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Editorial

For a globalization of solidarity

If civil liberties are not to end up as collateral damage after the terrorist attacks in New York, and if we are not prepared to give up the vision of a just and peaceful society, even after the 11th September 2001, then we Christians must intensify our social and political involvement for a more humane world now. An indispensable part of this is the critical examination of the negative consequences of deregulation and globalization, through which "humanity is confronted with new forms of slavery which are more subtle than in the past, and for too many people freedom is a meaningless word" (Pope John Paul II).

The Church, as the oldest *global player*, has to work against the globalization of the market towards a globalization of solidarity – together with all the peace-loving opponents of globalization, who demonstrated their protest so imaginatively (the other side of the scene of violence) in Seattle and Genoa. Such an involvement of Christians who work for a common cause, for example "Attac" which was founded in France in 1998 (*Association for the Taxation of Financial Transactions for the Benefit of civil aid*) or the Italian network "Rete Lilliput", has a challenge to meet on various fronts:

- in the *fight against hunger and poverty* of innumerable people, for it is more valid than ever to say that "fighting poverty is the best strategy against violence" since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre (Hermann Schalück O.F.M, President of MISSIO, Germany). The correct answer to terror and violence is not the NATO war but, to quote from the Pope: "Peace is a fruit of justice".

The urgent appeal of the General Chapter of the Dominicans in August 2001 is in line with this, as it sets the immediate lifting of economic sanctions against Iraq and Cuba as a priority.

- Beyond the "Option for the Poor", the *dialogue between religions* is an urgent requirement. Particularly in a world which is pluralistic in its value systems, lifestyles and religions (and which has become opaque as a result), we are called upon to establish a dialogue across national, ethnic and religious boundaries. Churches and theologians are challenged to look for and realise unity, understanding and peace as God's promises, in the light of globalized plurality and diversity.

Given the terrorist attacks in New York and the allied war against Afghanistan, information about the founding principles of Islam as well as a dialogue between Christians and Muslims are essential today. The "Journées Romaines" organized by ESPACES this summer (Roman Dominican Days) may be regarded as an important contribution in this respect.

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