

We do not want to get us used



We, the organisations of the Catholic Church in Spain and Morocco involved in backing, sheltering and defending human rights and dignity, want to express once again our deep sorrow and concern about the shameful events covered by the media lately, after the new appearance of the deaths and suffering of thousands of men and women fleeing from the wars, hunger and poverty of their homelands.

We would like to transmit our solidarity and fraternal closeness to them.

We do not want to get used to the replay of these events which tell us of stories about deeply desperate people that freeze to death due to the relief units' lack of resources; of hundreds of sub-Saharan people being violently evicted in the mounts near Melilla just to be forcefully relocated and abandoned; of illegal practices in their borders, which injure rights and are so debated in the European Union; of the little political effort for clarifying events, just like the one of the El Tarajal, where human beings fleeing of violence and misery conditions lost their lives; and of the implementation of debatable legal instruments that aim to defend inexcusable evictions, just like the additional provision in the Public Security Law project, that seeks the legalisation of summary evictions.

In this matter, the Spanish bishops in their message for this year's World Migration Day claim: "We are backing the protest against any action not respecting human rights. We ask for the accomplishment of the international treaties, and for verifying, at least, if people can get political asylum, become a victim of human trafficking, or need urgent sanitary assistance".

Since we do not want to get used to this kind of indecent response that our Northern states offers to the drama and the injustices breeding by the exodus of these people from the South, we once again raise our voices to give an urgent signal to our Christian communities and to society as a whole so no one gets used to accept this reality as inevitable.

We feel called upon insisting in Francis' protest against the "indifference globalisation", since we believe no national borders policy justifies the scorn towards human dignity. "Let nobody deprive to due assistance", the pope recently claimed, after the death in the Mediterranean of more than 200 people that tried to cross the Strait of Sicily.

We want to warn all society, but specially the Christian community, so after these events we challenge our loyalty to our deepest values and we remember that we are seeing brothers in the news: men, women, young students, minors, families. We shall not ignore that the suffering we see is produced by poverty and the unfair world we inhabit, and also by the decisions made in the frame of migratory policies that forget about human dignity, not only at national and European level but also in transit countries, with whom we boast of having deep brotherhood and cooperation relations.

We firmly believe that all this suffering is avoidable. For that reason, we demand the people in charge of the executive, the legislative and the judicial decision-making the due consistency and respect for human rights and for the littlest dignity every person deserves.

And since we do not want to get us used, we shall not remain unmoved before the indignity this ceaseless trickling of suffering and injustice. We encourage everyone to get involved in this attitude of civic indignation and to keep kindling the flame of welcoming and hospitality for all those brothers and sisters that flee seeking a better future and ask us "What have you done with your brother?"

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Secretariado de la Comisión
Episcopal de Migraciones



Joint Statement of Spanish Caritas, the Secretariat of the Episcopal Commission for Migration, National Conference of Religious Communities and Justice and Peace of Spain.