

Italian stories

Forgotten and without defense Let's save the prisoner Carlo

Locked inside a California prison for a rape he swears he did not commit, he cannot afford the appeal. Our authorities ignore him

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By RENATO FARINA

TRANSLATION BY CARLO PARLANTI

(...) the name of the gentleman above is Carlo Parlanti, 43 years old, from Montecatini; more exactly he is mister 011164. the number is the id printed on the prisoner pajamas. On the paperwork it is followed by the wording "Italian". We would like to tell here about the sad story of mr. 011164, ignored in our country from the authorities and from the national public opinion. He is guilty of not being a left wing terrorist (for Mrs Baraldini there has been a global mobilization, D'Alema moved and got her extradition toward Italy in exchange for a silent impunity for the aviators of the Cermis massacre; the seals keeper Oliviero Diliberto welcomed the woman at the airport between wings of red flags). We insist on believing that the minister Clemente Mastella is the good and sensitive person that we have known in the past, that loses his temper in front of injustice and does everything he can for the common citizen

THE PRECEDENT

Before telling the story of Parlanti, we want to remind the case of Ben Cipriani, our fellow countryman shipped as a zoo animal to America accused for multiple homicide without any resistance and any verification from our ministry.



The story

Who is he

His name is Carlo Parlanti, originally from Montecatini and is 43 years old.

The prisoner

Carlo Parlanti (center) between the Italian consul from San Francisco and the congressman from Piemonte Marco Zacchera of AN, that went to visit the Italian prisoner in the prison of Avenal in California. Sentenced to 9 years, then reduced to 7, the man is waiting for an appeal trial. Meanwhile, at night, he suffers from the other inmates the same violence of which he is accused

Even today we haven't received any answer from the seals keeper that is enjoying a healthy and deserved vacation. But this time we trust in a message of attention and above all, of action.

Parlanti, in 2002, is an information technology expert that works in California. Everybody thinks highly of him; he works very well. As it happens with these sailors of transcontinental electronics, he has a woman in every port. Therefore he has one also in America. He goes out with her and they date each other. The woman is divorced, separated from her husband in a tumultuous way: beating and bruising. She is really in love; she hopes to settle down. Parlanti tells her: I am leaving for Italy, goodbye, farewell.

She feels seduced and abandoned. He leaves, and has no intention to call her. After three weeks the woman goes to the police: "Mr Carlo Parlanti has raped me and has run away", she claims.

The police does not believe her; they notice incongruences – the same ones we all can see – they forward the report to the district attorney.

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He summons the Italian for a clarification. Just a formality, since the accuser is blind with hate and desire for revenge. Why did she wait for so long? After three weeks there is no possibility to have any medical certification... The judge summons Parlanti. He would have just to oppose his word to the accuser. But there is a problem: to what address can the summon be sent? Obviously the one in Los Angeles.

It is also obvious that Parlanti doesn't see or hear anything: he is on the other side of the galaxy. He travels around the world. He has another woman, although he remains a convinced single. In the mean while in Los Angeles the judge looks at his file, becomes upset for the lack of reply to his summon. To him this implies the will to flee. He issues an international arrest warrant against the "Italian citizen"

STOPPED AT THE AIRPORT
No arrest warrant gets to Italy, and Parlanti has successes everywhere. On and off from airplanes. He finally finished a consulting activity in Ireland and is expected in Milan. He has a stop over in Dusseldorf. At the customs control the check his passport. A verification on the computer and they arrest him. We are in 2004. his woman is in Milan and she doesn't now anything for days. She goes to the police, they search for him.

The accuse

He is accused of sexual violence by the woman that he dated in California in 2002, where he worked as an information technology expert.

Finally she learns of the arrest of her partner in Germany.

The Italian consul authorities do not know anything. They don't do anything at all. The district attorney in Milan verifies that the man does not have any record, no previous convictions, there is no reason to ask for his extradition: it's a business between Germany and USA. It's incredible but that's how it went. Eleven months in prison without a trial, without defense. Two days before the approval of a treaty that forces every country in the European union to protect every citizen from any member country against foreign countries, he is shipped to California in handcuffs. The trial is already tainted by prejudice. The accuser contradicts herself. Parlanti has a reasonable English, but he remains a foreigner, a non American that seduced one of their women, and the popular jury decides: guilty. Parlanti has refused to confess in exchange for just one year that he had already served. He wants to win to obtain a millions of dollars compensation.

All this is against him. The gave him nine years of prison. The case is now in appeal. But our man cannot afford it. During a technical revision, without even an attorney they reduced the sentence of seven years because the judges noticed a strange bitterness against him.

LETTER TO MASTELLA

In Italy the municipal council of Montecatini has elected to follow this story with their hearts. They wrote appeals. Even the congressman from piemonte Marco Zacchera (National Alliance) is doing something. Like a Don Chiscotte he runs to California (paying for it out of his own pocket). Accompanied by the counsol of San Francisco he has gone to the prison after a never ending burocracy, to visit Parlanti. He found an old man. 43 years old but with receeding gums.

He is going crazy. Every night he has to endure what you can well imagine. Zacchera has written a letter to Clemente Mastella
In it, he explains to the minister the horrible case, he asks him to make every possible pressure on the American government to let this man – that is innocent at the light of logic and common sense – have a fair trial and in the mean while humane treatment.

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TRANSLATION BY CARLO PARLANTI

Libero will not stop to follow these cases, not really the “bad justice cases” – they get readers bored and make them turn page – but the stories of men and women left alone in the hands of foreigners without protection from our authorities and respect for the image of our country.

In it, he explains to the minister the horrible case, he asks him to make every possible pressure on the American government to let this man – that is innocent at the light of logic and common sense – have a fair trial and in the mean while humane treatment.

nothing else for convenience, more then for altruism: we may be the next one. And it is not nice to end up in a cell with 400 creatures full of tattoos waiting for their turn behind your back.



California State Prison