



ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ ПАРЛАМЕНТ PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
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Der Präsident

313578 11.08.2008

Ingrid Bétancourt

Chère Nadine Bétancourt !

As you know, I wrote on 4th July to send you my warmest best wishes on your release after so many awful years of captivity in Colombia. In doing so, I could speak for all my colleagues in the European Parliament in saying how much we admire and respect the extraordinary dignity and self-respect with which you endured this unimaginable ordeal.

I am writing now to extend to you, in my capacity as President of the European Parliament, a formal invitation to speak to us at one of our plenary sessions. We would consider it a great privilege if you could share with us your reflections on the meaning of your experience and the lessons it holds for relations between peoples and nations in the world today.

We are proposing to hold a special solemn session of the European Parliament in our hemicycle in Brussels on the afternoon of Wednesday, 8th October 2008, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the signature of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and commemorate a number of other important human rights' anniversaries which fall this year.

We would be delighted if you were able to join us to address the 785 Members of the European Parliament for perhaps twenty to thirty minutes at that time. You would be the keynote speaker at this event, which would be likely to attract considerable attention, both within the European Union institutions and indeed around the world. I would invite senior representatives of the Council of Ministers and European Commission to join us for this important occasion.

I do hope that this suggestion might appeal to you. It would be wonderful if you could be our special guest on that day. If you cannot be with us on 8th October, we should look at other opportunities of welcoming you to the Parliament, where you have many admirers and friends, before too long.

cordialement

Hans-Gert Pöttering

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