

Personal message of thanks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very happy to have been chosen to receive this distinguished prize. This award is not only bestowed on me, but also on the victims of Human Rights abuses who are still suffering throughout the world, and to those who work for Human Rights protection and are doing their best to support the victims of Human Rights violations.

Over the years, significant efforts have been provided to further Human Rights in societies and mentalities, to the point that today, they have become a recognised universal notion.

I would like to pay tribute to all of you who take these universal values of Human Rights to your hearts and in your hearts. Generally, I would like to thank all my friends who constantly work for the cause of Human Rights in the world, including the lawyers and the international agencies acting in this field. Let's have the courage to cross the national, political and ideological frontiers. Humanity will have much to gain from this.

This year, the United Nations celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This represents an opportunity to pay tribute to the founding fathers and to offer our little contribution to the history of Human Rights.

Globalisation has transformed our planet into a global village in such a way that all people are closely linked. Although globalisation helped facilitate the integration and the understanding between people, it has generated negative effects such as pollution and threats of nuclear conflict. From now on, any national event can have an international impact. This compels people to think beyond their defined borders, their cities and their villages to have an overall view of the problems they encounter in their countries and act accordingly. Globalisation brought the world the good governance requirements set by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Today, the idea of the protection of Human Rights and its enforcement have made significant progress. It was acknowledged that those who are unconcerned with the pain of others and try to take advantage of them, causing the violation of many Human

Rights around the world, will find it difficult to leave an honourable memory in the international collective memory.

Human Rights abuses should be punished all over the world. All the lawyers and Human Rights defenders should work together towards an increasingly fair justice, a more human civilization, and progress. As a person, I know how weak the force of a person is, but I strongly believe that, through joint efforts of all people, the Human Rights protection will grow much stronger in the future.

A large number of documents dealing with Human Rights are written by lawyers specialised in the implementation of Human Rights. In many countries, the rule of law and progress in the implementation of these rights are not possible without the courage and the self-will of those lawyers. Furthermore, the Bar Council shows us that these types of agencies are instrumental in promoting Human Rights around the world. As a lawyer who has the mission to encourage the progress of the rule of law, the protection of Human Rights and democratic values, social equity and justice, I feel deeply responsible and honoured to carry out these plans.

Evolving today in a global economy, the concept of Human Rights converges more and more with its values. We, human beings, enjoy the results of the economic development and share a mutual understanding, similar thoughts and common values. No matter the origin, the race or the wealth of the peoples, all pursue the common dreams of humanity: liberty, equality, fraternity, and the right for each individual to have his dream come true.

In China, a majority of the population (1.3 billion people) continues the fulfilment of Human Rights and the promotion of social justice for the benefit of all citizens. The country never stopped acting in that direction. Great advances in this area are visible at the present time, even if in some places, some organisations do not respect civil rights and Human Rights are still flouted. Of course, there is still work to do since the provisions of the United Nations Charter of Human Rights are nowhere near to being respected in China today.

However, there is no doubt about the importance of Human Rights and the protection they provide for the rights of the citizens. It is precisely because of Human Rights defenders' courage and sacrifices, sometimes at the cost of their lives, that we can see light at the end of the tunnel. A road of glory

starts appearing in China, where lawyers and Human Rights defenders are moving forward. All the Human Rights defenders, including the CCBE that expressed its interest and its support today, take the credit for any progress of Human Rights in China.

The Human Rights Award, which is granted to me today by the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe and rewards the lawyers for contributing to the progress of Human Rights in the world, honours me, obviously. Nevertheless, I would like to say that, although this award originates from Europe, it is automatically directed to the world of lawyers and to the entire humanity that seeks to promote the improvement of the situation of Human Rights in the world and to uphold the democratic values of equity and justice. Beyond personal honour, I receive this prize, not just on my behalf, but also on behalf of all those who are ardently fighting for Human Rights around the world. The honour goes to all the Human Rights defenders, all the lawyers who embarked on this same cause, the writers, the social activists, the politicians, the media and all the organisations that stand up for those rights.

Fighting for Human Rights is a duty and an opportunity to take. I hope that all of you and other Human Rights defenders will take this chance much more ardently to ensure the early realisation of Human Rights, democracy and liberty around the world.

Thank you for giving me this great opportunity to express myself.