

Squares against racism!

Amina has worked with a not self-sufficient old man for 15 years, when a tendon strain due to the efforts of a job that doesn't safeguard her, makes her unable of doing it and now she is risking to lose her residence permit.

Ali, after risking his own life through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, gets a residence permit for humanitarian reasons. The welcoming procedures from which people seeking political asylum and refugees should benefit, leads him to the streets again. In Italy for 6 years, Ali can't find either a home or a job, yet.

Sabri climbs up the CIE roof in corso Brunelleschi to stand out against his deportation to his country: Tunisia. Recently Tunisia and Algeria signed an arrangement with Italy for the forced repatriation of people who find themselves locked up in lagers for migrants because of the lack of documents.

These stories talk about the injustice to which several immigrated people are subject due to the immigration laws that left and right governments have enacted since 1990. Because of these laws immigrants can legally reside in Italy only if they own a regular employment contract, while they are illegal if they have been fired by the firms in crisis, or if they work without a contract. Illegal are also the sons of the migrants who, even though born or grown up in Italy, couldn't find a job at their come of age, and the refugees whose political asylum applications have been dismissed.

Besides the promulgation of these laws, throughout the years, an increasing racist propaganda spread over, describing immigrants as strangers, suspects, criminals, with the only aim of justifying their exclusion from the social welfare and from any legal protection, in order to better exploit them in the fields of the South, as well as in the companies and cooperatives of the North. Because the alternative is the captivity in CIEs, the alternative is forced repatriation.

The parallel between criminality and immigration becomes law in 2008, 24th of July, when the so-called "Pacchetto sicurezza" came into effect. This new immigration law turns the policy on migration into a public security matter: it increases the power of the police, the hunting for illegals, the presence of army along the borders, the rejections of ships in the sea, and moreover, the indifference of the tourists while they see the dead bodies on the shores of Italian coasts.

The state racism and the banishment of immigrants are directly related to the perpetration of wild working exploitation policies. Besides, the companies need stranger workforce, preferably cut out of any right and robbed of legal protections, in order to be competitive in the global market. Italian Gross Domestic Product is made up of illegal job by the 17,5%, and it's clear that making the possession of an employment contract the immigrant's condition of legality, is nothing but an excuse to get the control on him.

To put up a political and social fight against these drifts means to rebuild networks of supportive and anti-racist relationships growing from the bottom, from the acknowledgment of a common state of precariousness; to stand out against the prevailing fascism and racism, the signs of which we have been recognizing for a long time in the streets where we live everyday. Taking back those streets, regaining such a social and open space as the district is, seems to be the only valuable political reaction that can be publicly carried out. The policies "of security", as well as the urban and moral decline, are to be fought also by crowding again those streets with collective life, with practical sharing, with anti-racist matters. Therefore we launch a series of initiatives, addressed to several districts of the town, in order to show that the district itself can and must live for its inhabitants, being they Italians or strangers.

Because districts are insecure and dangerous when they become night shelters with the only aim of recovering people waiting for the new working day.

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