

*Gunshots in the center of Naples ...*

## **Let us unite against crime and racism to defend the lives of all**

Racists, criminals and violent people make no distinction between ethnic groups and cultures, languages and traditions when they decide to strike. In Naples, in broad daylight, near the central station of piazza Garibaldi, in a market where people go to buy and others to sell, on Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, three Senegalese street vendors and an Italian little girl were injured by gunshots. Only by chance there has not been a more serious tragedy.

Without distinction of origin or ethnicity, we all share the same fate, that of living in a city where one can be hurt or die for the simple fact of being in a place to work or to take a walk. This is how young people were killed in Forcella, Sanità and Ponticelli, the neighborhoods of an increasingly dangerous city. The Senegalese street vendors in this case chose to react to the harassment imposed on them by the Camorra; they chose not to pay the amount of money demanded by the mafia in its racketeering activities. That is why they were punished.

We are with them, with those who rebel against violence and crime. We are with those who struggle for a better life, just as we have always been alongside those who have raised their heads against racism and exploitation. Today we remember the courageous reaction to the killing of Ibrahim Diop in 2005 when thousands of people descended on the streets of Naples to say no to racism and violence, just as they did after the assassination Of Anna Durante in the neighborhood of Forcella, or during the initiatives of "Un popolo in cammino".

We feel close to those who, day after day, try to resist and assert hope. We call upon all people of good will to join and to ensure that this city and every place in which we live are free from crime and racism. We tell those who speculate on divisions to be silent. Let us try to give priority to unity and coexistence, so that our values will prevail over the ugliness that afflicts this city, beyond the proclamations of those who govern us.

**LET US ALL PARTICIPATE TO THE PUBLIC MEETING IN NAPOLI, ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 5 p.m., in PIAZZA CALENDÀ** (near Teatro Trianon Viviani, Forcella neighborhood).

**APPOINTMENT IN PIAZZA GARIBALDI – NEAR THE MONUMENT – AT 4 P.M.**

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