

THE NEW INQUISITION: 4 MORE ANARCHISTS IN PRISON IN ITALY AS JUDGE MARINI'S FARCE REACHES ITS CONCLUSION

In Italy a considerable number of anarchists are active in the struggle, using all the means they think fit: newspapers, leaflets, squatting buildings, supporting prisoners, demos, sabotage, etc. This disturbs power at a time when it needs to show that 'everything is under control'. Yes, anarchists are a nuisance. They won't keep quiet or accept the logic of dialogue with the institutions. This disturbs. Over the past two decades small acts of sabotage have spread and multiplied throughout Italy. The means used are simple and easily copied. The analysis is also simple and crystal clear: we must self-organise our lives and our struggle, and attack power in all its manifestations before it is too late, before the technology of control begins to take over our very minds.

So, in a world now divided into good and evil, into social integration and criminalisation, the delicate balance of capitalist relations could be tipped at any moment, and the forces of power know this well. For many years the Italian police and judiciary have tried to keep anarchists quiet and criminalise their publications by accusing them on every possible occasion. This had always given poor results until, in the middle of the nineties, five comrades were arrested following a bank robbery near Trento. Before long, they also found themselves accused of another two robberies that had been carried out in the area and had remained unsolved. Anarchists from all over Italy immediately gave their solidarity through many kinds of initiative: leaflets, posters, benefits, a written dossier, a constant presence at court hearings, fireworks and smoke bombs outside Trento prison, etc. The subsequent attention of the ROS (Special Operations Carabinieri) and the Judiciary in Rome, resulted in the rigging of the most grotesque frame up against anarchists in Italy since the fascist bombs of piazza Fontana in 1969, which anarchists were accused of.

One year after the robbery in question, massive raids were carried out all over Italy on orders of Public Prosecutor Antonio Marini, and many comrades were given formal warnings that they were under investigation for robbery, kidnapping and of belonging to an 'armed band'. At the same time Marini ordered searches of the cells in which the anarchists serving prison sentences for one reason or another were being held. This huge police operation was carried out with the precious help of the Italian media: on January 3 1996 many newspapers featured the news prominently, describing the anarchists under investigation as 'kidnappers' and 'terrorists'. The only evidence to support these accusations was the 'confession' of a 'repentant terrorist' (*pentita*) a young girl who had been the girlfriend of Carlo Tesseri, one of the comrades arrested after the robbery in 1994. She was not known in the anarchist movement at all, nor had she taken part in any anarchist activity, but Judge Marini and the Carabinieri of the Special Operations Group managed to convince her to 'confess' to one of the unsolved robberies in the Trentino region and name Carlo and the other comrades (plus a few more) as her accomplices. At the hearings that followed, the girl's faltering statements were strongly contradictory and meaningless. Nevertheless, Italian legislation, of which Marini is quite a significant representative, gives full credibility to whatever *pentito* comes forth to collaborate



with the police in exchange for a monthly salary and protection for life. So the girl's confused and absurd 'confession' was deemed true and reliable by the court. Thanks to his false *pentita* and protégé Marini was able to extend his Inquisition. His aim was to eliminate any anarchist who claimed the necessity of insurrection and whom he considers a grave danger to the system and his miserable social class of parasitic defenders of law and order.

On September 17 1996, a second wave of raids took place resulting in over sixty anarchists being formally accused of belonging to a hierarchical armed clandestine organisation. Arrest warrants were issued for 29 of them, some of whom were already in prison on various charges. That same day judges Marini and Ionta of Rome called a press conference to show off the result of their brilliant operation. They announced that they had just disbanded a criminal armed gang named ORAI (Revolutionary Organisation of Insurrectional Anarchists), a strange name that had never been heard before. They also stated they had found the leader of the gang, a well known anarchist, Alfredo Maria Bonanno, who has been active in the struggle for years, mainly through his insurrectionalist theses in anarchist publications *Anarchismo*, *Provocazione* and *Canenero* of which he was editor. For decades various judges had tried to silence him with accusations related to these and other publications, without much success. Then, thanks to Marini's theatrical coup, he and many other comrades were tried and found guilty on heavy criminal charges.

At the first appeal trial some of these charges were dropped and a number of comrades were acquitted. Those who remained on the 'guilty' list had a considerable number of years added to their sentences. So, on April 20 this year, at the second and final appeal at the Court of Cassation in Rome, the following sentences were confirmed: Alfredo Bonanno - 6 years; Angela Maria (Marina) Lo Vecchio - 15 years; Orlando Campo - 10 years ; Carlo Tesseri - 3 years and nine months (he is now under house arrest). Two others, Gregorian Garagin and Francesco Porcu, are already in prison serving sentences of 30 years and life respectively. Rose Ann Scrocco, also sentenced to 30 years, is fortunately a fugitive.

So, after so many years and so many words, this judicial farce finally reached its conclusion on April 20, almost in silence.

We know that the comrades are not spending their lives behind bars for the 'crimes' they have been accused of, but because they are a thorn in the side of power. The system fears what it does not know and will never understand: the thousand ways it can be attacked and subverted, without anyone giving or taking orders. Measures such as this abject frameup dreamed up by one of its zealous servants do nothing to check wild insurgency against the existent, but push us all, comrades and rebels everywhere, to sharpen our steps in the subversion and destruction of the present order. Our passion for freedom, and our disgust for prison, cops, judges and all their accomplices, continue to grow unbound.

Insurrection now!

Destroy all prisons!



A few Brixton anarchists

Here are the addresses of the comrades imprisoned as a consequence of this trial:

Angela Maria Lo Vecchio, via Bartolo Longo, 92, 00156 - ROME.

Alfredo Maria Bonanno, via Papiniano, 1, 34133 — TRIESTE.

Orlando Campo, via Raffaele Majetti, 165, 00156 — ROME.

Gregorian Garagin, via Leopardi 2, 61034 - FOSSOIVIBRONE.

Francesco Porcu, via Provinciale San Biagio, 81030 — CARINOLA.