

URGENT

DIALOGUE AND ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS

Respecting freedom of expression without limitations is not incompatible with comprehending and even sharing the indignation prompted by certain imprudent forms of manifesting that freedom.

When freedom of expression is not accompanied by an appropriate dose of sensitivity to others and self-contention, there is a risk that the reactions of the aggrieved may be disproportionate and enraged.

The solution never lies in censorship, but rather in cool-headed dialogue and, when warranted, the intervention of the courts of justice. But now it is imperative that all countries, on both sides, make an urgent call for dialogue and conciliation.

Learning to live together, all of us different, but united by the same principles, “in brotherhood,” as described in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The immense majority of citizens of all cultures, beliefs and ideologies demand the right to live in peace, and it is incumbent upon all of us in the exercise of our own rights and duties, to make that demand possible.

We must make an urgent effort towards dialogue and conciliation, towards alliance rather than confrontation. Identifying what unites us and evaluating what separates us, to forge our inevitably common destiny.

Signed: Federico Mayor Zaragoza
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