

Italian Unfairly Imprisoned in Central Valley Prison

By Luca Severi

Unfair. This is the first word you imagine when you think about Carlo Parlanti's trial. He is an Italian man, born in Montecatini, a small town in the middle of Italy, who for many years has lived in the United States and traveled all around the world because of his job as an information technology manager. One day, landing in Germany, as usual after one of his trips, he was arrested by Interpol according to a complaint against him for forcible rape, corporal injury against a co-habitant and false imprisonment by violence. This complaint was presented by Mrs Rebecca White, his American roommate. Jealousy? Revenge? Mental problems? Nobody really knows why she made these accusations, but what is sure now is that Carlo has already spent five years inside one of the most terrifying jails of the world, the Avenal State Prison in central California. Unless something changes, Carlo is going to spend another two years there.

Fake evidence, fake tests, fake reports and a conspiracy between lawyers of Parlanti and his judges are the things that caused his imprisonment, according to the documents published (see www.carloparlanti.com/CrimeScene.htm) by his girlfriend and legal representative Katia Anedda. This evidence is supported by experts in their fields, like the famous criminologist Marco Strano; Dr. Agnesina Pozzi, a Ph.D. in medicine and surgery and is listed in the Registry of Forensic Expert Advisors Affiliated with the Court of Lagonegro (PZ); and Dr. Matteo Pacini, a specialist in psychiatry at the University of Pisa. Why? Because of a long series of mistakes and omissions that step-by-step became too hard to fix for the court, it was really easier to imprison an innocent man.



“With those evidences, any honest judge or lawyer would be able to take Carlo out of there,” says Katia who since 2005 has led an effort to tell his story,



forcing Ventura County (see www.carloparlanti.com/Reports.htm) to revise the case. But the problems for Parlanti did not end with his imprisonment. The Avenal State Prison is the most overcrowded jailhouse in the state; it was designed for about 3,000 people but now has more than 7,000 people housed inside.

Parlanti has suffered both psychologically and physically under detention. Because of the poor medical conditions inside the jail, he contracted hepatitis C, which has further undermined his health. During phone calls from the prison, he told Anedda about violence, solitary confinement, and many other harassments he has suffered inside the prison. The more media attention Anedda got on Parlanti's case, the more some guards and the administration of the prison unloaded their pressure against him with any kind of excuse, giving him a month more of detention for "bad behavior."

During a recent trip to the United States, Anedda presented, in the name of Parlanti, complaints (see www.carloparlanti.com/Reports.htm) against all the people involved in the case during these years who never tried to discover the truth. But the answer was always the same, "You need a lawyer." After five different lawyers who only seemed to be interested in the money, the trust is gone and the money too. Dozens of people met in spontaneous committees in order to help Carlo. Even some politicians have decided to take part in order to put a spotlight on all the inconsistencies of the trial. Here (see www.carloparlanti.it/Interrogazioni.htm) you can find some names of the people who helped focus international public attention on the conditions of Parlanti's detention. But governments change, politicians change and the only sure thing is that Parlanti is still in jail.

For those who want to have more information about the case, follow its development or keep in touch with Carlo and Katia, go to www.thepeoplescarloparlanti.com/ where you can find all the official documents of the case, all the evidence and pictures, all the news from the prison and all the contact information to help or support. You will discover how easy it can be for anybody to fall inside a similar situation and that's why whoever can, must help. Help thousands of people like Carlo to not be prisoner of the silence.

[Back to Top](#)

California's Crisis of Higher Education

By Diane M. Blair

On Oct. 21, hundreds of students at Fresno State walked out of their classrooms and held a rally at the university's Peace Garden to protest the massive cuts to higher education and the California State University system. Students voiced their concerns with the unprecedented tuition increases, canceled classes, furloughed faculty and staff, and reduced enrollment opportunities. They then took their message to the sidewalks and streets of the campus calling out to students, faculty and staff to take a stand and join the walk out. Many did. By the time the march reached Shaw and Cedar avenues, all four street corners were overflowing with students speaking out on behalf of themselves and the future of higher education in the state.

"I hope that this walkout will increase community awareness that the budget cuts to the CSU are delaying our graduations, forcing would-be students out, and creating a precedent that 'it's ok' to cut education when really funding education gives back in more ways than one," explained Whitney Thompson, a women's studies major at Fresno State and a spokesperson for Students for Quality Education, the organization spearheading the event.