

## **HUMAN DRAMA, HUMAN SOLUTIONS!**

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On June 20, World Refugee Day was celebrated. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) - on that occasion - published the following figures, which show the enormous dimension of this phenomenon in the world:

- The number of people displaced by internal conflicts, violence or persecution increased by 3 million from 2016 to 2017.
- 69 million people are displaced in the world. Of these:
- 40 million are displaced within their countries of origin.
- 25.4 million are refugees.
- 3 million are asylum seekers.
- 45,000 people in the world are displaced every day.
- Let's add to these figures the recent migratory phenomenon that, as a huge and growing humanitarian crisis and caused by the failure of 21<sup>st</sup>-century socialism brought on by Chavismo/Madurismo, has displaced millions of our brothers and sisters from their native Venezuela, and scattered them throughout the entire geography of the world.
- The United States tops the list of countries that receive asylum applications.

And it was precisely in the United States, where in recent days there were events involving migrants and refugees that caused outrage, excitement, stupor and unanimous rejection in the world: photos of children in cages, like those - already almost forgotten - where they were in concentration camps, separated from their undocumented immigrant parents.

There were also audio recordings of children crying out for their parents amidst the mockery, coldness and contempt of immigration officers on the Mexican border of the United States. Children, the most defenseless in society, are suffering the triple drama where they have: abandoned their

home environment, endured the journey to reach the United States and suffered separation from their parents.

All this is an obvious and absurd outrage against the weakest in society and against their most basic human rights. But this scandal caused by Donald Trump to stop children, children of undocumented immigrants, reveals well the xenophobic authoritarianism that as a candidate and president of the United States, Donald Trump has raised as a banner displaying his policies of walls and "zero tolerance." This is an inhumane and absurd policy that - let's say it now - is currently imposed - as a cruel pandemic - on both sides of the Atlantic (United States and Europe), while millions suffer the consequences of this xenophobic policy.

A US judge ordered separated families to be reunited within 30 days, and in the face of national and international pressure, the President of the United States, Donald Trump - finally and apparently - gave in and promised to keep the families together. But the question remains: how, with what motivations and without reasons, with what intentions and means, at what cost and to what extent will Donald Trump carry out policies of this kind so that the United States can be "great again"?

All this happened in the United States, at the same time that Italy and Malta refused to take on their shores a ship - the Aquarius with 629 people of African origin, including 140 children rescued near the Libyan coast. This has confirmed a sad reality: xenophobia has been disseminated, in the world, as a state policy. That is to say, sinister policies have been legitimized, policies of governments and minds that have among their programs and flags - of a fascist nature - the purity of the race and the rejection of the different.

This is a plague that today also "infests" the United States. Added to Italy's refusal to welcome the refugees, to the silent, lukewarm and delayed intervention of France, are policies like the detention centers in Hungary, on the border with Serbia, the confiscation of goods and money from refugees in Denmark, criminal convictions in France and Hungary against those who help or provide humanitarian care for refugees, etc.

The world is experiencing today the biggest migration and refugee crisis since the Second World War and faces threats of division within

the 28 countries that make up the European Union. European leaders are divided on how to address migration policies. But this one, that of migration, displacement and refugees, is - without a doubt - an unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe of unpredictable dimensions and projections.

The causes of this humanitarian crisis that contain the various types and phenomena of migration are many, very diverse and very complex. All converge in a sad synthesis: we have not been able to build the best and most humane world. We grew in material aspects as we decayed and failed in the construction of a humane and universal spirit. We advance in science and technology for the control and manipulation of the material world, while the construction of fraternal, solidary, free, democratic, humane, just and equitable societies has remained out of reach.

Countries have the right to defend their laws, their borders, their culture and their way of life. But this defense cannot be executed in any way and at any price, or by trampling - with that defense - the dignity of any person. It is true that the solution requires the efforts of two parties: the countries of origin of the migratory waves (which have not done well) and the countries that receive these waves, which do not do well either when - in a desperate search for solutions - they ignore human rights, especially if it is a nation like the United States, made and built - all of it - with and by immigrants.

There is a lack, then, of coming together, negotiation, goodwill and dialogue on both sides in order to provide responsible, intelligent, humane and effective solutions to this contemporary human drama that affects the vast majority of impoverished people on the planet. The lack of an adequate solution - humane, that is to say - both in the countries of origin and in the recipients of the migratory phenomenon is a shame against the ideals of the world and of the humanity that we long for and against the Christian principles and values that the West has proclaimed for 20 centuries.

Following the end of the Cold War, the fight against communism, the fall of the Berlin wall, the fall of the Soviet Union, etc., the world dreamed of other realities. ... With this in mind, contemplate this Dantesque and inhumane spectacle, especially keeping in mind its situs: the self-proclaimed "land of freedom and democracy." This is discouraging, and creates despair, anguish, restlessness ...

All of which confirms that - as is said by Kemal Kirisci - an expert at the Brookings Institute in humanitarian crises - "liberal democracy is in a state of regression throughout the western world." And, in addition, lamentably, people dissipate and forget the voices of those like John F. Kennedy, who, more than 50 years ago, said that "everywhere, immigrants have enriched and strengthened the fabric of life."

Regarding the issue and for the moral, social and personal commitment of each one of us to the humanitarian crisis described, two phrases illustrate the extremes: that of the jacket worn by the first lady when she visited the aforementioned children, which displayed the words: "I really don't care, do u?" or that of President Trump himself when he tried to reverse his inhumane and therefore erratic and erroneous decision by referring to the feelings of his daughter Ivanka, who felt "very strongly." Yes, we feel very strongly; the whole world must feel very strongly and very deeply everything that - with our brothers and sisters - is happening with the migrants.

President Trump does not feel strongly, but - politely - he heeds the advice of his advisors on political correctness. However, a human drama demands human solutions! Therefore, may our emotions lead us to humane, solidary and effective action.