

Migrimage presents: Massive Open Online Courses.

Capsule number 4: **WAITING DETENTION CENTRES**

RETENTION CENTRES FOR REPATRIATION

Podcast created by Luca Brindisino for the University of Salento

In 1990, Italy ratified the Schengen agreement, the Martelli Law was enacted and a grueling series of immigration reforms began, none of which would change the discriminatory approach of Italian migration policies.

1998, Turco-Napolitano Law. Before becoming the President of the Italian Republic for two terms in a row, Giorgio Napolitano was an exponent of the ancient Italian Communist Party, as was Livia Turco. While this law had provided for a process of progressive equalization of the rights of legal immigrants to those of an Italian citizen, on the other hand it established Temporary Residence Centers (CPT) for irregular immigrants. For the first time in Italy since the fall of fascism, the detention of people who are not accused of having violated any criminal law is legally foreseen. The CPTs are camps where immigrants who have to be expelled or asylum seekers not yet identified are concentrated. It is in effect a precarious condition of imprisonment waiting to be boarded or taken in handcuffs on a flight for repatriation. Within the CPTs asylum seekers, illegal immigrants (also called “clandestines”) and immigrants are mixed together, preparing a conceptual confusion that will be greatly exploited by xenophobic propaganda in the following years.

2002, Bossi-Fini Law. This law issued by the first historical leader of the Lega Nord party together with the last leader of the Italian Social Movement, a party arose from the ashes of fascism, is the hardest ever passed against migrants. Riding the fear of terrorism after September 11 2001, the Bossi-Fini Law introduces the rejection of boats into the sea even before landing, thus starting the tragedy of shipwrecks, daring escapes, drowning to escape the repulsive ships.

The crime of clandestinity is also introduced, a legal failure still not completely decriminalized today: in this way the “sans papiers” immigrant who did nothing wrong was first demonized by propaganda, then imprisoned at the behest of the Turco-Napolitano Law, and finally legally criminalized by the Bossi-Fini Law. With this law the CPTs are renamed CIE, Identification and

Expulsion Centers. A surgical definition to accurately express the purpose of the law: to discover the identity of the migrant and send him away.

2008, Ferrero-Amato Law. Giuliano Amato was a former socialist. Paolo Ferrero will be future secretary of the Communist Refoundation party. It seemed like a good opportunity to undo all the reforms that have defined a discriminatory and oppressive immigration policy for ten years. But it was not caught.

2017, Orlando-Minniti Law. Both Minniti and Orlando are ministers of the Democratic Party, both of whom belonged to the former Communist Party. Their law introduces the undemocratic idea of having special judges who analyze asylum requests (in contravention of Article 102 of the Italian Constitution), removing a degree of judgment from those cases. Minniti also makes an agreement with the Libyan authorities (certainly not famous for their respect for human rights) in order to intercept and bring back to Libya some departing boats, in exchange for several million euros in cash, vehicles and equipment. The CIEs are renamed CPR, Permanence Centers for Repatriation, in which the presence of the words "permanence" and "repatriation" appeared as a way to keep the foot in both right and left political camps. Orlando and Minniti exacerbated the penalties against migrants believing they are interpreting the will of the electorate. A will that turned out to be mystified by the media storytelling and so their party lost the elections.

Shouting the slogans "emergency" and "security", all these laws have produced huge injustices and disparities based simply on the fact that the state arbitrarily establishes a hierarchy of migrants: EU citizens against non-EU citizens, migrants with regular visas against illegal immigrants destined for expulsion procedures.

MUSICAL CREDITS

- SENSHO – GOOD TIMES; Music from Uppbeat: <https://uppbeat.io/t/sensho/good-times>;
License code: VVIVIXGQJOA0RKYL
- KISNOU – SANCTA MEA; Music from Uppbeat: <https://uppbeat.io/t/kisnou/sancta-mea>
License code: RJFFVBWGOK1BZ1WX