

Today, January 31, 2026, we light again the towers, watchtowers and talayots that overlook our shared sea. Monuments of our cultural heritage that, for a few hours, become beacons of remembrance, dignity, and hope. With each flare, we affirm that the Mediterranean must be a place of life and not of death; a bridge of humanity, and not a frontier of pain.

We are here because we believe that no human being is illegal. We are here because we know that fear and hatred cannot rule the sea or our hearts. Lighting them is our way of standing for life, justice, and welcome. The smoke and light that rise today are not a spectacle: they are a collective commitment that reminds us that every journey, every body, every story deserves to be protected.

This act is an embrace that crosses municipalities, islands and shores. It is a call to all voices that reject indifference. There should be no distance between those who watch from a watchtower and those who sail in search of refuge; humanity itself sustains us. If we light them up, it is because we do not want to resign ourselves to the coldness of the numbers in the face of the agony of stories that reduce people to statistics. For this reason, today we raise a light of protest and also of hope.

The Mediterranean is the cradle of cultures, languages and shared paths. It always has been. And beyond, the Atlantic is also a place for encounters, crossings and longings. We cannot allow any sea to become an invisible graveyard or a battleground of hatred. We cannot accept that those who rescue, those who accompany, those who give food, those who extend their hand are judged. Every act of solidarity is an act of decency.

Today, to light is to remember. Memory of those who are not there. Memory of the hands that have rescued, cooked, welcomed, accompanied. Reminder of the places that have been filled to demand dignity.

Today, lighting is also making the future. A future in which the Mediterranean is once again a shared home, where difference is not feared and the flame of welcome is lit. A future in which each of us looks at the sea and sees the possibility of coexistence, not borders.

Today, when the smoke rises and the light spreads, let's fall silent for a moment. Let us think of the names we do not know, of the hugs that have not arrived, of the drowned hopes. And then we break the silence with the commitment to turn this lighting into a daily call.

THAT FROM EVERY TOWER, WATCHTOWER AND TALAYOT, LET A LOUD AND CLEAR MESSAGE SPREAD: **HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT NEGOTIABLE**. THEY ARE NOT AN OPTION OR A PRIVILEGE. THEY ARE THE BASIS OF OUR SOCIAL PACT AND OUR COLLECTIVE DIGNITY. COLLECTIVE.

If we light up today, it is because we resist injustice. Because we know that every gesture, no matter how small, matters. And so that our union strengthens us in the defense of a shared humanity and equal treatment for everyone, wherever they come from.

We will continue to light up, we will continue to offer light.

For a sea full of life, welcome and rights.

May today's light be a spark for the future. And that, when the sea is dark again, may reminds us that we have a duty to light it, together, all of us.