



The United States has denied entry to Basque journalist Urtzi Gartzia. The Euskadi Irratia (Basque Radio) correspondent was on his way to work at the Basque Festival *Jaialdi* currently taking place in Boise, Idaho.

We know that it is the prerogative of governments to grant or deny visas to enter their countries. Recently the door has been closed too often to foreign journalists. In this case, however, Urtzi Gartzia had completed all the formalities required by the US government, and left home on July 26 with a journalist visa issued by the US Embassy in Madrid in his passport. However, when he made a stopover in Munich, he learned that the US had banned him from entering the country. This change of decision apparently occurred the day before, on July 25.

Basque PEN has spoken to Urtzi Gartzia, and has informed PEN International and PEN America of the incident. We thank them both for their prompt response and their willingness to continue investigating the incident.

Basque PEN expresses its solidarity with Urtzi Gartzia, and condemns the US government's action. Along with the harm done to him as a citizen and professional, it denies us the right to be informed about an event that is of great interest to Basque citizens.