

# Freedom FoR VINCENZO!!!

Arrested on Thursday 8 August and held since then at Vezin le Coquet prison, near RENNES

**We, Vincenzo's support committee, demand the suspension of the extradition procedure to Italy and his release!**

## The Facts

Thursday 8 August, Vincenzo Vecchi who has been living in Rochefort en Terre (Morbihan, Brittany) for 8 years, leading a trouble-free life and fully integrated into the local community was arrested by the police under a European arrest warrant. He is imprisoned in the Vezin le Coquet detention centre near RENNES, prior to the extradition procedure to Italy.

## The origins of the facts

**In 2001 in Genoa, Vincenzo took part in the G8 counter-summit demonstrations, and in 2006 participated in a non-authorized gathering to protest against an authorised fascist demonstration in Milan. The Italian judiciary condemned him to 12 years and 6 months prison for having taken part in these two demonstrations.**

**During and after the Genoa protests, the police repression was extremely violent**, with hundreds injured and one protester shot dead in the street. Acts of torture also took place in the Diaz school following an assault by the police in the middle of the night. Afterwards many of the protesters were arrested and condemned to heavy unconditional prison sentences (6 to 15 years) officially for the offense of “Property damage and looting” (see below : the Rocco code). Vincenzo was among those facing this unfair and disproportionate sentence and he consequently decided to flee imprisonment and came to Rochefort en Terre.

## Why create a support committee?

Most importantly because Vincenzo is our friend, our neighbour, our comrade. We believe that his conviction in Italy is illegitimate, his arrest in France is outrageous and is obviously politically motivated! We must oppose this and work together to obtain his release and the suspension of the extradition procedure!

In fact **we question the legitimacy of the sentence** on two levels :

- During the protests in Genoa, the police repression had been extremely violent. Italy has been sentenced by several international courts, more recently in 2015 by the European Court of Human Rights (CEDH), who compared the police action to “acts of torture”. The authors of this police violence during the G8 summit in Genoa in 2001 were sentenced to prison although they were finally given amnesty ! This obviously questions the legitimacy of the heavy sentences given to the protestors.

- The charge on which the judgement is based “Property damage and looting”, is considered as a crime against public order, and was introduced by the Rocco code of 1930 (during the Fascist regime) and is still in effect today, for the purpose of repressing street rebellions. It permits convicting offenders causing material damage to prison sentences from 8 to 15 years. **With the offense of ‘moral participation’, the**

**Italian State also declares that it is not necessary to directly take part in acts of rebellion to experience the consequences of repression, it is merely enough to be present at the scene and not attempting to prevent others from committing offences. Therefore solely Vincenzo's presence at these demonstrations was enough for the Italian State to convict him, as an example, without having to prove his direct guilt.**

We also believe that this arrest and possible extradition to Italy are politically motivated. In reality the far right wing is more and more involved in the Italian government. Because Vincenzo has been engaged in anti-fascist activities and because the charges against him are clearly linked to anti-fascist actions, it seems obvious that he is being used as an example in this affair.

## **Aims of the support committee**

Our first aim is to **impede the extradition** and to delay the procedure so as to gain time to insure Vincenzo an effective defence. We hope that he can stay in France and not be “handed over” to Italian justice. We also want to **help with his legal defence**. Serious costs are involved and will be involved today for judicial fees, lawyers and so on ... This is why we are asking for donations from all those wishing to help (see website)!

**We therefore appeal to everyone wishing to show their support for Vincenzo ! Together let's demand the suspension of the extradition procedure and his release !!!**

**Freedom for Vincenzo !!!**

**To support Vincenzo, be informed, follow events:**

the website: **[www.comite-soutien-vincenzo.org](http://www.comite-soutien-vincenzo.org)**

Facebook: **[@soutienvincenzo](#)**

**Contact us to take part in the support committee:**

the email address: **[comite.soutien.vincenzo@gmail.com](mailto:comite.soutien.vincenzo@gmail.com)**

**By posting the other side of this flyer, you can show your support for Vincenzo everywhere: in the street, the windows of your car, the door of your house, etc.**