

ITALY: REPRESSIVE OPERATION «RITROVO». SEVEN ANARCHISTS ARRESTED

During the night of May 13, 2020, seven anarchists were arrested across the cities of Bologna, Milan and the region of Tuscany. Five others were issued compulsory residence orders, and the Bologna-based anarchist documentation space Il Tribolo was searched. The repressive operation, called «Ritrovo», was coordinated by the public prosecutor Stefano Dambruoso and the Carabinieri of ROS (Raggruppamento Operativo Speciale). The arrests and searches were conducted in cooperation with Bologna's provincial command of the Carabinieri.

The seven people arrested are charged with article 270bis of the penal code (association for the purposes of terrorism or subversion of the democratic order), together with other charges of incitement to commit crime (article 414), defacement and soiling of property (article 639) and damage to property (article 635). One person is accused of arson (article 423) for the incendiary attack of December 16th 2018 involving telecommunications antennas located in Monte Donato in Bologna, used for the transmission of national and local television networks. On the site of the attack, the sentence «Turn off the antennas, awaken consciences. Solidarity with the anarchists detained and under surveillance» appeared.

The repressive forces affirm that the arrested anarchists are accused of having created a subversive-terrorist association having «the objective of affirming and spreading the anarchist-insurrectionalist ideology, as well as instigating, with the diffusion of propaganda material, the commission of acts of violence against the institutions». Furthermore, the public prosecutor's office of Bologna, with the help of the regime's media, underlined that the precautionary measures assume, in this times of Coronavirus epidemic, a «strategic preventive value aimed at avoiding that in any further moments of social tension, arising from the particular emergency situation [linked to the coronavirus epidemic], other moments of more generalized anti-State struggle campaign can take place».

In particular, the unstoppable solidarity that comrades and companions have brought to all prisoners during the recent prison uprisings has disturbed the sleep of the public prosecutor's office in Bologna. Their active presence under the Dozza prison, despite all pandemic-related restrictions, was evidently too uncomfortable for those who were hoping to silence the riots and the inmates' voices by doing their filthy work.

The attempt by prosecutors and their henchmen to saddle comrades with heavy accusations such as terrorism and subversive association based on writings on a wall and damaged scrap metal is a script we know well - we are not interested in claiming either innocence or victimhood. What we want to highlight is the progressive consolidation of repressive actions that are purely preventative.

The occurrence itself is no longer the main object of criminal proceedings (investigation, reconstruction of the facts, search for those responsible, etc.). The declared objective of the repressive apparatus is the criminalization of our behaviour. Our very existence is what motivates prosecution and repression because, resistant to every form of control as we are, our every breath becomes a storm that devastates the meshes of power. Our lives, our relationships, our dreams and our dignity are flowers in this desert of fear, oppression and exploitation that the system you defend has created. Those who have kept beauty in their eyes will find a way to take their destiny back into their own hands. It is up to us to defend these flowers of resistance.

Dear state, dear governments: your ineptitude, the progressive impoverishment caused by your profit-driven logic, the violence which saturates your prisons and your barracks, the imprisonment and the exploitation resulting from your racist immigration policies and the systematic destruction of Nature on behalf of your filthy interest are for all to see. Those directly affected by all of this know very well against whom their anger should be directed: they do not need our "instigation", as you like to define our solidarity.

**What you call "soiling" is what we call direct communication.
What you call "incitement to commit crime" is what we call sharing of ideas.
What you call "criminal plan" is our daily struggle.**

**UNCONDITIONAL SOLIDARITY AND MAXIMUM SUPPORT
TO THE ANARCHISTS HIT BY THE OPERATION "RITROVO".**