



The International Alliance Against Terrorism

Alliance Internationale Contre le Terrorisme

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PRESS RELEASE

7/7 London attacks : five years later

The terrorist attacks of July 7, 2005 in London, after those in Madrid and New York have shown the world the tragic dimension of a global phenomenon that in the XXth century seemed to have only a national and geopolitically limited area, although always with strong international relationships.

The most recent islamist attacks which follow one another with ghastly frequency in countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan are likely to be perceived by public opinion in Europe and the West with the same detachment as the terror attacks in Algeria and in Israel a few years ago, because they do not happen at home but far away. The farther the better.

“We are not afraid”, was the Londoners’ splendid reaction 5 years ago. But the truth is that one is afraid and that caution, out of fear it could all start again is an element of political life.

Terrorism is certainly a special form of war that may or may not succeed, but the European experience, from the 60s onwards, teaches us the very important role of civil society in the forms of conflicts that exceed the mere level of military or police repression.

In fact only when public opinion is very clear with the fact that, everywhere, terrorism’s main characteristic is to hit indiscriminately defenseless people, of any nationality, age, gender, political and religious faith ; when it is clear to most people that, throughout the world, terrorism affects only and always, innocent people, that all terror victims are innocent and entitled to justice, whatever their nationality and the “cause” terrorists claim to advocate, will the dignity of victims turn into a moral and social value shared by the public ethics of democratic countries.

In this context, the International Alliance Against Terrorism is fully convinced that we are all called upon to fight terrorism, the utmost violation of universal human rights, either in the moral, political and legal field, or the cultural and social ones.

If asked how and when we can do so , our answer should be that it is essential to do it democratically in all spheres and that it is a daily battle to choose the logic of the memory of the victims instead of the logic of oblivion. Then it would not be possible to forget, either collectively or privately, the dignity and the moral value these human beings stand for to the entire community of citizens.

We have to keep a watch and fight all attempts to justify terrorist actions and to grant legitimacy to organizations that have funded, claimed responsibility for, advocated or condoned terrorist attacks.

It is our commitment to slam terrorists' impunity and to help all terror victims in the world to get justice through fair trials that condemn their tormenters.

On this 5th anniversary of the London bombings, the International Alliance Against Terrorism wants to emphasize that it is a serious mistake to consider that civil society is helpless and bound to be "passive" in the face of acts of violence.

Civil society is the real victim of terrorism, but, by saying NO TO TERRORISM, it may become a strong instrument of struggle fit to be used by the Rule of law. Faced with the "socialization of violence" that characterizes terrorist attacks, civil society and especially victims should become peaceful and socially relevant actors of the fight against terrorism.

The people of Pakistan who have demonstrated against the talibans and against growing concessions made to them, after the terrorist massacres targeting first Ahmadis, then Soufis, show us the way.

London, 7th July 2010

To endorse International petition "We say no to terrorism"

<http://www.petitionnonaut.org/index.php?lang=english>

Representatives of IAAT are available for media comments and interviews.

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