

# TODAY FARMHANDS ON STRIKE!

Today, Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>, several farmhands are on strike against the fictitious regularization contained in the "Decreto Rilancio". The decree defines a regularization of only six months for a negligible slice of workers without regular documents.

This is a shabby decree that, even in the current health emergency situation, does not aim to protect the health of undocumented people, but to provide disposable workers, to be exploited for six months and then pushed back into "clandestinity". Such decree results from the usual logic for which there are profits to be protected (here those of the agricultural chain, from large landowners to large-scale distribution) and lives that can be sacrificed for the cause.

*Made in Italy* agriculture, especially in large farms in southern Italy, but not only, is known for the widespread use of "caporalato": people, usually non-EU workers, have to work with exhausting shifts (at least 12 hours) for negligible wages (less than 2 euros per hour!). The same people often live in nearby slums (such as those of San Ferdinando or Rosarno), segregated and without light and toilets.

Many farmhands are forced to accept these conditions because they do not have regular documents: the bosses, on their side, can dispose of a complex network of blackmail articulated by the Italian State itself.

The *first element* of this network is the border: to be able to enter in Italy, in the absence of "legal" ways, migrant people often face traumatizing, long and dangerous journeys. Afterwards, they can try to regularize their situation through the request of asylum or residence permit, which, however, often fails, forcing people to live and work without regular documents.

The *second element* is the constrain of the employment contract: according to the Bossi-Fini law there is a second possibility one can try to regularize his/her condition and it corresponds to binding one's own permit of stay with the employment contract; in this case if one lose the contract, he/her automatically lose the opportunity to live regularly in Italy as well.

The *third element* is the CPR: if people are checked by police while they are irregular, they can end up in one of the Italian opened CPR. During the six months of detention, they face constant violence and risk, every day, to be deported back to their country of origin. CPRs are the fundamental gear of the blackmail machine. This is demonstrated by the fact that the CPRs are still working, despite the ongoing health emergency and despite the fact that the deportation flights are currently blocked. They are only there to show that the blackmail of being deported is always real.

Coldiretti and the large scale distribution of vegetables, therefore, have a large number of people at their disposal which they can blackmail and which are fundamental for their profits.

Today, however, the farmhands are on strike, despite the blackmail, and despite being segregated and invisible to many others in Italy: "It is not the worker's arms what should be regularized, but the human beings", they say. They demand support for the strike by not buying vegetables today.

The struggles of the exploited laborers, like those of the detained people in the CPR, are struggles for the freedom of everyone. In fact, a world where the CPRs exist, where vegetables are produced and harvested with the blood of exploited people, and where people which work with subcontracting risk their lives to survive, it is a world where none is truly free.

**May the exploiters rot with their vegetables!  
Solidarity with the farm workers on strike. We don't buy exploitation!**

Assemblea no CPR no Frontiere, Trieste

*PS: The phenomena of "caporalato" is strongly articulated in Friuli Venezia Giulia as well, , not especially in agriculture but in the subcontracts working for large companies, such as Fincantieri. Such subcontracts thrive within this blackmail system, of which Gradisca's CPR is a key element.*