the 2nd SS Division Das Reich.



One of the main leaders, and founder of the battalion, is Andriy Biletsky, well known neonazi. Andriy was a member of the paramilitar nationalsocialist group "The Patriot of Ukraine", created in Lviv in 2005. Three years later, this group developed into the SNA, Social-National Assembly of Ukraine.



During the war years, the Azos Battalion realized crucifixions, burned alive and hanged prisoners, what meant that countries that were funding Ukraine government, like USA, finished with the support of this battalion. The also got the interest of international organizations las Amnesty International, who denounced the fact that that battalion was participating in war crimes.



Roman Zozulya has showed his support to the Azov Battalion in different moments, even appearing in their YouTube channel, "Azov Press" in different occasions, raising funds, showing his explicit support and using for this his football player reputation.



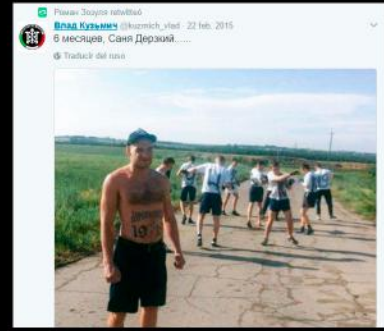
He also promoted actions with prizes and medals he got during his football player career, or "charity" galas for raising money for Azov and their cause. That economical support work is also organized under the name of his foundation, Narodna Armiya. At those galas we can easily find Azov members, as his former commander, Oleg Shirayev.



All this activity provided him a huge appreciation by the nationalistic forces in Ukraine, including, of course, the extreme-right ones, who were directly benefited by that funding. He got even official recognitions by this support activity.

But this activity was not just focused in helping kids, as he defends, but included also the funding and development of weapons and militar technology, such as the Leleka-1 drones, that battalions such as Azov uses in war.





But this relation with Azov Battalion is not the end of his sympathies and relations with extreme-right elements and symbols, such as Pravy Sektor or Casa Pound (neo-fascist organization from Italy) flags and symbols, and, even more important than that, the common appearance of Stepan Bandera images.

Stepan Bandera

In a picture, posted in his official Twitter account (@zozulyaroman18) on December 1st, 2015, we can see him posing next to a scarf of Stepan Bandera, leader of the OUN, Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists and collaborator, together with the Banderist Movement, with the Nazis during WWII, sharing the vision about the Jews, and killing a million and a half of Ukrainian Jews.



Big number of Jewish associations call to alarm over the real danger of the cult to Bandera's figure in Ukraine. It's said he killed more Polish Jews than the Germans or the Russians, and 150km away from Kyiv, every year, they celebrate the murdering of Jews in the city of Kovel.

Bandera was sent to prison by Hitler, but soon set free with the mission of chasing the Jewish population, something that he did well. Killed by KGB, the most radical sector of the Ukrainian nationalist consider him as a martyr, a symbol of the state, and enemy of Russia. Part of this cult are the national socialist ideas and the mass murder.

THE VALUES OF RAYO VALLECANO.

Maybe, football world is used to another kind of fan bases. But if Rayo fans are known for a reason, and precedents are more than numerous, is their commitment with the values that we created around the Club, our symbols and the neighborhood where it lays. Everyone in the football sphere knows about the profile of our fan base. Commitment with the neighborhood, homility and values of the working class, against racism or homophobia. And this comes after years of hard work and awareness in the streets and terraces of Vallecas. Club, always behind their fans, has used all those values when they felt it as profitable. So, we think no one should be shocked about our opposition to this last movement.



In other clubs, the members and fans have felt into the bare role of "users", but we have always opposed to that. Because we feel that football, and Rayo, are much more than "just football". Is a community feeling, a collective identity, a refuge of delusions for the community and a basic support for the construction of our neighborhood. And all that lays over a series of values. The arrival of this player, what he represents, what he believes and do, and the example that could offer, would be a deep and dangerous self-contradiction with what Rayo means for everyone of us.



THE RAYO VALLECANO IS FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND SOLIDARITY



**NOT
WELCOME**

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