



Senza chiedere il permesso

Special issue on Decreto Salvini – October 2018

ASSEMBLY OF MIGRANT WOMEN AND MEN

To fight against the 'Decreto Salvini' without fear!

Saturday, November 3, h. 3pm
Circolo Berneri – Porta S. Stefano, Bologna

To reach Circolo Berneri from the train station, take the Bus 32 and get off at the Porta Santo Stefano stop

Who is Matteo Salvini?

Officially, he is the Minister of the Interior and the Deputy Prime Minister, but he proclaimed himself Minister of Fear. Salvini tries to frighten us migrants because he thinks that, doing so, he will win the support of those Italians who have been impoverished by the economic crisis. Salvini did not invent anything new. He is a petty politician, one who tries to gain votes by promising things that he cannot achieve. He says he wants to expel all the migrants, but sending away masses of migrants is impossible: due to law restrictions, and since the workforce they supply

(regulated or not) and the taxes they pay are necessary for the Italian economy; and, most importantly, because migrants are part of the very life of this country. Salvini is the main author of the recently approved so-called "decreto sicurezza" (security decree)". While the decree is already in effect, to become a law it will have to be approved by the Parliament: it is thus still possible to fight it and block it.



What do we expect from the "Decreto Sicurezza"?

The "Decreto Sicurezza" includes many measures and it changes some aspects of the laws on immigration and asylum. The main modifications are the following:

- The humanitarian permit is abolished, which follows the issuing on Salvini's part of an administrative order in July to limit the permit's concession and renewal. It established a new special permit for those who experienced "serious exploitation on the workplace, trafficking, domestic violence, natural disasters, need of medical cares" or who are the "authors of acts of special heroism".

- The asylum demand is suspended if the asylum seeker is on trial for crimes like theft, drug dealing, sexual violence, resistance to public officers, etc., even if the court hasn't found him/her guilty. The asylum permit or subsidiary protection can be revoked for those same crimes. But such practices are old ones, made possible by the Questure's institutional racism, which also hit work permit holders, and which the "decreto sicurezza" now strengthens and extends.

- Asylum seekers are excluded from the civil registry. In the last few years, many migrants fought and won against this exclusion; however, if the decree becomes a law this discrimination will affect all asylum seekers. Denying the identity card means that you won't have a "codice fiscale" (social security number), and that you won't be able to work. It means that you won't have access to medical assistance and municipal services, such as kindergartens.

- SPRAR will host only unaccompanied minors and the few who are entitled to international protection. This means that many migrants will be forced to live on the streets, with the consequence of more and more people becoming illegal migrants. The decree establishes an extension of the period of imprisonment (up to 180 days) in Centers for repatriation - Centri permanenti per il rimpatrio (CPR) - for those receiving a negative from the commission and for those losing their work permit.

- The waiting time for migrants who applied for citizenship will be extended up to 4 years, after they had already legally resided in Italy for 10 years. The cost of the application rises from 200 to 250 euros. Having a citizenship will no longer be a right, becoming instead an arbitrary concession; and the "prefetture" will only have more time to deny it.

- Marrying an Italian citizen will no longer guarantee the grant of the citizenship.

What can the decree actually do against migrants?

This decree is a threat to all migrants, but Salvini affirms something he won't be able to achieve, since finding enough money to build new detention centres and financing mass returns will be extremely difficult for him. Furthermore, it is impossible to repatriate people without bilateral agreements with the country of origins. Salvini, the minister of fear, lacks the power to expel migrants en masse. Salvini blames Europe, but Europe does not care about his words. Still, we must at the same time be aware that Europe will keep on not helping migrants, just as it has been doing in the last years.

What can migrants and asylum-seekers do?

First of all, they shouldn't think they will be able to save themselves by acting individually. It's simply not true that one could avoid denials and obtain the renewal of one's residence permit by working quietly or for free and by accepting everything. We can successfully respond to Salvini only if we get rid of our fears, and fight all together. We can react to the violence perpetrated by Salvini and by the present government only if we have the courage to affirm our freedom. Only together and united can we be strong enough to reject the racism and the exploitation this government is trying to impose.



Who are we? What can we do against the decree?

We are migrants, women and men, who have decided to fight against Salvini's politic of fear. We are men and women who have gone on strike and fought against the blackmail of the working residence permit. We are migrants who, in the last months - in Modena, in Bologna, and throughout the region of Emilia Romagna - have demonstrated and fought against the policy of denials, against the measures that have restricted asylum and humanitarian protection, against the blackmail of exploitation and poverty, against refoulements and forced returns. The minister of fear appears stronger than the former one, but in fact he is merely more aggressive, believing he can build his political career to our detriment. Indeed, he doesn't care about migrants at all: Salvini is dangerous because he means to frighten the Italians by telling them that we, the migrants, are their enemy, their major problem. Salvini threatens the migrants because he wants to make an exemplary punishment for anyone who doesn't accept his conditions. The only way to prevent this from happening is to organize ourselves and speak up: we can't let him divide us between refugees and asylum seekers, economic migrants and seasonal workers, illegal immigrants and regular ones. We have to show him that we migrants, men and women, are strong enough to refuse what this government's racism means to impose. To remain isolated and quiet is useless. A minister who threatens migrants on a daily basis, who blocks the ships and says he wants to expel everyone, might be scary. But if Salvini wants to divide us and scare us in order to build somebody's miserable security on the violence perpetrated against somebody else, we respond by claiming that together we are not scared, since we know that our freedom is the everybody's freedom. For these reasons we invite you all, migrants and Italians, to a public assembly to be held on the 3rd November at 3 pm at Circolo Berneri (Porta Santo Stefano).

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Sito: www.coordinamentomigranti.org; Il Coordinamento Migranti meets all Wednesday at 7.30 pm at **Granata**, in Via San Carlo 28/e a Bologna