

Support Committee against Vincenzo's extradition to Italy

The facts:

On Thursday August 8th, Vincenzo, who has lived quietly in Rochefort en Terre [Morbihan] for 8 years and is completely integrated in local life, was arrested by the police. He was arrested through a European arrest warrant and was taken to the Vézin le Coquet detention center for extradition procedures to begin.

The origin:

Vincenzo took part in a demonstration in 2001 against the G8, and later in Milan at an unauthorized anti-fascist demonstration.

The Italian government held these two events against him.

Several activists were arrested in Genoa and around fifteen were prosecuted and condemned to harsh sentences [8 to 15 years without parole] with an official charge of "devastation and destruction". Vincenzo was one of them. Because of this unjust and disproportionate condemnation, he decided to avoid imprisonment and he arrived in Rochefort en Terre.

Why a Support Committee?

For many reasons;

Because above all, Vincenzo is our friend, neighbor and camarade.

1/ *The legality of a double condemnation:*

- In connection with the demonstration in Genoa, the police repression was condemned by different international organizations, most recently by the European Court of Human Rights. Italy was condemned because it had never legally pursued; or even identified, the authors of police violence against the alter globalizationists on the sidelines of the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001. According to the European Court of Human Rights Italian police used "acts of torture". Under these circumstances, the legality of the condemnation is questionable.
- The judgement was based on "devastation and destruction" which is considered in Italy to be a crime against public order. This was introduced as a crime in 1930 through the Rocco code (in the fascist period) and is still used to repress popular rebellions. This code enables condemnations of 8 to 15 years, without proof of guilt. You need to just find yourself in the wrong place ... The context of creation of this charge is another reason to question its legitimacy.

2/ *The eminently political character of this arrest and extradition.* In fact the extreme right is more and more active in the Italian government. Vincenzo was deeply involved in the anti-fascist movement and the accusations against him were linked to these anti-fascist actions. It seems more than obvious that he is serving as an example in this affair.

What can a Support Committee really do?

Our first aim is to stop the extradition and slow down the procedure in order to gain time to prepare a good defense.

We hope he will stay in France and not be "handed over" to Italian justice.

If you would like to join or simply support us, there are many possibilities:

- Keep informed on current actions via the website:
www.comite-sioutien-vincenzo.org (on line from August 12)
facebook page: @soutienvincenzo
- Contact us to take part in the support committee: comite.soutien.vincenzo@gmail.com
- Financial support: on the website