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## SCIENCE AND JUSTICE

For those who devote their lives to science, its relevance and pertinence is not in question... generally. Very few would deny or doubt that the benefits received by mankind thanks to the scientific and technological development exceed by large its disastrous consequences, which are in turn very numerous. Unfortunately, it is obvious that without such development we would have not been in presence of disgraces such as the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings, or Chernobyl, and we would not know about the climate change that is taking place and its dire expectable consequences for life on our planet. There would be no deaths resulting from train derailments nor crashing planes...

The spectacular advances that have taken place springing from the ideas and the observations and experiments of Galileo, Newton, Watt, Fleming, Franklin and, thousands of other outstanding men and women of science represent the bases of large part of the advances that we enjoy today. This has to do with no less than being able to take advantage of many more years of life, the possibility to feed the whole of mankind, of communicating efficiently, of eliminating deadly diseases, and so many other benefits.

But we can ask, what is its progress good for, if it is not for all? The lack of equity that prevails today in many places, including the countries of our region, leads to a sometimes surprisingly big proportion of the population remaining trapped under conditions of poverty and hunger, of lack of education and health. While the gross domestic products of many countries compete to appear above others, the prevailing discrimination results in only part of their populations receiving the benefits that, thanks in good part to science, have been achieved. Even worse, for reasons

that result difficult to understand, including racial, religious, political, gender discrimination or any other reasons, justice is differentially applied and, while some are favored, others are persecuted, usually with arms, and disproportionately penalized.

The scientific community is made of people that has been able to obtain a higher level education and are thus obliged to watch that the results of their labor, or of any labor, be enjoyed by everyone, independent of their social, economic or civil condition. This goes in parallel with an active militance in the politics in their environments and countries, and with an active and decisive conscience that insists in the need for governments to work for the people, for all the people without exclusions; in parallel with a permanent denial of the existence of dominants and dominated, of those who impose and those who comply.

In times when all of mankind is being battered by a terrible and still poorly understood pandemic, the statistics come to reveal that poverty and marginality are principal partners of the observed morbidity and mortality; rulers who, for political reasons and beliefs, prefer to ignore science and lead their nationals towards death. Only science, not politics, will allow to overcome the tragedy in which we are immersed. But only in a world with true justice for all, if such a thing comes to be real someday, science will be a nonfictional factor of pride for those who practice it.

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