

THE EXPERIENCE OF GIOIA TAURO

Stop undeclared work in agriculture

RAISE UP



Rocco Borgese

With the sindacato di strada we protect workers directly on the workplace with our mobile station. The goal is to bring protection to the workers on the workplace.

I deal with immigration as I live in the Piana di Gioia Tauro area: I was born and I've been living here and therefore inevitably I deal with immigration. It is a territory invaded by the mafia.

In the Piana di Gioia Tauro there is the shanty town that is the result of an old tent city.

The old tent city was initially more decentralized, near the municipality of Rosarno, currently instead it is located in San Ferdinando. There are approximately 2.500 migrant people on that

Rocco Borgese has been in Cgil since 2009 and currently he is the General Secretary of Flai Cgil in Gioia Tauro.

site that even following the migratory flows, over the years they have become more permanent. Once in the height of summer there were 150-200 people there now there are around 800.

In front of the shanty town there is another site, that of the Ministry of the Interior, which is accessed via a badge. Inside there are about 700 people. This tent City was born because it was thought that the old shanty town could fail. Next to the official tent city also a new one is born, always with the tent of the Ministry of the Interior, which welcomes about 280 people.

There is a lot of talk about shanty town and tent city, but on the whole area of the Piana di Gioia Tauro there are some sites in which we find other widespread centers of immigrants: in the Contrada Russo, in the municipality of Taurianova, where there are about 150-180 people or near San Fili in the territory of Melicucco where there are 60-70 people then there are scattered small collapsed barracks throughout the territory.

The phenomenon of immigration does not concern only the province of Reggio Calabria, the area of the Piana di Gioia Tauro, throughout the Tyrrhenian or Ionian area, throughout Calabria we find sites everywhere: we find them in Crotona, we find them in the Piana di Sibari, near Vibo Valentia, Calabria is dotted with centers that host immigrants. In the Piana di Gioia Tauro there are approximately 4,200 people spread over the whole area. We get up at 5:30 in the morning, we are a group of 5-6 people, we leave from the headquarters of Flai Cgil Gioia Tauro and we monitor the whole territory.

We see that there are some minibuses that can lure the boys, specifically African boys, and they take them to the workplace in a completely illicit manner. Even before this happens we intervene giving them also a toll free number: typing the toll-free number the Carabinieri, the Police and us as Flai will intervene.

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the sindaco di strada, in addition to protection and rights, we show their duties and we also bring material that can be useful for the work activity.

In these months we are distributing gloves or socks to put in boots to protect from the cold.

We signed a Memorandum, so sometimes we are called in the Prefecture, but the prefectural table is more oriented towards maintaining public order. Problems related to caporalato, exploitation, implementation

of the law 199, are very little discussed. It's the trade union to carry it forward and to say that the law 199 of 2016 could be a great help to end the exploitation immediately.

The element that determines or not the success of the initiative it is the fact that you see some interest in the workers. The moment you see the interest the initiative really succeeded, later they also come to visit you in the offices all over the territory and there they ask you



A toll-free number has been set up against the exploited labor: by typing the toll-free number the union and the police force intervene.

the most appropriate questions, they ask you for help.

You can collect the data directly from the attitude of the boys if they follow you it means you did a great job.

We need a lot of experience, expertise and even common sense because when you get on to the workplace if you do not have common sense the situation could degenerate.

We need to think a lot and use reasoning because if you act instinctively, instead of producing something positive, you risk ruining what good you've managed to build in 3 months, 4 months or 15 days.