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By Gustavo Petro 31.10.2023

For whom do the bells toll? The bells toll for you



Sources: Rebellion - Image: Family members hold the body of a child killed by an Israeli bombardment in Gaza. Photo: Fatima Shbair - AP.

Text by the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro, after the United Nations vote for the ceasefire in Gaza.

What the barbaric military power of the north has unleashed on the Palestinian people is the prelude to what it will unleash on all the peoples of the south when we run out of water due to the climate crisis; the prelude to what will be unleashed on the exodus of people who will go by the hundreds of millions from the south to the north. Island villages on the verge of sinking due to rising seas voted today against a truce in Israel's barbarism over Palestine. Do they think they will save their nations?

On the military power of the North is built a world of consumption and wealth based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, that is, on what raises sea levels and leads billions of people to a catastrophic life, to an age of extinction. That military power is to defend that wealth and that consumption that is made with the death of others. The first to become extinct will be the island peoples who live at sea level.

Why did some vote for barbarism today?

A poll in Colombia says that young people are moving to the right. Isn't the right wing the one that denies climate change, proclaims to continue consuming coal and oil as if nothing had happened, and leads the earth to destroy life, that is, to destroy, above all, the lives of those who are young people and children today? The right leads the young people of today, no longer to the feast of nature, knowledge, art and the intensity of life, but to the climate catastrophe of tomorrow that the young people of today will experience worse than the current old if the changes that the right rejects do not take place.

Isn't the right wing today the one that applauds the barbarity of the bombing of children and the destruction of justice in the world? What kind of life are the young people who call themselves right-wing going to have with a right wing that destroys life, justice and applauds the death of children? Choose those who will kill your children tomorrow? Where does our capacity for suicide and omnicide go?

But nevertheless, today 120 nations of the Earth, and Colombia among them, voted for Peace. Some powerful nations of the North voted with us today. Spain and France and Belgium voted, and Norway and Switzerland and almost all of Latin America voted together, except where the mafias have advanced. A majority vote from Africa and Asia.

And the world begins to unite, knowing that the bells tolling tonight in Palestine are not tolling for them, they are tolling for us, they are tolling for you.

Taken from President Petro's X-count. Date: October 27, 2023.

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