



Juezas y Jueces
para la Democracia



MEDEL, JJpD, UPF AND APDHE DEMAND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CEUTA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The serious events that occurred in Ceuta, with the tragic result of at least 72 deceased individuals, as well as a high number of injured and missing persons still to be determined, demand an institutional response founded on respect for the Rule of Law and human and fundamental rights. Before any other consideration, we wish to express our sorrow for the loss of human lives.

Border control constitutes a legitimate competence of the State and responds to the obligation to guarantee security and compliance with legality. However, this power must always be exercised within the constitutional framework and the international commitments assumed by Spain regarding human rights, and no purpose, however legitimate, can be prioritized over respect for the life and dignity of individuals.

Situations of special migratory pressure do not alter the validity of fundamental rights nor do they lower the requirements proper to the Rule of Law. It is precisely in contexts of maximum difficulty when democratic institutions must reaffirm their commitment to legality and proportionality, regardless of the origin or administrative status of the affected persons. Therefore, these events cannot become a pretext to fuel hate speech, xenophobia, or calls for the persecution of migrants.

These events demonstrate, once again, the need to move towards a comprehensive and coordinated migration policy within the European Union, combining effective border management with the protection of fundamental rights and the safeguarding of the lives of migrants. Firmness in border control and respect for fundamental rights are not incompatible: both are part of the obligations of a social and democratic State governed by the Rule of Law. Only from this balance will it be possible to offer a response in line with our constitutional and European values, and to prevent a human tragedy from turning into a cause of social fracture.

We call for the public debate on these events to be carried out with rigor and institutional respect, avoiding simplistic answers or speeches that erode coexistence. Behind every border there are human beings, and no political response can forget that the protection of their lives and dignity constitutes an inescapable duty.

**EUROPEAN MAGISTRATES FOR DEMOCRACY
AND FREEDOMS
JUEZAS Y JUECES PARA LA DEMOCRACIA
UNIÓN PROGRESISTA DE FISCALES
ASOCIACIÓN PRO DERECHOS HUMANOS ESPAÑA**