

LIGHT TO FREEDOM LIGHTS UP THE LIBERTY TREE

On Saturday, December 13TH thirty thousand people attended to an unique and memorable event proposed by the Ambassador of Belize in Italy, H.E. Nunzio Alfred D'Angieri and Ambassador of Colombia, Sabas Pretelt de la Vega as part of the project LIGHT TO FREEDOM.

Accompanied by the ringing of the bells of churches around *Trinità dei Monti* at the *Piazza di Spagna*, was lit the Tree of Light, a symbol of peace and solidarity, to not forget the hostages throughout the world, for all those who suffer without its freedom, and at the same time, an emblem of hope against all forms of slavery and oppression.

In the event were present representatives of the three religions: Catholic, Don Matteo Zuppi of the Community of San Egidio in Rome, Jewish; Dr. Renzo Gattegno, President Jewish Community, and Muslim Ambassador Mario Scialoja, director of the Grand Mosque Rome, besides the mayor of Rome, Mr Gianni Alemanno, Mrs. Maria Pia Fanfani, the Italian actor and director, Michele Placido and the famous singer and composer Lucio Dalla. Each one of them during the ceremony said a message of solidarity.

Fifty dancers, accompanied by the words of the song "Henna" by Lucio Dalla, recited by actor Marco Alemanno, descended by the steps of Trinità dei Monti, carrying in one hand, a flame symbol of power and redemption, and the other, a palm branch to which was attached the name of a hostage. These branches were symbolically grouped into different packages.

The dancers, endosing a wide white robe, a symbol of purity and rigor, delivered the branches with representatives of the Catholic, Jewish and Muslim community.

When tree was Lighted up, representatives of the three religions with the mayor of Rome, Mr. Gianni Alemanno shacked all hands together as a symbolic union.

The night became magic, thanks to the fantastic play of light offered by the tree.

The tree of light and freedom was visited the following day by Mrs. Ingrid Betancourt, a symbol of the hostages throughout the world.

The tree will give joy over the Christmas period for the citizens of Rome and its many tourists with music provided by the known DJ Claudio Coccoluto.