



FIRE TO ALL PRISONS!!!

On the trial of the Lecce anarchists

'Regina Pacis' was one of the many detention centres for immigrants in which the bosses lock up people who, escaping from devastated countries, risk their lives looking for a better chance in fortress Europe.

Situated on the Adriatic coast in the Lecce area (southern Italy), 'Regina Pacis' was run by a catholic priest, father Cesare Lodeserto, and his boss archbishop Francesco Rупpi, both of whom have gained considerable sums of money by exploiting the so-called 'welcome of immigrants'. What actually happened in the prison they ran, and which is probably normal procedure in centres like this, was a number of terrible deeds, including beatings, forced administration of psychotropic drugs, all kinds of abuse and humiliation. The crimes of father Cesare and his collaborators were denounced in all kinds of ways by the local anarchist group until at a certain point they became so obvious that they could no longer be ignored: at the beginning of 2005, in fact, the priest was charged with private violence, embezzlement and kidnapping, and the detention centre was closed down. The priest was finally sentenced to a few years imprisonment, but he was eventually acquitted and is now free to carry on his dirty job (this time in a centre for orphans and prostitutes in Moldavia).

On the contrary the anarchist comrades were accused of a series of 'crimes', most of them related to their struggle without reserve against 'Regina Pacis' and its management. Five of them were arrested in the course of 'operation Nottetempo' [operation Night Time] (May 2005) and were kept in prison or under house arrest for nearly two years. Disgusted by the fact that human beings are locked up (in this case only because they are poor and without the right papers), for years the Lecce anarchists had visited the detention centre in San Foca, shouted their solidarity to the imprisoned immigrants and openly denounced the names of those responsible for the abuse inflicted in that prison. It is also thanks to this struggle that the horror of Regina Pacis finally came to light.

In this sense, operation Nottetempo is a clear example of the State's intent to get rid of all rebels, whereas father Lodeserto is still flattered by the local political class.

The sentence against the Lecce anarchists was pronounced on July 12 2007: four of them are accused of 'criminal association' and have been sentenced to 1 to 5 years imprisonment. Other charges have been inflicted on another three anarchists. All of them are free while awaiting the appeal.

The State wants the anarchists in Lecce to rot in jail because of their struggle for freedom, but their struggle is everybody's struggle. Freedom cannot be begged for, nor can it be delegated to anyone.

FOR A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

FREE ALL IMMIGRANTS AND REBELS



A few Brixton anarchists