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on Human Rights Culture

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Italy. Report on police violence on Roma citizens and immigrants – September 2008/March 2009

It is the job of the police force to protect the vulnerable and the innocent whatever their ethnic group, religion, race and personal situation: this is the incontrovertible assumption, the foundation of the Constitution, international law, democracy and civility. In recent years, however, in Italy, the reports of abuse against Roma people and immigrants carried out by men in uniform are no longer unusual; excessive force is taking place daily in cities and towns among general indifference.

EveryOne Group acknowledges the enormous importance played by the police force in a democracy, and during its work of monitoring the conditions of the Roma and minorities on Italian territory has seen that the majority of people working in law enforcement operate at the service of the Constitution - not only in defence of the majority, but also in the interests of those socially at a disadvantage, according to the supreme ideal of “serving and protecting”. That is why civil society must help in defending the role of scrupulously honest officers and officials of law enforcement by reporting to the relevant institutions the acts of abuse being carried out (which are all the more hateful when marginalized and vulnerable individuals are involved). Acts that do not only harm the victims, but also the good name and reputation of the police forces and the country they operate in. It is essential, in fact, that the lowest-ranking officer and the highest-ranking official respect the solemn vow undertaken: “I swear loyalty to the Italian Republic, to abide by the Constitution and the laws and carry out with discipline and honour all the duties assigned to me for the defence of the homeland and the safeguarding of free institutions”.

This brief dossier does not set out to list the numerous cases of misconduct carried out by the Italian police forces on Roma citizens and immigrants, but to bring to the attention (for the benefit of the institutions) some of the most emblematic cases, showing how the victims of ill-treatment have very little chance of seeing their aggressors punished (when they decide to report them) precisely because the abuse takes place in isolated places without unbiased witnesses present. This fact protects the rogue elements inside the police forces and reveals the need to offer legal protection to those who courageously decide not to suffer in silence but to report the perpetrators of ill-treatment, violence and threats. These are just some of the cases of suspected violence monitored by EveryOne Group over the last few months.

On the morning of March 13th, Roberto Malini, Matteo Pegoraro and Dario Picciau, the leaders of EveryOne, together with the Euro MP, Giulietto Chiesa (PES), went to Regina Coeli prison in Rome in order to meet Alexandru Isztoika Loyos e Karol Racz, the two Romanian men who had until a few days before been suspected of the rape of a 14-year-old girl in Caffarella Park in Rome. The two men have now been cleared of the crime after DNA testing and a full inquiry. News reached EveryOne Group (from the men's lawyers, journalists and the politicians who went to the prison to visit Alexandru Isztoika Loyos e Karol Racz) that they had been beaten up - by both Romanian and Italian police officers - in an attempt to extract false confessions. In spite of the magistrates dropping charges against them for the rape, the two men were still being detained in prison when EveryOne visited them: Loyos because he had slandered the Romanian police, claiming to have been beaten up and tortured, Racz because investigators still considered him implicated in another case of rape, in the Primavalle area - even if DNA testing had already ruled out his involvement. Italian politicians and media are unaware of the gravity of what happened to the two men being held in prison. The police deny using violence on the men, but the confession given by young Isztoika Loyos, and later withdrawn, corresponds perfectly with the first statement given to investigators by the victim's boyfriend, in which he states that he and the girl were sitting on a park bench. In his following statements the park bench disappears and the boy says that when the rapists approached them he and the girl were lying on the grass. The investigators were the only ones who knew about the park bench and Isztoika Loyos could only have heard about it from them. "They beat me until I confessed to everything they accused me of", says "il biondino", "and when they showed me Racz's photo, they hit me until I admitted he was my accomplice".

On the morning of the visit the prison guards and governor of Regina Coeli prison kept Giulietto Chiesa, the Euro MP, and the leaders of EveryOne waiting almost two hours, offering formal and bureaucratic excuses for denying the delegation access after they requested to see the two inmates. And this in spite of article 67 of law 354/75 - which regulates the prison regime - stating that a Member of Parliament and his/her collaborators may visit inmates in prison without any warning. The Euro MP and EveryOne leaders protested and held a press conference in front of the prison entrance. The protest caused great embarrassment to the prison administration, so much so that Anna Pizzi, councillor to the Lazio Region was immediately granted permission to meet Karol Racz, (without permission being extended to EveryOne and the Hon. Chiesa). Free to speak, Racz also claimed he had been beaten up by uniformed officers: "The Romanian

police gave me a sound beating, even if the doctors at the medical check-up said there were no signs of violence on my body. I am wondering if the ear problem I am receiving treatment for right now was caused by the blows". Some bruises are clearly visible on Racz's trunk. He has also suffered some damage to his ear which causes frequent bleeding. The violence reported by Racz and Isztoika Loyos represents one of a number of violations of human rights suffered by Roma citizens and immigrants. How can we believe in the honesty and lawfulness of the Roman investigators after all that has happened? How can we continue to believe that they will look for the real culprits of the most hateful crimes instead of "constructing" culprits that will satisfy the xenophobic and racist "hunger" that exists in Italy today?

"Where we are concerned" says EveryOne, "it is difficult to single out a single Romanian Roma in Italy who has not received at least one "going over" from the Italian polices or Romanian police officers working in Italy. It is no coincidence that the European Roma Right Centre's report for 2008

<http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=2970>)

reports episodes of police brutality in Italy being carried out towards people of the Roma ethnic group, while the principal human rights organizations and the American Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eur/119100.htm>)

have reported cases of violence against the Roma people by the Romanian police force. A young Romanian boy recently told EveryOne: "In Italy two or three officers beat us up after making sure there are no witnesses or video cameras about, while in Romania police officers, their faces covered, come up to us and beat us without even identifying themselves". It is a serious situation involving not just a few cases, it has become standard practice. That is why it has become necessary for EU institutions to create an international investigation commission which collects testimonies of cases of repeated violence, violence that is often accompanied by racist insults and threats that facilitate the institutional project for ethnic cleanings which has been underway for several months, a situation reported by all the human rights associations and recently strongly condemned by the United Nations.

Cases that have appeared in the press - from **Stelian Covaciu**

http://www.everyonegroup.com/it/EveryOne/MainPage/Entries/2008/6/29_Milano%2C_Stelian_Covaciu%2C_pestato_ieri_sera_dai_poliziotti_e_minacciato_di_tacere.html

http://www.everyonegroup.com/it/EveryOne/MainPage/Entries/2008/6/22_Uomini_e_topi_in_divisa.html

http://www.everyonegroup.com/it/EveryOne/MainPage/Entries/2008/5/26_Cara_Europa_Appello_di_Rebecca_Covaciu_contro_la_persecuzione_dei_Rom_in_Italia.html

to **Anton Caldarar**

http://www.everyonegroup.com/everyone/Anton_Caldarar.html,

Giorgio Campos and his family

<http://viceversa.megablog.it/item/i-carabinieri-picchiano-e-torturano-un-gruppo-di-Rom>

and **Lucian Elwis Andricsak**

<http://espresso.repubblica.it/dettaglio-local//2035775>

are but the tip of a huge iceberg. Xenophobic and racist laws and rulings have meant that not only Roma citizens, but also poor immigrants and coloured people have been subjected to ill-treatment from the various police forces. There are numerous cases taking place both in large cities and in small towns:

http://www.stefanomencherini.org/ita/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17&Itemid=31

Turin

http://www.informazione.info/torino_scontri_e_blocchi_per_il_presidio_dei_rifugiati

<http://www.infoaut.org/torino/articolo/polizia-carica-rifugiati-di-cso-peschierache-rispondono/>

<http://napoli.indymedia.org/node/4936>

Massa

<http://www.apple.com/www.repubblica.it/2009/01/sezioni/cronaca/immigrati-3/protestamassa/protesta-massa.html>

Milan

http://www.informazione.info/milano_cronaca_di_un_pestaggio_nel_cpt

Rome

http://www.osservatorioantigone.it/index2.php?option=com_content&do_pdf=1&id=1886

As well as the phenomenon of abuse being carried out against the Roma, we must also stigmatize the violence and violation of human rights being committed by members of the police towards “unwelcome” refugees in general - particularly inside prisons or in identification and reception centres. These again are not isolated cases, unfortunately, but a disturbing everyday event:

<http://www.autistici.org/macerie/?s=pesta>

<http://www.autistici.org/macerie/?s=polizia>

<http://www.ossrvatoriorepressione.org/2009/02/carceri-torino-un-medico-denuncia.html>

When human rights activists report episodes of violence or abuse of power being perpetrated by rogue officers to local or national institutions, a worrying phenomenon nearly always takes place. Instead of collecting precise reports of the episodes in order to investigate and identify those responsible for the abuse, the superiors shut up like a clam, denying without question that such disgraceful acts could have taken place. They assume a threatening tone with the associations and threaten to report them for slander, libel and defamation etc. This attitude, which the leaders of EveryOne themselves have witnessed on several occasions, prevents the rogue officers being isolated and their behaviour discouraged. On the contrary, it makes them feel part of an agency in which they are allowed to act above the law using violence, threats and acts of gratuitous coercion. According to the activists, after reporting misconduct by uniformed police officers towards racial

minorities, it is not rare for the activists themselves to be followed by plain clothes policemen or summoned to police stations or headquarters and “advised” not to take any further action.

In Florence,

on Monday October 20th, 2008, according to about forty Romanian Roma, (the inhabitants of a squatter camp in Sesto Fiorentino, near Florence) some police officers burst into the camp at about 10 p.m. and set fire to a makeshift shelter.

On the evening of 22th October, Matteo Pegoraro from EveryOne and Stefania Micol, an activist from the Florentine association Aurora ONLUS, went to the camp where about sixty people lived after receiving a phone call from some Roma families reporting a serious case of police misconduct. According to the families, at about 10 p.m. on October 20th a group of officers from Florence Police Headquarters entered the camp to carry out some checks. The 35 Romanian Roma recognised them from their uniforms and their vehicles, one jeep and one patrol car - though witnesses were unable to see the number plate in the dark. At the sight of the two cars entering the camp most of the frightened Roma abandoned their makeshift huts. Only one boy stayed behind, watching the scene in silence from his hut. According to witnesses, the jeep entered the camp from the back entrance, through a padlocked gate located in Via San Piero a Quaracchi, and came to a halt halfway inside the camp. The patrol car remained outside the camp on the raised area between the camp and the railway with its headlights on and with the officers still inside the car. Again according to witness accounts, three well-built uniformed officers got out the jeep, watched by more than 35 Roma hidden nearby, and started searching inside the recently-abandoned huts. With the help of torches they upturned the few pieces of furniture (a few planks used as a bed or for shelving) and the personal belongings of the occupants. One boy says one of the officers confiscated his new mp3 player which had been legally bought in a store (he shows the activists the receipt) explaining that the shopkeeper knows him well and that he is willing to testify that the object was not stolen but regularly paid for. Another occupant from the camp says an officer took the new battery from his mobile phone and the power generator unit used in his hut (which he then loaded onto the jeep). A woman tells how she saw one of the three officers take her husband’s jacket and remove his passport and a ten-euro note. After checking the passport the officer put it back in the man’s jacket pocket, but kept back the 10 euros for himself. The story continues with a chilling scene that took place between 10:45 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. One of the three policemen lit up a

cigarette. He went inside the hut with the lighter in his hand (the hut nearest to the Via del Cantone pedestrian entrance where a 14-year-old boy usually lives) and remained inside for some minutes. When the officer emerged smoke was seen coming from the hut. It is a few minutes after 11 p.m. when the three officers quickly get back into the jeep, reverse the vehicle and drive out of the camp. According to witnesses the patrol car followed the jeep and both the vehicles drove away. Meanwhile something inside the hut had caught fire. The Roma, who had been hiding nearby, ran towards the hut. The boy entered the hut and found the mattress and some blankets and clothes in flames. He called to the other people in the camp to help him and together they brought cans of water to put out the fire. The men dragged the mattress and the burnt blankets outside the hut and lay them on the grass. On Wednesday October 22nd, when the activists of EveryOne Group visited the camp, the burnt-out remains were still visible.

Italy lacks a control body for monitoring episodes of police misconduct and the team spirit of police officers covers any violation (also because in 90% of the cases the victim has no witnesses in the offices of police stations, while the aggressors work in pairs and have the credibility of being public officials). It is important to protect those who find the courage and determination to report such cowardly ill-treatment, ill-treatment that goes unpunished; acts of brutality that are turning many members of the police forces into groups of unscrupulous bullies, often inebriated by violence and blood. Last year during a visit to the Casilino 900 camp in Rome, a police officer who was present in the camp confided in one of EveryOne's activists: "I chose this profession because from an early age I wanted to serve an ideal of justice. But my colleagues' behaviour fills me with horror. We do not wear the uniform to beat up these poor wretches but to defend public order. If I had the opportunity, I would change my job."

On March 8th, 2009 in **Pesaro**, Mr **Codrean Ciuraru**, a 33-year-old Romanian Roma, after being the victim of numerous episodes of violence, plucked up the courage to report the officers who had ill-treated him. "It's not the first time the police have beaten me up, but I have had enough now, and I have decided to report what they did to me".

Codrean is a member of the Roma community that was living in the regional capital. The community recently testified to the European Commission about the conditions of segregation and persecution the Roma people in Italy live in. Codrean has also appeared on the Italian TV programme *Mattino 5*, where he told the Mediaset journalist Mimmo Lombezzi about several

episodes of racial hatred he had been subjected to. Codrean suffers from serious liver and pancreas problems. He begs for a living because the authorities in Pesaro, where he lives without a shelter or social assistance, failed to keep the official promise they made to organize an integration programme (with medical assistance for the sick and schooling for the children). Instead of offering them solidarity, according to EU laws, the Roma of Pesaro were kicked out of the abandoned factory they had taken refuge in.

On the afternoon of March 6th, Codrean was victim of yet another episode of violence. He was in Campobasso with some relatives and fellow Romanians, sitting at the station café. They were drinking coffee when a police patrol car stopped nearby. Three uniformed policeman approached the table and asked to see some ID.

While this was happening, Toma, an elderly Roma, and Codrean's friend, stood up and politely asked the officers if he could go to the nearby tobacconist's to buy some cigarettes. Toma suffers from a serious heart problem and various illnesses brought on by a life of hardship. According to Toma's son Ionut, the policeman rudely gave him a push, forcing him to sit down again. Toma asked the officer why he was treating him so roughly. The policeman told him he could only get up after he had checked the other man's papers. Codrean, however, had left his papers back in Pesaro, where he has been living for the last year in an abandoned building. By this time Toma is now struggling to catch his breath and he asks if he can stand up, but the officer pushes him down once again. Codrean asks the policeman not to be so rough. When Toma is pushed for the second time, the barman, indignant to see such rough manners, comes to his defence and asks the officers to be more civil. Having forgotten his papers, the officers order Codrean to get into the car, pushing and pulling at him. It is about three-thirty, four o'clock by this time. Codrean too is a sick man, he suffers from a serious pancreas problem, alcoholism and breathing difficulties. He is only 33 years old but he has the body of a weak old man. He is terrified because he has been subjected to violence from the police force in the past. He knows if he is compliant and condescending they might not touch him.

Codrean's cousin, Ionut Ciuraru, receives a phone call from his father Toma telling him what has happened. Ionut calls Roberto Malini from EveryOne who has been following the Roma community in Pesaro for some time. Malini contacts the Campobasso police headquarters at about 6 p.m. or 6:30. He tells them Mr Codrean Ciurari is a very sick man receiving treatment at the San

Salvatore Hospital in Pesaro and helped by EveryOne Group. They pass the call to the patrol cars office. They are surprised by the call and disturbed by the fact that Malini is the co-president of an international human rights organization. They tell him that Codrean is only at police HQ for identification and that he will shortly be released. Malini tells them he will fax a copy of Coldrean's ID to them and a quarter of an hour later the papers were at the Questura. Coldrean has still not been released and Malini calls police HQ once again. He is put through to the patrol cars and a woman's voice tells him: "He's already left here, there's no problem," she says bluntly and slams the phone down. Malini calls back and once again they put him through to the patrol cars. This time a man answers the call and reassures Malini they were only checking Coldrean's papers. "We treated him with kid gloves and seeing he has health problems", the officer said with sugary politeness, "we took him to the hospital for a check-up. His relatives can go and pick him up whenever they want."

The next morning a young Roma woman (who was in Cambobasso on the afternoon these events took place) stopped Malini in the centre of Pesaro and told him what had happened: "Two policemen grabbed hold of Coldrean, and before they pushed him into the car, one of them punched him twice". Ionut, Codrean's cousin, confirmed that the man had been taken to Campobasso prison. Malini then called the Public Prosecutor's Office and the courts to explain what had happened.

Thanks to the collaboration of some officials there, he managed to speak to Dottoressa Venditti, the magistrate who was shortly to preside at Codrean's trial (at 12 p.m. on March 7th). Malini explained the situation to the magistrate and the information he had received from several witnesses. Dottoressa Venditti promised she would verify the facts and listen carefully to what Codrean had to say. The two police officers, after Malini's first phone call, had taken steps to arrest Codrean (in their report, it says the man was arrested at 20:30, when according to what Malini had been told, he should have already been at Campobasso hospital) after he had been accused of using violent behaviour towards them and causing them personal injury. According to their version of the facts, Codrean attacked them "pushing them back against "stationary obstacles". Codrean, however, has the strength of a child, he has problems with breathing and balance and would certainly not be able to pose a threat to two strong police officers. On the morning of Sunday March 8th, activists from EveryOne accompanied Codrean to Pesaro's San Salvatore Hospital where they found widespread bruising to his face and trunk. The magistrate later released Codrean instead of

sending him to jail: showing a mark of trust. The trial against him will take place on May 21st, 2009. Codrean refused to plea bargain and said with pride: “No, I didn’t do anything wrong, I was beaten up and I want to go before the judge and tell the truth. On March 8th, accompanied by activists from EveryOne, Codrean Ciuraru went to the Carabinieri barracks in Pesaro to report the police officers from Cambobasso. The Carabinieri tried to dissuade him from going ahead with his complaint, considering it detrimental to the relationship between the Carabinieri, the Roma in Pesaro and the human rights activists. However, after they had seen how determined Mr Ciuraru was to go ahead with his decision, they took his statement. On March 14th, 2009, a Carabinieri patrol car came to the derelict house where Codrean and other Roma people live. Codrean was not present at the time but when he heard about the visit, he panicked and broke down and cried.

That same day, as Codrean himself told the activists from EveryOne, two Italians in civilian clothing shouted racist insults at him and yelled that he would be taught a lesson for reporting the policemen. After this episode, Mr Ciuraru, now terrified, took shelter for the night with a Roma friend from the former Yugoslavia. He then left the city of Pesaro after asking all the people who knew about his situation to help him out with a bit of money. His whereabouts are unknown at the present, but he has promised Malini he will appear before the magistrate in Campobasso to defend himself against the policemen’s accusations. Since the beating, Codrean has suffered two blackouts, with vomiting and symptoms similar to epileptic fits. On the evening of March 8th he was admitted to San Salvatore Hospital as a suspected Code Red (life-threatening trauma). Since the beating, Codrean has lived in a permanent state of shock, he has started drinking again and suffers panic attacks at the sight of officers of the police forces.

EveryOne Group, in its difficult campaign in defence of the Roma people in Italy and throughout the EU, considers the phenomenon of police brutality towards Roma citizens, immigrants and socially marginalized people extremely serious. “The number of reports of violence being perpetrated in Italy by uniformed policemen, particularly towards Roma citizens, is gradually rising”, say Roberto Malini, Matteo Pegoraro and Dario Picciau, the co-presidents of EveryOne Group. “It represents a serious social problem, making the condition of ethnic minorities and the homeless all over Italy even more dramatic. Important newspapers like USA Today and El Pais have reported episodes of abuse of power and violence taking place in Italy. The rough handling by uniformed officers of the young Romanian Roma girl (winner of the Unicef prize for art) aroused particular indignation. There are many episodes taking place all over Italy. Unfortunately the

victims nearly always report inhumane, humiliating and brutal treatment, beatings that take place behind closed doors in police stations and they are afraid to report it for fear of reprisal or the lack of any assurance of justice before the law. Often, according to witnesses, after being treated roughly, police officers report their victim for insulting and/or resisting a public officer. There are countless cases in Italy, in fact, of people from the Roma ethnic group being accused by police officers of such offences. The act of plea bargaining, unfortunately, is the cause of many unjust sentences being issued, and the practice of “accelerated trials” means the accused is sure to be convicted. “What magistrate in today’s xenophobic Italy would believe a Roma’s word against that of three police officers? Even more so if spoken (due to discrimination and persecution) by someone dirty, dressed in rags and homeless. Nico Grancea, the Romanian Roma activist, points out that “in Italy there is no efficient authority for monitoring the abuse being carried out by the police forces, while a misinterpreted team spirit risks putting the violent elements in a position of protection beyond the law. It has become necessary to awaken both the Italian and EU institutions to this violation of human rights, which is hard for civil society to prevent and wipe out. Otherwise, there will be no hope for my people to obtain justice, respect and the rights reserved for other peoples. The police and legal persecution means that today 90% of Roma citizens present in Italy have a police record and convictions for crimes that are generally attributed to them without reason. This is easy to verify in police and court archives”.

EveryOne Group is at present holding talks with some EU institutions and with the United Nations with the aim of creating an agency that will protect ethnic minorities, and the Roma in particular (who are the social category most exposed to this type of abuse). The large percentage of Roma in Italian prisons and the countless proceedings against these discriminated-against citizens are a product of this system that must be changed. The poverty and social exclusion of the Roma people (who very often are not in possession of valid documents, for no fault of their own) makes the work of the court lawyers they are assigned extremely difficult. It is necessary for members of the Roma ethnic group to have a point of reference, professionals with vast experience and the necessary skills for defending them in cases of abuse. On March 19th, 2009 EveryOne Group received some shocking news. After the Roma families who were living in the abandoned factory in Via Fermo in Pesaro were issued a notification by the police, and the attempt by 20 police officers to take the Roma children from their mothers – an episode that led to a dramatic exodus – two young expectant women miscarried. The EveryOne activists went to talk to their husbands, two brothers

who confirmed the terrible news. “The police kept us shut up in the factory and would not allow us to talk to the activists. The mothers were terrified, our wives fell faint and slumped to the ground. When the police turned their backs, the women fled at breakneck speed and we lost sight of them. That night they slept out in the cold, then they fled to Romania, but the babies they were carrying didn’t make it, and doctors found them dead”. It is a tragedy that will mark the Roma community of Pesaro forever. EveryOne intends to compile a dossier on this episode. It is important that this loss was not in vain, that we find a way to protect the Roma people from the police forces, which for the Roma in Italy have become synonymous of injustice and persecution.

Again on March 19th, a 40-year-old Algerian died in the Ponte Galeria Centre for Identification and Expulsion in Rome. According to his fellow inmates he was beaten to death by the guards

(<http://www.carta.org/campagne/migranti/cpt/16915>),

while the director of the centre states he died after suffering a heart attack. What is certain is that in these reception centres more and more episodes of misconduct and beatings by members of the police forces are being reported all the time.

It is intolerable that in a country that claims to be civil and democratic - a country that is aware of the centuries of slavery and violence the European Roma have been subjected to, and the persecution they and other racial and ethnic minorities suffered during the Holocaust - the institutions and the police authorities are treating the “Roma emergency” as a security problem. The Roma in Italy are a minority that has been persecuted for many years, a vulnerable ethnic group that has been denied its basic rights, in violation of the Constitution, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The ruthless “Roma hunt” that has characterized recent years is a disgrace to the European Union, which claims to consider human rights the core of its policies. It has reduced an entire people to conditions of tragic hardship, poor health, without any assistance or integration programmes, an average life span of less than 40 and a dramatic infant mortality. The segregation of the Roma, the criminalization by the press, racist propaganda from politicians, “opinion-makers” and the authorities are instead the expression of a barbaric and perverse culture, which lies at the root of ethnic cleansing and countless crimes against humanity.

The actions of the Italian authorities (often in agreement with the Romanian ones) which **have reduced the number of Roma citizens from about 160,000 to about 50,000 individuals** are the result of a project based on racial laws and legalized violence that takes us back to 1938, to Germany, and to the Samudaripen.

(<http://ospitiweb.indire.it/~copc0001/ebrasmo/zingari.htm>).

The European Union is just as responsible for this situation. It has watched the persecution and the new suffering of the Roma people with cold indifference interspersed by declarations and resolutions that have no political weight, and failing to punish or condemn the governments that legitimize such treatment of European citizens - thus opening the door to even more cruel and inhuman crimes.

Finally, the "Razzismi Quotidiani" report, published on January 29th, 2009, after an investigation carried out by NAGA and Cospe (Co-operation for the Development of Emerging Countries)

(<http://www.unimondo.org/Notizie/Italia-nei-razzismiquotidiani-coinvolte-anche-le-Forze-dell-ordine>)

reveals that one foreigner in five has been ill-treated by the police force and that only 3% of immigrants would turn to the police or magistrates if they were to find themselves in difficulty. These are incredible figures which show the terror and lack of trust immigrants have in the Italian institutions. In no other country in the civilized world will we find figures similar to these.

As for people of the Roma ethnic group, EveryOne has estimated that at least seven out of ten people have been subjected to abuse on the part of the police, while a percentage inferior to 1% places any trust in the Italian authorities.

EveryOne Group

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