

Update

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY: CLEARING OUT IN STYLE

Niki's appeal in December 2009 to Lombardy's TAR (regional administrative court) has been rejected because retained of competence of Latium's TAR. Leaving Niki's family for a whole winter without a roof and heating was not, therefore, enough. The timing of administrative justice is considerably longer: if all goes well the verdict, whether positive or negative, will be returned only in December 2010. But now insult is added to injury, because even if Niki won his appeal to the TAR, he wouldn't have a place to go anymore.

Via Triboniano's camp, with 600 people the biggest legal nomad camp in Milan, will be cleared out by Milan's Municipality within summer 2010. Apparently it will be replaced by roads and structures for the expo 2015. The clearing out will put via Triboniano's families really on the spot, especially those with children and elderly, since the Municipality doesn't put forward any real housing alternative. Thus the 600 people in the camp are destined to enlarge the lines of the nomads living in the illegal camps, shanty towns with no guarantee over security and hygienic conditions. The recent incident of Enea, who died at 13 because of a fire in one of these shanty towns in the eastern outskirts of Milan, seems not to make a dent on the policies of savage clearing-outs pursued by the centre-right district council, in particular by deputy mayor Riccardo De Corato.

Even the pleas against clearing-outs made by Caritas and Casa della Carità remain unheard by the local council. In facts, these catholic voluntary associations in the last few years were delegated by the Municipality, that financed them with appropriations, to develop programs aimed at building "socialità e legalità" (social interaction and legality) among nomad communities. Mayor Letizia Moratti says to be determined "to persist with great strictness in the struggle against secrecy and to look for paths of integration", but in concrete terms goes ahead with the clearing-outs. And, on top of all that, the Municipality has not put into action necessary measures to find housing and jobs for the cleared out nomads. This way, the oncoming clearing-out operations will worsen the big hardships lived by Milan's nomad population, hardships that include the relationship difficulties with the rest of the local population.