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REMARCABLE APPEAL SENTENCE IN GENOA: THE RIGHTS OF BOLZANETO VICTIMS RECOGNIZED

The AED-EDL greets with satisfaction the sentence of the Appeal Court in Genoa recognizing the criminal responsibility of all 44 accused of violence and acts of torture committed against the detainees in the Bolzaneto barracks during the G8-summit in 2001 in Genoa.

Due to the prescription of the crimes, only 8 detainees have been condemned to detention and the accused have not suffered an effective punishment for Italy has not yet adopted a law to punish torture in violation of international agreements.

All the accused have been condemned to compensate the civil parties, amongst them also the parents of some victims, as well as according them important provisional sums. The ministry of Interior, of Defense and Justice have been condemned together with the accused.

The Court of Appeal, after a long and detailed inquiry work by the Prosecution, has applied existing laws without favoritism to the accused who are officers and members of the Forces of Order.

The role of the lawyers of the civil parties, who from July have denounced the violence and the torture has been fundamental: we have gathered and presented the complaints of the victims, backed the search for truth with dedication and tenacity aided by an efficient technical secretariat that has contributed fundamentally to the work. Lawyers from everywhere in Italy and Europe have worked together in an unprecedented manner.

This important result is the most evident demonstration of the fundamental role of democratic lawyers in sustaining the victims of State violence in the recognition of their rights.

We hope this sentence will have an admonishing effect to those members of the forces of order who are tempted to abuse the rules of democracy and the respect of fundamental human rights.

Our aim of recognizing the human right violations in Genoa during the G8 in 2001 is now directed to presenting an appeal in the European Court of Human Rights against Italy for failing to approve a law against torture.

Milan, 5/3/2010

AED – EDL (European Democratic Lawyers)

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