



70 YEARS OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Mayor José Manuel Bermúdez speaks out clearly in favour of sustainable development and human rights ↓

Santa Cruz - a city of tolerance



Shortly before Christmas, the Mayor of Santa Cruz, José Manuel Bermúdez recalled the importance of the Declaration of Human Rights 70 years ago, stating "We have achieved a lot since then, but we still have a

lot to do," at a ceremony hosted by the Red Cross, Santa Cruz City Council and the Fundación Cepsa.

Human rights are undoubtedly still threatened on a global level, yet the mayor went on

to explain that Tenerife's capital, in the face of extremist currents, is committed to tolerance. "Santa Cruz has always been a place where people of different origins and cultures have met. We defend our ide-

als of tolerance, humanity and love for life. We choose democracy instead of totalitarianism, justice instead of arbitrariness, reason instead of dogmatism, and freedom as a counterpart to fanaticism," he said, stressing that a humane and open-minded coexistence will continue to have priority in the capital in the future. This also applies to sustainable development of the city, which will be applied in line with these ideals. In addition, he reiterated that there was a firm determination to fight for a city in which sustainability and society would develop together, saying "Santa Cruz and its inhabitants prefer to fight for a city that becomes more human and dignified every day". ■

DANGEROUS WAVES

Deaths and rescues on the coasts

At the turn of the year, the Canary Islands were firmly in the hands of the south easterly wind which brought a calima. Bright sunshine and warm air make you want to sunbathe on the beach, but the Atlantic was less suitable for relaxed bathing, with some strong waves. Proximity alone could have fatal consequences. On New Year's Eve at around 4pm on the Playa de Los Molinos at Puerto del Rosario in Fuerteventura, a woman



was pulled into the sea by the waves. She drowned and her body was recovered from the

In the rocky area at Castillo in Puerto de La Cruz, a man who fell into the sea was fortunately rescued ↓

Atlantic Ocean by a rescue helicopter crew about 500 metres from the coast. A man who had

jumped in to try to save her was taken to hospital with moderate injuries.

Luckier was a man who fell into the water on New Year's Day at Playa Jardín, on the rocky section of the Castillo in Puerto de La Cruz. He was pulled out of the sea, still alive but with all the early symptoms of drowning and taken to the Bellevue hospital.

On New Year's Day at Playa de Las Canteras in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, a 60-year-old man collapsed on the beach as he suffered a heart attack. Although the lifeguards immediately started resuscitation until the emergency doctor arrived, he could not be saved. The emergency crews who arrived in two ambulances, could only confirm his passing. ■

THE FIRST CANARIAN BIRTHS

New life as the New Year rings in

The first new citizen to be born in 2019 in the Canary Islands was a little girl who saw the light of day for the first time at exactly midnight. She was born at the Materno Infantil Hospital in Las Palmas and weighed a proud 2,865 grams. For 20 minutes, she was the only new-born baby on New Year's Day until a 3,340 gram boy arrived at 0.20am at the Dr. José Molina Orosa Hospital in Arrecife, Lanzarote. La Palma followed at 4.48am with a 2,860 gram girl and at 6.23am another baby boy was born, this time at the Nuestra Señora de Candelaria University Hospital in Santa Cruz.

The first new Tenerifeño of 2019 weighed 2,750 grams and is called Liam. He is the third child for mother Cecilia Castillo and father Washington Pereira. On New Year's Eve Cecilia had attended the hospital for just a check-up. "The birth was supposed to be on January 9, but then I was told I had to stay" she said. It was another night before the baby was born. The mother was exhausted, but happy. "He is quite small, but he will grow strong now," she said smiling. At home in Candelaria, two sisters, nine-year-old Nayara and 22-month-old Isabela, were waiting impatiently for their little brother. Whilst the mother still doubted how the younger one will take to the new baby, grandmother Rosemari Gugliucci was confident. "They are two great girls and I am sure they will welcome their brother warmly," she said. Together with her husband Ricardo Castillo, she is looking forward to filling the role of grandparent again. "We love our grandchildren and spoil them wherever we can," they said.

For 30-year-old Cecilia and her husband Washington, who is ten years older, family planning has been completed with this third birth. The proud father was allowed to choose the name of his son. "But I also like the name and it's in fashion right now," said his mother. Above all, it is important that he is healthy. The second baby to be born in 2019 in Tenerife arrived at 7.39am at the HUC University Hospital in La Laguna - a little girl weighing 3,670 grams. No new islanders arrived in Fuerteventura, La Gomera or El Hierro on New Year's Day. ■



↑ Liam in his mother's arms with his maternal grandparents

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