

Mexican President López Obrador's Letter to President Trump - May 30th, 2019

President Donald Trump,

I am aware of your latest position towards Mexico. In advance, I express to you that I do not seek confrontation. The peoples and nations we represent deserve that, whenever facing any conflict in our relations, however serious they may be, we resort to dialogue and act with prudence and responsibility.

The best President of Mexico, Benito Juárez, maintained excellent relations with the Republican hero Abraham Lincoln. Later, during the oil expropriation period, the Democratic President Franklin D. Roosevelt understood the profound reasons that led the patriotic President Lázaro Cárdenas to act in favor of our sovereignty. By the way, President Roosevelt was a titan of liberties. He proclaimed the four fundamental rights of humankind before anyone else: the right to freedom of speech, the right to freedom of religion, the right to live free from fear, and the right to live free from misery.

We base our immigration policy on this thought. Human beings do not abandon their town for pleasure but for need. That is why, from the beginning of my government, I proposed you to opt for development cooperation and help the Central American countries attract productive investments to create jobs and resolve this painful issue in depth.

You are also aware that we are fulfilling our responsibility to stop immigration, as effective as possible and without violations to any human right, through our country. It is worth remembering that, within a short period of time, Mexicans will not need to migrate into the United States and that migration will become optional, not compulsory. This is because we are fighting corruption, the main problem in Mexico, as never before! This is how our country will become a powerful nation with a social dimension. Our countrymen and women will be able to work and be happy where they are born, where their relatives, their traditions and their cultures are.

President Trump. Social problems are not resolved by taxes or coercive measures. How do you transform the country of fraternity for the world's migrants into a ghetto, a closed space, where migrants are stigmatized, mistreated, persecuted, expelled and the right for justice is canceled to those who tirelessly seek to live free of misery? The Statue of Liberty is not an empty symbol.

With all due respect, even though you have the right to express it, the slogan "America First" is a fallacy because until the end of time, even over national borders, universal justice and fraternity will prevail.

I specifically propose to you, mister President, to deepen the dialogue and seek alternatives to the immigration problem and, please remember, that I do not lack the courage, that I do not act cowardly or timidly but on principles: I believe in politics that, among other things, were meant to avoid confrontation and war. I do not believe in the Law of Talon, in the 'tooth for a tooth' or in the 'eye for an eye' precept because, should we follow those ideas, we would all become toothless or eyeless. I believe that statesmen, and even more so those of Nation, are obliged to seek peaceful solutions to controversies and to put into practice, forever, the beautiful ideal of non-violence.

In conclusion, I propose you to instruct your officials, if it is within your interests, to receive the representatives of my government, led by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, who will travel to Washington beginning from tomorrow to seek for an agreement for the benefit of the two nations.

Nothing by force, everything by reason and Law!

Your friend,

Andrés Manuel López Obrador
President of Mexico