

# **“Rebuilding Lives, Rebuilding Communities: Ensuring a Future for Persecuted Christians”**

74<sup>TH</sup> U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

FRIDAY, 27 SEPT., 2019

H.E Mr. Ernesto Araújo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil (co-host)

TRANSCRIPT – PART TWO

## **Ernesto Araújo:**

Thank you. Thank you very much. It's really a privilege to be here. I'd like to make two points that occurred to me after hearing all the remarkable remarks and contributions. First, there's the issue of religious freedom and the issue of persecuted Christians is part of that. And I think it's very important because sometimes you have the sense that some people who talk about religious freedom talk about that in a generic way, right? And there's no generic religion. Religion is Christianity or Islam or Buddhism or whatever, but, so when you – some people seem to be comfortable talking about religious freedom, but they're not comfortable when you go into the real issues of individual religions. So, when you talk about religious freedom, you have to talk about specific questions of persecuted Christians, like Pietro says today, also persecuted Muslims, persecuted Buddhists, persecuted Jews, etcetera. But you have to go into the specificity. So, some people like to defend religious freedom as long as there's no religion involved sometimes, right? Yeah, and we have to address that and not go towards that sort of common denominator. Also, I think for Christians, too often the world accepts Christianity as long as it sees Christianity as a set of social values and things like that. But, of course, for us, it's more than that. And it's the right to celebrate the mysteries that are at the core of our faith. And second, President Bolsonaro in his speech at the opening of the General Assembly talked about an ideology that tries to drive God away from the human soul. And we see that the same ideology that tries to drive God away from the human soul also tried to drive nations away from the international system and from the multilateral system. And now I see, hear that it's basically nations that are taking ownership of this issue, of religious freedom and the fight against the persecution of Christians. So, I see that maybe not by coincidence, certainly not by coincidence, you have a reversal of that tendency and you have, you see that God is coming back to our discussions and that nations are – nations are coming back to the center of the multilateral system. Thank you.

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