
Fwd: Italy: speech of Alessandro Pagano, Asdembly

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OFFICIAL STATEMENT DELIVERED IN THE GENERAL DEBATE BY ALESSANDRO PAGANO, ITALIAN MP, TO BE PUBLISHED ON THE ASSEMBLY WEB PAGE:

Peace is not an unexpected gift. Peace is built day by day and when it ceases to be, we need to ask ourselves why that has happened.

Peace is an ongoing achievement to be attained by constant effort. Every generation has its conflicts requiring new answers that are never the same as the answers of previous generations.

I believe I can say that the harshest conflict between the 20th and the 21st century is the conflict aiming at destroying the first and most important freedom: our inner freedom, the freedom that we call religious freedom. Defending it means ensuring peace.

Modern totalitarian regimes are not satisfied by merely controlling our bodies and minds. They aim to the ownership of our inner selves. A man that uses the power of self-determination becomes a victim of others and as a consequence loses his inner peace and society loses peace as well.

This is why the most ferocious attacks on Man as such today are addressed to Man's freedom to make his most personal choice and nothing is more intimate than the freedom to love, or to believe in, God.

Religious freedom is like a nut in a nut-cracker.

a) on the one hand, there are philosophies claiming that any religion is the same as any other. Radical secularism, which feeds on reason and rationalism, denies faith and aims to forcibly impose a non-religion or, if you wish, a secular religion.

b) on the other hand, there exists a sort of compliance or tolerance for those who claim that a religion may be hampered or prohibited by another religion aiming to impose its convictions through the use of force and fundamentalism.

In either case, a denial of religious freedom does not respect the individual and cannot lead to a search for truth, good, justice, even beauty. It effectively generates conflict.

Yes! Because religious fundamentalism and indifferent secularism are one and the same. They both deny a sound link between faith and reason.

With fundamentalism, faith denies reason. With radical secularism, reason denies faith. In order to triumph, both have no qualms about the use of

force and persecution. This is why religious persecution has increased dramatically over the last forty years. By extending this principle to freedom in general, I feel I can say that freedom and, consequently, peace, are harmed when they are based on the right of the strongest, on a dominant position, be it military or political, as was customary in the past, or, as is more and more the case now, also financial.

Today we are witnessing a significant loss of freedom owing to interference, also of a cultural nature.

An attempt is being made to destroy cultural identities by merging them into some sort of globalist ideology that unifies everything, that blurs everything.

From language to thinking and behaviour, this loss of diversity leads to a loss of our heritage. I am afraid we are going to pay a high price for this.

Those who have no roots, no history, no past, have no future and they may fall prey to modern dictatorships. Peace is defended and achieved through a defence of our own culture, our history and our need for self-determination. We need to be suspicious of those who want to impose a one-size-fits-all lifestyle as the solution to all the evils of the world. A society built on a materialistic basis deprives Man of individual freedom and subjects him to economic laws. Today, even human life, unless it is considered useful and economically viable and therefore useful to the economic and financial project, is considered disposable and therefore eliminated or marginalized, for it considered a cost.

The spirit of war always emerges, alas, when human rights are abused. The genesis of war today is more complex than in the past. Earlier, it was plastically visible, today we are witnessing a loss or a disruption of the natural and social order which, through a domino effect, is affecting the whole world. Understanding that means we have already started to keep and rebuild peace.
