

Alternativa Libertaria

ONLINE NEWS SHEET OF THE FEDERAZIONE DEI COMUNISTI ANARCHICI

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Roma città aperta



The ongoing trend of turning workers into goods, the suspension and denial of individual and civil liberties, the ethnicization of society: migrants are bearing the brunt of this toughest of battles being waged by the State

and neo-liberal economics, a battle where the stakes are the lives and rights of every one of us.

Neo-liberalism needs low-cost, disposable manpower for its production, and also in the service industries in order to dismantle the welfare system and wipe out social costs.

The State is going about this through legislation which is becoming more and more repressive and pointless, which has the obvious aim of making workers who come to Italy increasingly dependent on their employers (in a form of modern slavery), where even their right to exist is conditioned on the market.

In all of this, there is no longer space even for a formal semblance of bourgeois rights: the right of asylum - gone, the inviolable rights of the person - gone, the right to any form of representation - inapplicable. And in order to do this, they use blatantly racist propaganda which stirs up tensions between the poor, providing something for people to take out their social insecurities on. Then there is the way they divide us and classify us along true or imaginary religious or community lines, or according to our clothes, the colour of our skin, where we come from. Rights are then made to measure according to all this.

And so they take down from the shelves of history concentration camps and deportations, slavery and serfs, update them for present-day consumption, and present them as justifiable and inevitable. And the victims are a sizeable part of the population which lives in this country.

But there something else too haunting Europe: illegal immigrants and temporary workers, dissidents and asylum-seekers, Italian and foreign workers, all recognize the need for common struggle against borders which are open to goods but shut to people, against infamous agreements for forced deportations and to stop new arrivals, against the murderous legislation which allows shipfuls of innocents to sink and traffickers of men and women to grow fat on the profits.

Because we know that the detention centres open the way for barracks "à la Bolzaneto", because the fragmentation of the labour market is turning us all into mere goods, because in an ethnicized society demagogues of all sorts will continue to insist on negotiating on our behalf amongst themselves and it will be to our detriment.

The reaffirmation of basic rights for all is a fundamental part of the libertarian struggle because libertarians and anarchists know that when there are limits to one person's freedoms then the freedoms of all of us are lost.

On the 4th December, there will be demonstrations by men and women who share in the streets, factories, houses and struggles. And one day they will inherit them. And we will be there too.

Federazione dei Comunisti Anarchici



A short memory

Of all the objectives which go to make up the platform of demands of the anti-racist demonstration of 4th December, the main one is the demand to repeal the Bossi-Fini Law. Just as long as we don't go back to its predecessor, the Turco-Napolitano Law, and the "culture" which inspired it...

In fact, though the present centre-right government has worsened the conditions of millions of migrants with the introduction of laws which reduce their social guarantees, the law is based more or less on that passed by the previous centre-left government and is part of the process of creating Fortress Europe and of the idea, common to the dominant political culture which has marked the development of Europe from Schengen to Amsterdam, that uncontrolled, illegal immigration is a threat to public order and the safety of Europe's citizens.

On 27th March 1998, the Turco-Napolitano Law (Law No.40/1998) came into effect, substituting the previous immigration law (the Martelli Law) and bringing Italy into line with the Schengen guidelines. And in fact, on 31st March, the transition period for Italy's entrance into the Schengen area came to an end. The key element of Law No.40/1998 is the regulation of the levels of immigration on the basis of demand from the jobs market. Once a year, quotas for legal immigration to Italy are established by means of a decree from the Prime Minister. And as far as illegal immigration is concerned, this law is by no means soft. It provides for arrest of between 2 and 6 months and forced repatriation under guard for those who have illegally entered the country more than once. It also set up the infamous "Temporary Stay Centres" (CPT) where foreigners are held before being expelled.

The Bossi-Fini Law is based on the Turco-Napolitano Law though it introduces a number of changes and restrictions. Its principal novelty is to introduce the "work permit contract" which binds migrant workers to their employers (work permits are valid only for the duration of job contracts).

This change in effect means that immigrants have a right to exist only within the job market. The borderline between legal and illegal is so fine that for a migrant to lose his or her job automatically means that they become illegal.

The other features of the law are essentially restrictions of the old Turco-Napolitano Law, and concern:

* **Residency permit:** Legal immigrants can request one only after 6 years of residence (it was 5 under the previous law).

* **Re-uniting families:** This is limited to spouses, under-age children and parents of an only child (under Turco-Napolitano it included relatives up to three generations)

* **Sponsors:** Under the new bill, individual citizens can no longer act as guarantors, only companies and private associations.

* **Expulsion:** Expulsion is immediate, except for foreigners whose identity cannot be ascertained, who are held in Temporary Stay Centres for up to 60 days on the request of local police chiefs (under the old law it was 30 days). Anyone who is expelled and re-enters the country illegally can be arrested and held for a period of between 6 and 12 months (2 to 6 months under the old law) and are then expelled. If they do not leave the country or re-enter illegally, they can be imprisoned for between 1 and 4 years.

* **Appeals:** Illegal immigrants can only appeal against decisions from abroad.

* **Right of asylum:** Further limitations to the status of political refugee are introduced, making it almost impossible...

* **Social insurance:** Immigrants who leave Italy for good are no longer entitled to receive rebates of social insurance contributions which they have paid.

Opposition to the racist Bossi-Fini Law must not blind us to the responsibilities of the centre-left which introduced many discriminatory and security-obsessed policies with the aim of controlling the flow of immigration and generally making jobs less stable and more flexible.

We therefore reject any special legislation which aims at dividing workers into 1st class and 2nd class.

Alterlinus

D'elvezia il tuo governo...

Since last summer, the French-speaking Vaud canton in Switzerland, whose capital is Lausanne, has been the scene of a disgraceful affair featuring the federal government (led by politicians like the UDC's Blocher, an extreme-right xenophobe and ultra-liberalist), the Vaud Council of State (which bows to the desires of patriots and racists, typical of the cowardly left which does not have the courage to break ranks) and 523 people, asylum seekers living in Switzerland's Vaud canton for several years (and including children born there). These people have been "chosen" for deportation - practically drawn from a hat out of a total of 1,200. 523 men, women and children, families and individuals who sought asylum here fleeing from dangerous situations in their own countries. Among these people are about 150 from Pristina in Kosovo, many of whom have lost their families, houses and friends there and for whom the thought of going back brings nightmares of violence and rape.

Our rulers consider them to be 523 blots on a page, faceless bodies who do not meet the hazy requirements to be accepted in this country of "tolerance" and chocolate: you must have a job, speak the language, integrate ... and your home country must still be unstable. So is Iraq considered stable, since the war has ended!?

523 forced journeys "home", months of struggle to counter this injustice, month after month these people (who have already got their time and date of departure) have to beg refuge and hospitality in parish halls specially set up for families at risk. Every month a different home and a different school for the children.

Mermoud, a UDC state council member, went to Bosnia to see if in effect the conditions necessary to re-patriate people exist, and in three days he decided that they did. Some feat, considering that the International Red Cross say it is out of the question.

The Vaud canton is the only Swiss canton which has implemented forced re-patriation for asylum seekers and it seems intent on going the whole hog. Even as far as using force and new devices such as electric shock batons on those who refuse to obey this inhuman law.

Over 13,000 signatures have been collected from people pledging to put up asylum-seekers in danger of expulsion. There have been demonstrations, direct actions, appeals from all corners of the canton and from every social sphere, occupations and sit-ins, all blithely ignored by the very people who could stop the re-patriations. Now, time is pressing. We do not know when the action will start.

Switzerland yet again is seen as an important training ground for repression in Europe and yet again shows it is up to the task!!

The whole world belongs to all of us! Stop the forced re-patriations!!

More info www.stoprenvoi.ch

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Trawling through our lives

Like the nets of a trawler which rakes ceaselessly along the seafloor, we are witnessing something similar with the series of actions and trials directed at the most active elements of what was (?) a movement with great promise, a rising tide.

The inquests and operations of the repressive forces of the State have been steadily increasing since the days of the G8 in Genoa, way back in July 2001. Looking again today at the killing of Carlo, it seems to have been the beginning of a definite project to prevent any growth of the burgeoning radicalization of social dissent.

Every day, there are fresh and heavier sentences being handed down in cases arising from police provocation and violence at demonstrations, as was the case in Cagliari with Luisa, Massimo and Matteo who were caught in the trap of the so-called forces of law and order and what passes for a system of justice.

Recently, the strategy of physically attacking demonstrations has become clear to see and is ably directed by the same people who ran things during the G8 in Genoa, aimed at removing any form of direct opposition.

It could be opposition to capitalist globalization, as those under investigation for subversive activities in Cosenza; opposition to war, as we found out in Mestre recently during the anarchist anti-militarist demonstration; it is also directed at those who fight on ecological matters or in defence of animal rights, such as during the events in S.Polo d'Enza. These are just some of the events which have come to a head during November, as if there was an autumn escalation just in time for the strikes and class-struggle mobilizations.

And, coincidentally enough, these are all areas in which a new generation has started to become more active and show its anger at the way things are moving. Maybe it is yet another worry for our capitalist rulers to see to?

And this is the reason why demonstrations and public spaces are becoming less and less enjoyable and more and more dangerous, thanks to the heavy hands of the boys in blue?

It's a bad sign, and no mistake. There is no escape from oppressive control and repressive police violence even for the most combative sectors of the class, or at least those best protected by their unions. This became clear with the case of Fabrizio Acanfora. Even the public transport workers have lost their freedom of speech and of action with regard to their working conditions and can be fired, fined or sued for these things!

But the heavy machine of the State never actually stopped crushing lives, pulverizing futures, sinking the ships of dreams, imprisoning beings they consider "foreign" and therefore "inferior". And it is to these people that we give the most active solidarity possible, because their freedom and their struggles and ours and so is the enemy.

IPSE DIXIT

- the emancipation of the workers is the task of the workers themselves;
- the struggle of the workers must seek to establish for all the same rights and the same duties, in other words political, economic and social equality;
- the subjection of the workers to capital is the font of all its political, moral and material slavery
- for this reason the emancipation of the workers must be the ultimate aim of any political movement;
- the emancipation of the workers is not a local or national problem, but an international one.

From the Statutes of the First International, quoted by Bakunin in *l'Egalité*, 31 July 1869



The president of the Citizens' Committee for the Integrated Development and Promotion of Mali Railways (COCIDI-RAIL), Tiécoura Traoré, was sacked by his company, the (French/Canadian) company Transrail, for having opposed the privatization of Mali's railways. He needs the widest support possible (committees, unions, associations, NGOs, public figures, etc) to fight the repression he has been subjected to. His employers accuse him of a "lack of loyalty" and "deliberate intention to damage" Société Transrail SA, and have stopped his "salary, bonuses and allowances". Now his comrades believe that his life is in danger, too.

For over a year Tiécoura Traoré, an engineer in railway operations, has participated in the national campaign "for the restitution of the railways to the people of Mali", railways which were sold in October 2003 to a French-Canadian consortium. Radio broadcasts, petitions to parliamentarians (already over 30,000 signatures), demonstrations all over the country, public debates and meetings - all this has been done in order to question the legality of privatizing a public utility and even led to the birth of Sytrail, a new trade union for railway workers (the old ones disappeared some time ago). Tiécoura Traoré was elected as administrative secretary of this new union.



The son of railway workers, author of a doctoral thesis on railway management and ex-director of the African railways educational sector in Brazzaville, Tiécoura Traoré

enjoys great trust and the esteem of the rail workers and citizens of Mali who oppose privatization and who support a railway system which meets the needs of the people of Mali.

Since the railways were privatized, passenger traffic has been ignored, while traffic of goods has multiplied by six!

Over two thirds of stations and stops have been closed (26 out of 36) in a country where the railway was one of the main methods of transport. Numerous villages are inaccessible due to the roads. Villages and fruit farms have grown together with a whole range of economic activities which are now in grave danger.

On Saturday 30th October, an assembly of social movements met in Bamako to launch a protest campaign against "the intolerable attack on union rights and social rights which is under way in this country" and to demand the reinstatement of Tiécoura Traoré.

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Not only Fabrizio

Fake terrorists, real terror

Aouadi Mohamed, one of the Tunisian immigrants who was sentenced in Italy for setting up an Islamic terrorist cell, was released from prison yesterday, 26th November, but taken immediately to the CPT in Caltanissetta and detained there. He was informed of his imminent expulsion from the country which will take place upon verification of the order by a judge in Palermo. A few comrades are organizing a lawyer for him who can block the expulsion order and at least delay his expulsion, though it will be difficult.

We know only too well the terrible situation which all immigrants face when they are judged by tribunals set up to defend the system of exploitation and commercialization and marked "for expulsion".

Many of his co-accused have been sentenced in absentia by a military court in Tunisia. For this reason, it is feared that if Mohamed is sent back to Tunisia he risks a lot worse than expulsion. Although here in the democratic republic of Italy a groundless charge without any evidence of being part of an in-existent Al-Qaeda unit was enough to get him sentenced for falsifying documents (!!!), we cannot even begin to imagine what might happen to him in Tunisia, a country governed by a military dictatorship. Unless something is done to stop it, death by torture in a Tunisian prison is what await him and his other comrades (Essid Sami Ben Khemais, Bouchoucha Moktar, Kammoun Mehdi and also Ben Attia Nabil).

But they are not the only ones awaiting a future of temporary detention, expulsions and so on. Western countries provide such luxuries for all "foreigners". At best, the immigrants can be legalized and turned into meat to be exploited at the lowest possible cost.

We appeal to everyone, groups or individuals, who wants to see an end to all this to take action. Everyone must act as best they see fit in order that Mohamed is not expelled and in order for the repression to end!

For the free circulation of individuals, against the CPTS and every form of detention!

from www.contropotere.org

ANTIPODI

Being at the antipodes can mean being upside down in the other hemisphere with respect to the dominant society; but in a round world defining just who is upside down depends on how you look at reality.

Looking at it from another point of view, being at the antipodes means having your feet firmly planted in the reality you want with respect to the world which is upside down, having lost the ability to reason properly.

Let's start looking at reality from this point of view - it might be useful along our path to the economic and social reality that we want.

Number 3 out soon Wars

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