

Italy's War on Crime by Paolo Serri

A new left-terror wave?

French "political asylum" for terrorists and Italian social disintegration provide the basis for a new upsurge.

On Tuesday June 12, Presiding Judge Severino Santiapichi of the Rome Supreme Court read the sentences for the 71 suspected terrorists of the "Autonomia" group before a crowded courtroom, concluding a trial that had lasted 16 months: 57 of the accused were found guilty of such crimes as "creation of and membership in an armed gang, complicity in murders and attempted murders and kidnapping, theft and illegal possession of weapons and explosives," and sentenced cumulatively to 510 years in jail.

Among the best known members of this "7th of April" group—the name comes from April 7, 1979, when the Padua Judge Pietro Calogero made public his revolutionary investigation with a series of arrest warrants—were: Prof. Toni Negri (sentenced to 30 years), the physicist Gianfranco Pancino (25 years), Oreste Scalzone (20 years), Prof. Luigi Ferrari Bravo (14 years), Emilio Vesce (14 years).

These and other names of sentenced terrorists are known to long-term EIR readers since the mid-1970s when LaRouche collaborators in Italy first exposed Negri's *Potere Operaio* and *Autonomia* groups as the coven of terrorists Judge Santiapichi's sentence found them to be. The sentence confirms and pays homage to the LaRouche method in fighting terrorism and the courage and persistence of Judge Calogero in partially pursuing it.

This said, there is not much more to rejoice about in the trial.

Thanks to complicity in some Ital-

ian and French institutions, several of these convicted criminals, though wanted by Italian justice, walk the streets of Paris undisturbed as "political refugees": Negri, Scalzone, Pancino, and others.

Moreover, given the current collapse of the Italian institutions and the government of Bettino Craxi, undermined by scandals and mafia-type infighting among its coalition partners, there is an immediate danger of a resurfacing of terrorism from the same networks that Judge Santiapichi hoped to have wiped out. This was heightened by the sudden death of Communist Party general secretary Enrico Berlinguer, which could open the way for further radicalization of the party in unison with the KGB.

In the last weeks, several investigating judges have warned against the danger of a new terror wave and exposed the French connection protecting Italian and allied terrorists. The top left-terrorism sleuth in the Turin area, Judge Alberto Berardi, declared that "the theory that the armed party may rise again is not at all abstract. And I think I have the proof of this looming danger. . . . We can calmly state that a potential reorganization of terrorism in Italy could be helped precisely by the refuge provided by France to so many fugitives."

"Some hundred people," added the Genoa Judge Luigi Carli, are currently in France, "with links with the [Spanish] ETA, Grapo, [the German] RAF and [the French] Action Directe." "Statistical data in our possession," concluded Judge Berardi, "in-

dicate a terrorist numerical potentiality close to that of 1976," the year before the major terror wave in Italy in the summer of 1977.

These judges have also been concerned by the disappearance in the last weeks of some 20 individuals in the Turin region, at least two of whom were traced en route to France. The judges' concern originates with the fact that these people, while on parole or awaiting trials, did not have to fear sudden arrest warrants. From *Autonomia's* historical stronghold, Padua, reports indicate the reactivation of the organization.

And now, the Rome Court sentence, ironically, could be used as a "pretext" by the terrorist network for accelerating its plans. Since the April 7, 1984 anniversary of the first arrest wave, a series of public activities has been kicked off in Paris, with wanted Italian terrorists and French left intellectuals and lawyers hand in hand protesting the "inhuman" "political" repression in Italy. *Liberation*, the daily founded by Jean-Paul Sartre and now owned by powerful financier Jean Riboud of the Schlumberger interest group, has been the main channel for this campaign; it employs some of these wanted terrorists as "journalists"!

What can unite the technocrat Jean Riboud and the terrorist leader Toni Negri? A different but parallel dream of a post-industrial world, coherent with the Soviets' effort to destabilize the West—the same Soviets who trained Negri in Moscow in the 1960s under their chief ideologue, Suslov. Regis Debray, special adviser to President Mitterrand, has played a key role in blocking any extradition demand for the terrorists coming from Italy.

Under the guise of France's historic "right to asylum," the French government is shamelessly protecting these terrorists.