

Città di Palermo

Il Sindaco

Prot. 1333449 del 26.09.2019

Palermo,

Dear Sir
Frédéric Vallier
Secretary General
Council of European
Municipalities and Regions
(CEMR)

Via email:
frederic.vallier@ccre-cemr.org

Dear Secretary General,

Our cities are united in their commitment to Peace and disarmament, by our common accession to "Mayors for Peace" and to other networks of commitment to peace and human rights, such as CEMR (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), ATO (Arab Towns Organization) and COPPEM (Standing Committee for the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of the local regional Authorities).

The city of Palermo joins the next "World March of non-violence" and intends to promote the initiative of "The Network of Embassies for Peace", that is conceived as an opportunity for establishing Peace relations between our different Mediterranean cities. We want to reaffirm the Right to Peace for all humanity, established by the United Nations with the declarations 71/189¹, and we want this right to be applied to our people of the Mediterranean and Middle East regions.

We intend this right to embrace the rights enshrined in the Earth Charter by the Paris Agreement (COP21)², by the Chart of Palermo³ and by the Barcelona Declaration⁴. We therefore want the right to peace to be first and foremost a reaffirmation of the need for disarmament - starting with the prohibition of nuclear weapons - and the freedom of raising objection to all forms of war⁵.

We intend the right to Peace to include Ecology with reference to the relationship between human beings and Nature⁶.

¹ A/RES/71/189

² https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/international/negotiations/paris_en

³ <https://www.palermocapitalecultura.it/chart-of-palermo/?lang=en>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/IT/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Ar15001>

⁵ A/HRC/20/31 artt. 3 e 5 https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session20/A-HRC-20-31_en.pdf

⁶ http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

*We have a dream of a Mediterranean free from conflict, from weapons of mass destruction, free from walls, borders, armed surveillance, free with reference to the circulation of people and ideas; a bridge of dialogue between people engaged in a joint effort, a **Sea of Peace** and not of conflict.*

We intend the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone⁷ to be extended to the whole Mediterranean and Middle East areas.

We intend to become Ambassadors of Peace, in a well- organized and non just symbolic way.


The Embassies for Peace⁸ originate from the experience acquired in the conflicts of Iraq and the Balkans and today we intend to propose them in Europe and in the Mediterranean area. The transit of the 2nd World March of Nonviolence⁹ will offer an opportunity for their diffusion and will involve the institutional and grass-roots organizations that already work for the affirmation of Human Rights, Solidarity, of the Rule of Law and Justice.

*We ask these organizations to expose the emblems of the "Embassies for Peace" and to share on the network their own work, in view of promoting an **International Conference in the City of Palermo**.*

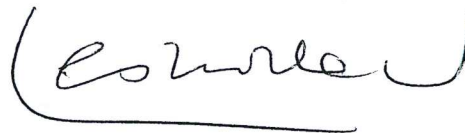
We are asking you to eventually agree with this proposal, to spread this initiative as much as possible through your network, and to inform us about your desirable membership.

For more information about this initiative, it is possible to contact the president of the Council for Peace of the City of Palermo, Francesco Lo Cascio, through the email: consultadellapace@comune.palermo.it.

Thanks for the attention.



Leoluca Orlando



⁷ <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/pelindaba>

⁸ <https://bit.ly/2xHasDD>

⁹ <https://theworldmarch.org/en/>