

Europe, Rouse your Conscience and Prove de facto Solidarity Towards the Migrants Human Tragedy!

The human tragedy in the Mediterranean Sea continues and hour after hour assumes more than biblical proportions. "Mare Nostrum" has become a non-stop train taking people in despair to European shores. Italy, being only "guilty" because it is geographically close to Africa, is on the verge of collapse in taking in and housing the survivors of the crossing and burying those who arrive dead.

On the borders of Ventimiglia with French and of the Brenner with Austria the relevant governments of Paris and Vienna solve the problem sending the police to make sure that the migrants don't cross the border and kick back to the Italian territory those who manage in some way to enter their national territories, unconcerned with human beings sleeping at the train stations on the ground, like cows. In several cases these in despair and defenseless human beings are treated like animals.



The European Union, with most of the governments of its member states shift responsibility to sb. else without taking concrete decisions based on that “de facto solidarity”, that Robert Schuman put on the basis of the European integration in his historical declaration of 1950.

Regarding the two countries at the Italian borders I asked myself, where is the French of “Liberté, égalité, fraternité” and that in 1886 donated to the United States the Statue of Liberty recognizing among others what it did in welcoming people from different countries and for “Enlightening the World”? Where is the Austria where in 1997 the Council of the European Union emphasized its historical tradition of coexistence among diversity of ethnic groups decided to establish in Vienna the “European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia”, renamed “European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights” in 2007?

As an Italian citizen, I can't avoid to strongly condemn especially the position and attitude, that I consider shameful, of the governors of the Regions Lombardy Roberto Maroni and Veneto Luca Zaia and of the leader of their relevant party Matteo Salvini towards the migrants, even if it is to underline that they don't reflect the national government's position and the generous help of the majority of the Italian people. Also the recently elected governor of Liguria Giovanni Toti is joining in some way their position in dealing with the drama.

Due appreciation and thankfulness deserves the mayor of Lampedusa and Linosa Giuseppina Nicolini, who have become with her Sicilian local community an international symbol of concrete solidarity. Mrs. Nicolini will be special Guest together with Mrs. Maria Romana De Gasperi, the daughter of the Italian founding father of the European Union Alcide De Gasperi, at the 53rd international Congress of the “European Journalists Association-The Communication Network”(EJ) that will take place next October in Budapest.

Some governments try to justify refusal to let migrants entering their national territories and housing them stating that in their countries there are already migrants coming in; this is no acceptable justification because we can't compare the way migrants are trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea with migrants arriving at a national border on the ground.

However, appreciable is the generosity that are proving some local communities in other countries whose central governments have been reluctant in sharing housing.

Meaningful is for example to this regard the initiative of the municipality of the German city of Neuss-Rhine witch, with the support of all the local political and community has decided to welcome hundreds of migrants housing them in of about 18 and promoting a process for their integration. I thank the German EJ vice-president Rotger Kindermann for being instrumentally helpful in such a context.

It is really difficult to understand and justify the attitude of several EU governments to hum and haw in facing this tragedy.

How can we be indifferent thinking of a mother who, after managing to escape from war is taking her under age child to a rickety boat on the Libyan Mediterranean shore and telling him: in our country we can't help you to survive, it might be that you will drown and if you may be lucky you will arrive alive, but many we will never see each other!

We can of course all agree that to help these people would be better to find solutions so that they could have a job at home and a better life in their own countries. However, how can we wait that the European Union and the United Nations and other international organizations will decide to do something more trying to stop tyrannies in the regions where migrants try to escape from war and persecution? We can't wait and let further human beings drown in the Mediterranean, which has become in the last months "cemetery of innocents". Let's regain our sense of common humanity inherent in the best European traditions

It is to hope that the European Council meeting next June 25th will prove more responsibility than in the previous meetings and will stop closing eyes and ears, being also aware that if this tragic situation will not be properly managed now it will be likely that also their countries will be wrecked by future events.

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