

NEITHER PRISON, NOR EXTRADITION ! FREE VINCENZO !

I am honoured of having participated as a free man to a demonstration against a capitalist economy.

Vincenzo Vecchi

We, heterogeneous members of Vincenzo's Support Committee, would like to adress to you all : women, men, old or young, shy or mad, activists, pacifists, artists, workers, prisoners, intellectuals, leaders, elected representatives, farmers...

On Thursday 8th of August, Vincenzo, who has been living in Rochefort en Terre (Morbihan, France) for 8 years, was arrested by the police. His arrest is ran accordingly to two European arrest warrants, for deeds that occurred :

- At the anti-G8 demonstration in Genova (Italy) in 2001 and,
- At an non-authorized anti-fascist protest in Milano (Italy) in 2006.

During the G8 counter-summit in Genova, Carlo Giuliani was shot by the police and many activists were arrested. 10 persons were sentenced to heavy penalties (from 8 to 15 years of custodies) under official charge of «devastation and ransacking».

In 2006, in Milano, a demonstration organized by the far right political party «Fiamma tricolore» had been authorized; besides that according to «Scelba» law, it should have been forbidden for fascism apology. However, the counter demonstration had not been authorized...

Vincenzo was sentenced based on Rocco code, introduced in Italian law by Mussolini in the 30s. It allows, in the name of «**moral support**», to punish the mere presence at a demonstration considered as insurrectional, without factual evidence. It is under this law that Vincenzo and nine other

activists, nicknamed « the ten from Genova », were sentenced to very stiff penalties (from 8 to 15 years of custodies).

Police repression implemented during 2001 Genova anti-G8 demonstration has been condemned by the European Court of Human Rights:

- The authors of police violence against demonstrators haven't been all identified nor judged; despite that those who were sentenced didn't serve their sentence (by virtue of amnesty voted in 2006)
- The police repression resulted in inhuman and degrading treatments on demonstrators; according to the European Court of Human Right these treatments can be considered as torture acts.
- According to « Amnesty International », it is « the most serious infringement of democratic rights in a western country since the end of the Second World War ». This obviously questions the legitimacy of the judgment. Concerning Vincenzo : 12 years imprisonment for good damages !

During the hearing on the 14th of August at the Court of Rennes (France), his lawyers as well as the advocate general demand to be given a period in order to obtain missing documents to enrich this incomplete and questioning case. One of Vincenzo's lawyer also underlines the abysmal disproportion of the sentences between the damages caused to goods and those inflicted to people.

Why is Vincenzo arrested now, whereas for 8 years he has been perfectly integrated and appreciated locally and doesn't constitute a danger?

FREEDOM OF DEMONSTRATION - DEMONSTRATORS CRIMINALIZATION

Why do events of the 2001 Genova G8 represent a major change in demonstrators criminalization ? What message has been sent ever since to the people who want to exercise their right of expression ?

Have we forgotten what motivated hundreds of thousands of protesters to gather at the counter-summit of 2001 Genova G8?

« It is a tragedy that, naturally, nothing can justify. And beyond the drama itself, there gathered, I don't know how many, 130, 150, 200.000 demonstrators coming from everywhere, it is something. These demonstrators did not come only to obey to an order given by a revolutionary organization, it is something much more deeper and therefore it needs to be understood.»
Quote from Jacques Chirac, French President at the time.

Why Italian State sentences Vincenzo based on an article of the 1930s Rocco Code (adopted during Mussolini era) and still in force nowadays?

How not being worried about the fate awaiting demonstrators arrested in the current context of far right movements rise?
What safeguard is left if this world would fall back into the unspeakable? How could we protect, in the name of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, those who fight for ideas?

In this context of social and political tensions, at national, European and international levels, Vincenzo's Support committee warns international civil society about the repression threatening the freedom of demonstration and the

conditions under which states legislate, sentencing the mere presence at a demonstration.

CALL FOR VINCENZO'S RELEASE !

For all these reasons we refuse that Vincenzo Vecchi would be handed to Italian authorities. Within the current political context, we do not want him to become a trophy of the far right politics lead by Salvini's government.

In a world where everything goes faster, let's take back the possession of our time, our words, to exchange, to debate, to question together all the subjects risen by Vincenzo's arrest in order to ensure one's freedom and fundamental respect of human rights.

We don't know how Vincenzo arrived in our territory but we sure know why he stayed! In this experimental territory where alternative projects which resist to the dehumanization are welcomed, we still dream of a world where people can together knit up a collective dignity : some would speak about democracy, some about human rights or humanism, others about solidarity, resistance or anticapitalism...

Let's claim his release. Choose your way: write, tell, share, decorate walls and spread the word everywhere:

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