

THE ESTATE LOBBY HAS NO INTEREST IN ANSWERING TO THE HOUSING PROBLEM.



Always, when media talks of public housing and peripheries, they associate its decay with the growth of micro-crime, of abusive occupation and of immigration.

Aler itself (the public housing's company of the municipality of Milan) affirms that the origin of the deterioration of the peripheral neighborhoods is in the exponential growth of this phenomena. Yet, there are at least three elements that should be quoted in order to go through this issue.

-The demand for public housing, in the last two years, is more than doubled.

- Today, the requests for accommodation are around 26.000: the 90% of it comes from people with less than 14.000 euros of annual income. This means an immediate housing emergency.

- The bad management, by the Municipality and by Aler, of public housing: in the last three years only 2000 assigned houses. A fact that makes us angry, after the confrontation with the number of empty houses: 2500 houses closed and declared

unusable. Finally, Milan is, since years, a laboratory of the bad ideas of the right's migratory policies.

Tiny accommodations, often overcrowded, with broken toilets or without shower, decayed buildings where there are examples of condos without custodians anymore, and where nobody comes to take away

the garbage. In this conditions Aler and the Milan's Municipality keeps on maintaining around 45000 houses and its inhabitants. Besides that, we're talking about neighborhoods without public transportation, where there are no places for aggregation and where instead of encouraging the volunteer work of associations and committees that operates in the neighborhood to improve its livability, the funds for those activities are constantly decreased. No one took the time to underline, during the mediatic storm on what happened in Via Padova, that this exactly what happened in that neighborhood, where the municipality even cutted social services and closed up the aid services for drug addicts. It's enough to tour the public housing neighborhoods in Milan to see that the condition in which Aler leaves its own buildings is shameful, and the inhabitants always more abandoned. Instead of pointing their fingers at the inhabitants of these neighborhoods, it's important to point the real responsables of this situation: Milan's Municipality, Aler, speculators and entrepreneurs. They fill the streets of our neighborhoods of police, asking for more safety: but we know that rights are the only safety that we want, and that the right to house is a necessary and indispensable one.

Because of this thousands of people are disposable to live in decay's situations, because it's impossible to live without a roof over the head: it's better to have a little, decayed and overcrowded house than to live on the streets. To those who accuses us to steal the house right to the ones who are waiting for accommodation we answer that in Milan the number of the empty houses is double than the request for it: it's not the occupiers that steals houses, but who closes it for years. They steal houses. We live houses, and we live our neighborhoods: to struggle together for the right to have an house means to bring solidarity in neighborhoods where otherwise is riskful the possibility of a war between pors. If that's the game that the League and the PDL are bringing forward, we're not playing it: rage is a worthy and natural consequence for those who lives in these conditions, but from it can have birth neighborhoods committees, that are nothing else but small communities of people that shares necessities and needs and that because of this brings forward struggles for everybody. >To close the doors to racism and speculations, to defend our houses and our neighborhoods, means to make them live.

A DAY WITHOUT US

The strike is one of the many demonstrations that can be done, it aims to stop production, thus damaging those whom earns from the exploitation of labor to demand new rights. Today is a dress rehearsal, but the most important thing is the idea that begins to grow, that will soon make us feel its consequences, and this idea is: "What would happen if migrants could cross their arms for a day?"

The idea was born in France (a laboratory for the claims and struggles of migrant communities), with the name of "La journée sans immigrés: 24h sans nous.": March 1st 2005 was the day of the start of validity of the CESEDA laws also called "code of foreigners" whose aim is "the selection" of immigrants based on strictly economic criteria", explains the promoters. A choice that calls another historical mobilization from below: the Great American Boycott on May 1, 2006, called "A Day Without immigrant" or "El Gran Paro estadounidense" of migrant communities. After having threatened this boycott several times, hundreds of thousands of Hispanics stopped their work at the Labor Day to protest the Sensenbrenner bill that would have criminalized illegal immigration and allowed tougher penalties for those who voluntarily came to America through illegal channels, while millions of migrants took to the streets across America with anger and determination, claiming rights and dignity against the barriers, racism and political disintegration of families. The protest was announced in April 2006 in Los Angeles and then organized by various associations and non-self-organized migrants, including Hermandad Mexicana, the local committees of the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles and was coordinated nationally by the May Day Movement for Worker & Immigrant Rights to shout "No Work, No School, No selling, No Buying." In a few days it spreaded quickly in a viral way through the network, and the media run by migrant communities. An event that stopped the American economy, despite the cries of the Bush administration and the attempts of some governments to block the strike.