



Servizio Civile Internazionale

Membro consultivo dell'UNESCO e del Consiglio d'Europa

Segreteria Nazionale: via del Laterano 28, 00184 ROMA - Tel. 7005367/7005994 c/c postale 79042008 - C.F. 97004220584

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Service Civil International (SCI), identifies with and support the struggle of SWAPO and works in solidarity with it. The solidarity work of SCI aims at:

- # raising public consciousness about the illegal occupation of Namibia through political education work in western countries.
- # Mobilizing political, moral and practical support for SWAPO and the Namibian refugees.

SCI's work in solidarity with SWAPO must be considered as a part of the world' struggle against apartheid and racism.

In the last few years many SCI branches in Europe and Asia have cooperated with SWAPO, organizing solidarity activities, like workcamps, information stands, etc. In 1988 SCI on international level, through its commission SEED (Solidarity, Exchange and Education for Development) launched an international solidarity campaign with SWAPO ("Namibia. Solidarity for Change"). The campaign involved all branches of SCI in Europe and also some kind of solidarity activity took place in other continents. The campaign wanted to highlight the cooperation of western countries (in Europe and the USA) with South Africa: this cooperation is the only reason why the apartheid system can still be a reality. The campaign was composed of several activities: the most important was a tour through several European countries with a German military truck, lately converted into an ambulance. The Truck (a UNIMOG from Daimler-Benz) is one which is actually exported to South Africa and used by the South African Army in repressive action in Namibia.

The campaign was a very succesful event, involving thousands of people in the stretts

At the present time the diplomatic situation had a big change: after a military defeat suffered in Angola by the South African Army, the government of Pretoria accepted to sign a treaty with the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba: the treaty includes the implementation of UN resolution 435/78 for immediate independance of Namibia and free elections under the supervision of the United Nations.

However SWAPO belives that this treaty does not mean immediate independance: South Africa tries to boycott the process towards independance in many ways and solidarity work is very important in order to help SWAPO to achieve a clear success against the boycott of racist forces. Solidarity actions are important to realize the prospect of a true self-determination of the Namibian people.

SCI-Italy continues its solidarity action with SWAPO by organizing a new campaign supporting the liberation movement of Namibia. The campaign will include various activities and, among them, the following ones:

- # Organization of a solidarity and information tour through 12 Italian cities in order to get support from the people
- # organization of solidarity workcamps
- # Publishing of a quarterly magazine on Namibia. The magazine will contain good information about the situation there and opinions from SWAPO. The magazine will be sent to at least 3.000 addresses, among them newspapers and solidarity organizations. The aim is to give good quality (and first hand) information to the Italian public, provided that information on Namibia are scarce, inadequate and often false.

SCI-Italy, together with other European SCI Branches, supports a project proposed by the SWAPO Youth League. It is a project to be realized once Namibia is indipendent and it consists in the building up of a training center near Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. The centre will train about 500 young Namibians per year and it will be a great contribution for the Namibian People: in fact, after independnce the most skilled people living in Namibia (all white people) will probably leave the country. And Namibia will have a need of training new skilled people. So, the money collected during the whole campaign in Italy will laterly be used to support this project.

THE WORKCAMP

The last year, during the realization of the international campaign for SWAPO, we had very succesful activities in Livorno, in solidarity with SWAPO. The local people clearly showed a solidarity feeling and the local authorities gave us much support.

INFORMATION-SHEET

Workcamp: **LIVORNO** (Solidarity with SWAPO)
 Code and Period: I - 2.5 = from the 2nd until the 20th of July
 Volunteers: 15
 Languages: English, Italian
 Arrival: 1st day of the camp (morning or afternoon)

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BACKGROUND OF THE CAMP

Namibia (South-West Africa) has been a German colony from 1884 until 1920. During the German military occupation the natural resources of the country have been exploited and 1/3 of the total population has been massacrated.

In 1920 the "Legue of the Nations" took the territory of Namibia under its responsibility and grated South Africa the legal mandate to administrate Namibia.

South Africa was supposed to promote self-determination of the Namibian People and free elections in the country. But the South African government refused to leave the country and considered Namibia as a part of its territory. The racist government of Pretoria extended the apartheid system to Namibia; the former German colony pratically become a South African Colony.

Namibia is today the last colony in Africa and it is illegally occupied by the South Africa Defence Army with hundred of thousands of sogiers: this army controls all activities whitin the country, including schools, hospitals and so on. The repressive system comes into all aspects of the daily life of Namibians. South Africa exploits the natural resources of Namibia (a rich country with Gold, diamonds, uranium and other minerals), with the economical, political and diplomatic cooperation of the western countries.

Namibia also share its northern border with the People's Republic of Angola and this border is of a strategic importance for South Africa: from this border South Africa regularly invaded Angola in the last few years and gave support to the reactionary, illegal army, struggling against the government of Angola: the UNITA.

SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organization) is the liberation Movement of Namibia. It is struggling against the illegal occupation, for self-determination and genuine independence of its people. SWAPO is officially recognized by the United Nations Organization (UNO) as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian People. SWAPO has been granted with a observer status in the UNO assembly.

Struggling for indepedence SWAPO:

- # tries to raise consciosness through political actions throughtout the world
- # raises support for its people at both governmental and non governmental level
- # represents the Namibian people in international and national public bodies session.
- # organizes its people and prepares it for indepedence: particularly by providing healt care services and school facilities in the refugee camps (there are about 120.000 Namibians in refugee camps in Angola, Zambia and Mozambique: all these camps are under the responsibility of SWAPO)
- # organizes the arm-struggle against the military, repressive occupation of the South African Defence Force. The arm struggle is considered a need by SWAPO and it is carried out by its military win, PLAN (People's Liberation Army of Namibia).

Il S.C.I. è un'organizzazione non governativa di volontariato, fondata nel 1920, impegnata sui temi della pace, dell'obiezione di coscienza, della cooperazione internazionale, della tutela dell'ambiente, della solidarietà sociale. È membro del CCIVS (Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service), del Forum della Gioventù della Comunità Europea ed ha proprie branche nazionali in tutti i continenti.

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The workcamp of this year is organized in cooperation with the local municipality. It is a part of our campaign supporting SWAPO and aims at establishing contacts with the local people in order to achieve our solidarity objectives. It is an animation workcamp: so we expect good animators.

AIMS OF THE WORKCAMP

What do we want to achieve with this workcamp ?

We want to:

- # Raise consciousness of the people about the situation of Namibia and the struggle for independence
- # Highlight the fact that South Africa plays a colonial role in the Region and tries to boycott the process toward Namibian independence.
- # Highlight the fact that for this process to be realized a solidarity movement throughout the world must be active, solidarity action are needed in order to prevent South African actions and to sensitize western governments.
- # Collect funds to support projects in solidarity with SWAPO, particularly the SCI project in cooperation with the SWAPO youth League.

THE WORK

Volunteers will do animation work in the city.

The municipality will give us a public bus. During the first days of the camp the bus will be equipped by the volunteers with educational material, like: exhibitions, leaflets, booklets, video facilities and so on.

Then the bus will every day be parked in a street or a square in different parts of the city. The bus will be a kind of "information-stand". Volunteers will do various activities related with the subject of the camp: making street-theatre, leafletting, selling things as fundraising and so on.

If possible we will organize a final solidarity party with the participation of the local people.

We expect volunteers to be flexible, ready to speak with the people and to make various kind of animation work.

THE STUDY-PART

A SWAPO member has been invited to take part in the camp. Hopefully he/she will come. Usually SWAPO sends us members every time we ask them to do so. However, being the situation quite difficult at the moment (they don't know exactly whether they will win elections or not, neither if they are allow to go back to Namibia), we may not insure the participation of the SWAPO member invited.

His/her presence in the camp would be the best for the volunteers in order to have good quality and fresh hand information about Namibia, the Apartheid system and the colonial role played by South Africa in the Region.

Anyway we will do our best in order to organize a study session on the subject of the camp. It will include also meetings with local solidarity organizations. You will also know about other activities related with solidarity: i.e. the municipality also planned a solidarity initiative with Polisario (The liberation movement of Western Sahara), which will be held at the same time of our workcamp.

THE PLACE

Livorno is a small town of about 50.000 inhabitants on the western Italian coast. It is about 150 Km. far from Florence (Firenze).

The town has a relatively recent history and its economy it is mayly based on its harbour, which is one of the most important in Italy and employes many workers. Volunteers will be accomodated in a school, where cooking facilities will be provided. volunteers are supposed to clean-up the place and to cook food.

WHAT TO BRING

Keeping bag. Working clothes may be useful. Camera. Musical instruments if you may. Cooking receipts from your country. Bathing-suit. Any kind of information about anti-apartheid movements in your country are welcomed.

ADDRESS OF THE CAMP

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At the present time we do not know the exact address of the school where the volunteers will be accomodated. So we will have a meeting-point in Livorno, and this will be at the Municipality-house, following address:

Comune di Livorno
Piazza Civica 1

(Comune is the Italian word for Municipality). Once there go to the first floor and ask for Michela Cecconi (she works in the municipality). She will give you further information on how to reach the school. Her phone in the municipality is: 0586/820485.

From the train station take a bus (Line 1, or line 2 or Line 6) and get-off at the square "Piazza Grande" (ask the driver). Piazza Civica is a square very close to piazza Grande.

Before leaving your country, please, contact us, if you are in the position to do so, for having the right address of the school.

CONTACT PERSONS

If you have problems or if you need more information, please, contact the SCI national office in Roma: phone 06/7005367-7005994. The office is opne from Monday to Friday, from 9am until 5pm.

HOW TO GET THERE

- 1) **By train:** Coming from the North: if you are coming through the West Coast, your train will probably have a stop in Livorno. If not, get-off at the Genova train station and from there take a train to Livorno. If you are coming from the French border and are passing through Torino, take a train on the line Torino-Roma: usually they have a stop in Livorno. Of course ask at the information office if your train has a stop in Livorno! If you are coming from the Austrian border go to the main train station of Milano (Milano Centrale). Then take a train to Genova and from Genova one to Livorno. Coming from the South: Go to the main train station of Roma (Roma Termini) and from there take a train on the line Roma-Torino. Make sure your train has a stop in Livorno.
- 2) **By car:** From the North: take the highway on the western coast (A-21) and get the gate to Livorno. then follow indications for the ring of the city. From the South: Take the motorway going from Roma to Livorno (n° SS-1, Strada Statale "Aurelia"). Once in Livorno ask for Piazza Grande.
- 3) **By Plane:** You can go to Bologna or to Roma: both cities have International airports. From the airport go to the train station and then follow indications under point 1).

HAVE A NICE JOURNEY AND SEE YOU IN LIVORNO.

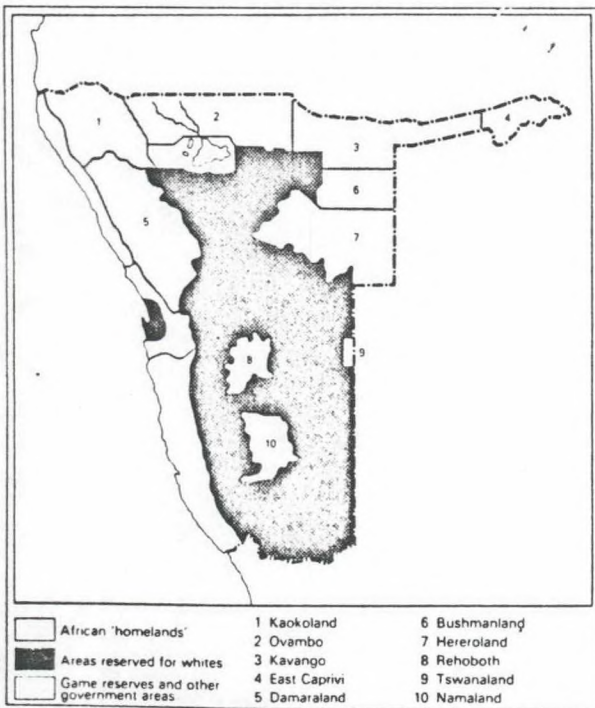
Namibia.

Brief political history.

Namibia has been inhabited since prehistoric times by various African peoples who include the San, Herero, Ovambo, the Nama and the Damara. Society in most of Namibia was nomadic, based on hunting and gathering. In the far north, where cultivation as well as stockraising was practised strong monarchies had been formed. In 1884 the Germans proclaimed Namibia as their protectorate, and in 1892 it became an official German colony with the name "Deutsch Sud West Afrika". Although with the exception of Walvis Bay which the British had annexed for the Cape colony in 1878. During World War I South Africa, which was fighting on the side of the European Allies, defeated the Germans and occupied Namibia. After the war Namibia, like all the other former German colonies, was put under the authority of the League of Nations. In 1920 the League granted South Africa the legal mandate to administer Namibia. The sovereignty was in the hands of the Council of the League of Nations. For the indigenous people this change of effective colonizers did not bring any advantage. From 1920 onwards the South African government introduced the first Apartheid-laws. With the "Native Administration Act" (1922) the black people were forced to live in reserves (homelands). Advantages were granted to British mining firms and white peasants. The bulk of the fertile land was handed over to white settlers. After World War II the League of Nations was disbanded and the United Nations established. Also the authority of the League of Nations was handed over to the UN. South Africa did not accept this. In 1948 South Africa broke all ties with the UN. Pretoria went on to introduce the apartheid system in Namibia. The Odendaal report of '64 formed the blueprint of Apartheid in Namibia. There were to be established 11 homelands. All were situated on the poorest agricultural land with poor mineral content. As a reaction on this report the UN finished the mandatory status of South Africa over Namibia (1966). They established a UN-council for Namibia but South Africa did not recognize it. On the contrary, with the proclamation of the "Native Nation Act" ('68) South Africa formed 7 homelands in Namibia. The continued presence of South Africa in Namibia was ruled by the International Court of Justice to be illegal ('71). The UN Member States were advised not to undertake any action that would mean a legitimization of or support for the South African occupation of Namibia. South Africa continued to take initiatives to establish a puppet government in Namibia. One of these initiatives was the Turnhalle conference. This conference started on 1 September '75. 11 ethnic groups were represented but representatives of political movements (like SWAPO) were not allowed to participate. Independence had to be settled on 31 December '78, this would mean a Namibia consisting of 11 ethnic groups forming together a confederation. SWAPO, the UN and the OAU (the Organisation of African Unity) rejected these proposals. They also had little or no popular support. For many different reasons (the failing of the South African intervention in Angola in '75, the international protest, uprisals in South Africa,...) the Turnhalle Conference proposals have never been worked out. In the same year the UN Security Council adopted

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Map : Homelands according to the Odendaal Plan

Resolution N 435, an independence plan based on a UN-enforced cease fire, followed by UN-supervised elections and a new constitution. After SWAPO agreed to the plan South Africa reversed its initial acceptance. Despite the frequent resolutions of the UN Security Council, condemning South Africa and demanding withdrawal from Namibia the South Africans are still occupying Namibia today. The seeking of a solution to the problems in Namibia (to allow it to become an independent nation), were more and more linked with the problems in Angola. This country

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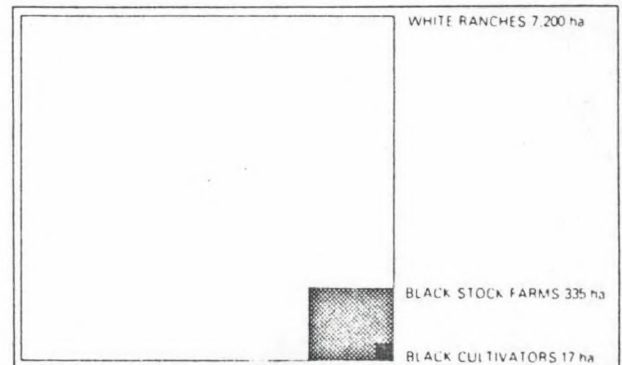


Figure : Distribution of viable farmland average per farming household (hectares)

gained independence in '75 after a long armed struggle against the Portuguese colonizers. The MPLA, the successful liberation movement, was supported by the USSR and Cuban troops. Also South Africa had intervened, in support of UNITA (a right wing rebel force), but had to withdraw because of the lack of western support. South Africa and the US stated later that no solution could be found for Namibia as long as the Cuban troops were present in Angola. (The so called "linkage") In '85 South Africa installed a new "interim government of national unity", without even the pretention of an election. This government, like the previous ones, has no popular support.

Importance of Namibia for South Africa.

The importance of Namibia for South Africa lies in the economic and strategic fields.

The economic field.

The agricultural sector produces about 25% of Namibia's export. Under the "Bantustan" system 25% of the population is forced to settle permanently on less than 40% of the poorest land in the 10 segregated homelands. The "white" areas contain 98% of the arable land. About 50,000 blacks work on white-owned farms and ranches. These farmworkers are among the most exploited of all paid labourers. The most important agricultural export product is karakul (sheepskins, used in the fur trade).

Another 25% of Namibia's export earnings are gained by fishery. Namibia's coast is

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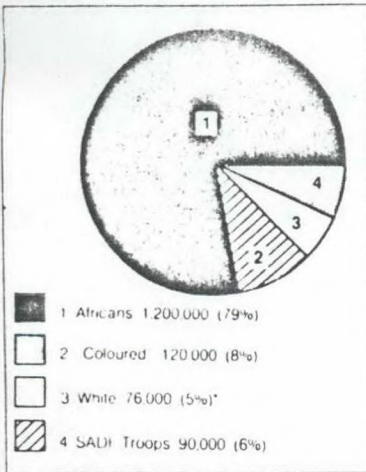


Figure : Namibia's Population

one of the world's richest fishing grounds. Large scale exploitation is immensely profitable. "Ecological balance" is not mentioned in the dictionary of the South African controlled fishing corporations. So overfishing has devastated Namibia's fishing industry. The total number of black employees in this industry has reduced from 5,000 in '76 to less than 500 in '80

Mining produces the other half of Namibia's export earnings. The extraction of uranium, diamonds, copper, tin and lead is dominated by 3 major corporations. These are: **Consolidated Diamond Mines** with South African capital, **Rossing Uranium Ltd** with British capital, and **Tsumeb corporation** with American and South African capital.

We do not have to mention that living and working circumstances for the labourers are extremely difficult. The Namibian people never could enjoy the richness of their soil. South African companies have been mining and have exploited the country ever since the minerals were discovered. The labour is supplied by black Namibians. Also under South African occupation the forced-labour system, which had been introduced by the German colonial power, has continuously been applied. The black workers were restricted to this working place by pass and labour laws. Usually their families had to be left in reserves, which one could leave only with a work seeker's pass.

As it was the case in South Africa migrant labour became common for the black population in Namibia. It is evident that under this exploitative system a worker has no say over his wage rate, no right to give notice, no influence over the length of the contract period, and so on.

The export orientated economy has extracted the wealth of Namibia for foreign investors and has left the black population among the poorest in Africa.

The economic stranglehold over Namibia is an integral part of the South African strategy towards the southern African region. Also the economy of the so-called "Frontline States" is dominated on a large scale by South African companies.

Through economic sanctions South Africa hopes to force the FLS to stop their support for the liberation movements SWAPO and ANC.

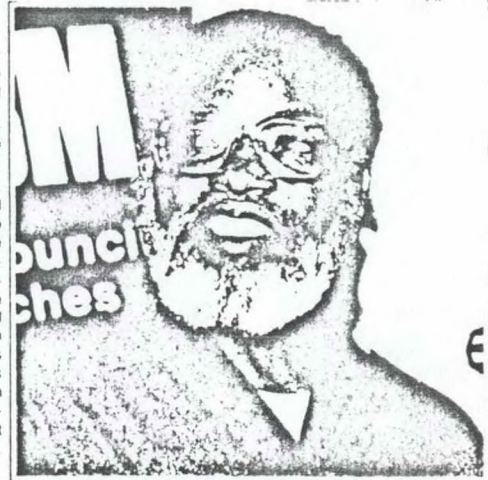
Strategic Importance

Before '75 South Africa was surrounded by western orientated, white minority ruled nations. With the independence of the former Portuguese colonies Angola and Mozambique in '75 and that of Zimbabwe in '80, only Namibia was left as a buffer area for South Africa. The country was surrounded now by leftist, black majority governments. An independent Namibia could be the base for ANC attacks in South Africa. An independent Namibia is consequently not in the interest of South Africa whose Apartheid system could be threatened greatly by these attacks.

This is also the reason for the destabilisation attacks of South Africa in other countries in the region. But this is another chapter of the "Total Strategy" of South Africa towards the southern African region. Anyway the occupation of Namibia is important because from there South Africa can launch attacks in the countries Angola and Zambia, two countries who have common borders with Namibia but not with South Africa. For the West it is also important that the rich Namibian mining industry does not fall in the hands of a leftist government.

Resistance

The struggle for independence is being waged on two fronts. The first is that of the people of Namibia themselves - striking, protesting and organizing to overthrow white minority domination. The second is the international struggle - with the UN and its Member States engaged in diplomatic action against South Africa.



Sam Nujoma, President of SWAPO

The national front.

The most important liberation movement is SWAPO - South West Africa Peoples Organisation. It was formed on April 19, 1960. During the early 1960s SWAPO worked within Namibia to create a national movement cutting across the ethnic lines. It brought together people from different sectors of the population like workers, church members, women, students,...

In this period high hopes were placed on a case being heard by the International Court of Justice. But on July 18, 1966, the Court declared that it could make no ruling at all. This was an important turning point for SWAPO; there was no hope anymore of settling the conflict in a peaceful way. There was no alternative left but to turn to armed struggle. The first military encounter between SWAPO and the South African forces occurred on August 26, 1966.

Alongside the political mobilisation of the Namibian people, there were small scale guerrilla attacks. The conflict intensified when Angola became independent. Namibia's neighbour to the north was no longer an ally of South Africa but a friend of the Namibian people. As a consequence SWAPO moved its headquarters to Luanda (Angola). SWAPO's tactics continued to be those of guerrilla war but combatants moved in bigger groups and reached deep into Namibia, finding a high level of support among the local population.

On the international front.

Despite the fact that the Security Council of the UN called several times on South Africa to withdraw from Namibia, South Africa kept its occupation army in the country. In June 1971 the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion on Namibia, confirming the illegality of South African rule. This was a great political victory for SWAPO because it destroyed for once and for all the legitimacy of the South African position and reaffirmed UN responsibility for the territory.

South Africa continued to defy UN authority in Namibia. Therefore the Security Council adopted in '76 Resolution 385 which demanded a South African withdrawal and elections for a constituent assembly under UN supervision and control.

Further initiatives were taken by the 'Contact Group'. This C.G. was made up of Britain, France, US, Canada, and West Germany. Their purpose was to mediate in negotiations for the implementation of the UN resolutions on Namibia.

By 1978 the five had drawn up a plan for Namibian independence which was accepted by both SWAPO and South Africa. The plan became embodied in Security Council Resolution 435. It provided for elections run by the South African appointed Administrator General. The elections would be monitored by a Special Representative of the UN Secretary General. There would be also a UN military force that would monitor a cease fire between the parties.

Until now Resolution 435 has not yet been implemented. South Africa raised one objection after the other. The latest objection South Africa made was the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. In fact the question of the presence of the Cuban troops in Angola has nothing to do with the problems in Namibia. The Cubans are in Angola at the request of the Angolan government, the South Africans are in Namibia with an occupation army and make Namibia the last white colony in Africa. (Western Sahara is often regarded as a colony of Morocco.)

Mario Carly



Servizio Civile Internazionale

Membro consultivo dell'UNESCO e del Consiglio d'Europa

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BASTA CON LE DISCRIMINAZIONI CONTRO GLI OBIETTORI DI COSCIENZA ED IL SERVIZIO CIVILE ALTERNATIVO



UN SERVIZIO AL PAESE

È quello che ogni giorno migliaia di obiettori di coscienza prestano svolgendo attività di assistenza e solidarietà sociale, di difesa dell'ambiente e protezione civile, di educazione alla pace

UNA SCELTA CORAGGIOSA E CIVILE

È quella di migliaia di obiettori di coscienza che hanno optato per il servizio civile alternativo al servizio di leva, più lungo di 8 mesi del servizio militare, patendo discriminazioni e persecuzioni amministrative e burocratiche

MODERNO E UTILE

È un servizio civile alternativo che svolge attività di solidarietà sociale, di difesa ambientale, per la pace di fronte ad un servizio militare sempre più inutile, antiquato, dannoso, costoso, percepito dai giovani solo come una perdita di tempo

È ORA DI UNA NUOVA LEGGE PER L'OBIEZIONE DI COSCIENZA ED IL SERVIZIO CIVILE ALTERNATIVO

che:

- riconosca l'obiezione di coscienza come un diritto
- renda l'opzione per il servizio civile alternativo, una scelta semplice, non soggetta a complicazioni burocratiche e a conseguenze amministrative
- equipari la durata del servizio civile al servizio di leva
- escluda i militari ed il Ministero della Difesa dalla gestione del servizio civile
- preveda la possibilità di svolgere il servizio civile nei paesi del Terzo Mondo e della Comunità Europea

Per sottolineare, all'opinione pubblica e alle forze politiche, l'urgenza di una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza ed il servizio civile 200 giovani volontari, pacifisti, obiettori di coscienza del Servizio Civile Internazionale iniziano il 1° marzo un digiuno a staffetta che durerà fino al 31 marzo. Il 21 marzo obiettori di coscienza di diversi paesi europei effettueranno un digiuno di solidarietà con gli obiettori di coscienza italiani.

Per adesioni all'iniziativa: SERVIZIO CIVILE INTERNAZIONALE - Via dei Laterani 28, Roma - Tel. 06/7005367-994

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Dir. Resp. ANTONIO GHIRELLI
Data: 16 MARZO 1989

Digiuno a staffetta

«Siamo un gruppo di 200 obiettori di coscienza, volontari, pacifisti del Servizio Civile Internazionale, di altri enti di servizio civile e di vari coordinamenti di obiettori di coscienza. Dal 1° marzo abbiamo iniziato un digiuno a staffetta, in 52 diverse città, per sollecitare una maggiore attenzione dell'opinione pubblica e delle forze sociali e politiche sul problema dell'obiezione di coscienza al servizio militare.

Il 21 marzo obiettori di coscienza di diversi paesi europei effettueranno un digiuno simbolico per manifestare la solidarietà con le nostre richieste e con il nostro impegno per ottenere una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza.

La nostra iniziativa intende sottolineare l'urgenza dell'approvazione di una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza che raccolga le richie-

ste più importanti degli obiettori di coscienza e degli enti di servizio civile: il riconoscimento del diritto all'obiezione di coscienza, l'equiparazione della durata tra servizio civile e militare, l'esclusione dei militari dalla gestione del servizio civile.

Facciamo appello alle forze politiche e parlamentari affinché la nuova regolamentazione legislativa sull'obiezione di coscienza venga varata nel più breve tempo possibile, superando la grave situazione di disagio esistente tra gli obiettori di coscienza e gli enti di servizio civile che vedono mortificati ed impoveriti - con la presente legge e l'attuale gestione del Ministero della Difesa - i principi e le ragioni della scelta dell'obiezione di coscienza e del servizio civile».

Giulio Marcon e gli altri 199
Roma

A mia volta faccio appello ai nostri parlamentari perché affrontino nelle sedi adatte un argomento così essenziale nel quadro della battaglia per i diritti civili, congeniale alle tradizioni libertarie del nostro Partito.

Manifestazione, con digiuno, a ponte Talvera
**L'obiezione di coscienza
 deve essere un «diritto»**



Il «banchetto» allestito dagli obiettori a ponte Talvera

(foto Alberti)

di ANDREA CHIEREGHIN

Da ieri e per tutta la giornata odierna presso il ponte Talvera è presente un presidio di obiettori di coscienza che manifestano, digiunando in modo simbolico, contro la legge attualmente in vigore, la n. 772, che regola l'obiezione di coscienza. Con questa azione chiedono un sollecito rinnovo della 772 ed intendono sottolineare l'alto valore civico e morale della scelta dell'obiezione di coscienza nonché l'importanza del servizio civile quale occasione per l'affermazione e la diffusione di una vera cultura di pace basata sui principi della giustizia e della non violenza. Egon Kelderer obiettore presso il Vke di Bolzano ci ricorda quali dovrebbero essere i punti fondamen-

tali di una nuova legge: «Diritto all'obiezione di coscienza che non può più essere un beneficio concesso dalla commissione giudicatrice e che deve, quindi essere abolita. Soprattutto poi la durata del servizio civile deve essere equiparata a quella del servizio di leva. Ci siamo accorti poi che molto spesso i giovani non si accostano al servizio civile per mancanza di informazioni; per questo motivo si chiede anche una adeguata pubblicizzazione della legge sull'obiezione di coscienza, ed in particolare l'obbligo per distretti militari e degli enti locali di informare tutti i chiamati alla visita di leva delle possibilità e modalità di praticare l'obiezione di coscienza».

Tra le associazioni particolarmente attive e sensibili alle problematiche degli obietto-

ri sono in prima linea, senza ombra di dubbio Vke e Jugendring. Herlinde Goller è uno degli operatori dello Jugendring: «Siamo un'organizzazione molto grande che raggruppa altre associazioni. Siamo l'ente che probabilmente è convenzionato per il numero maggiore di obiettori, ben 15. Ci sembra logico, quindi, occuparci delle loro problematiche. Inutile sottolineare l'inadeguatezza della 772 che speriamo sia abolita al più presto e sostituita con qualcosa di più valido e meno penalizzante per gli obiettori».

L'iniziativa di questi due giorni avrà, inoltre uno strascico europeo; il 21 marzo, infatti, gli obiettori e volontari del servizio civile internazionale effettueranno un digiuno simbolico di solidarietà con gli obiettori italiani.

dal 1901

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L'ECO DELLA STAMPA

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Data: 21 MARZO 1989

Lettere

Gli obiettori chiedono

Egregio Direttore,

da molti anni gli elettori di coscienza e gli enti di servizio civile chiedono l'approvazione di una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza che preveda il riconoscimento dell'obiezione di coscienza come un diritto, l'equiparazione della durata del servizio civile con quello militare, l'esclusione dei militari dalla gestione del servizio civile.

Infatti le carenze della vecchia legge n. 772 del 1972 e la gestione militare del servizio civile hanno determinato, in questi anni, la dequalificazione e la difficoltà dell'esperienza del servizio civile nel nostro paese, provocando una situazione di vasto disagio tra gli obiettori di coscienza e gli enti di servizio civile.

Chiediamo, perciò, al Parlamento italiano di accelerare l'iter per l'approvazione di una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza che tenga conto delle richieste formulate dal movimento degli obiettori di coscienza e dagli enti di servizio civile, una legge che salvaguardi il valore etico della scelta dell'obiezione di coscienza e l'utilità del servizio civile.

Chiediamo altresì, come associazioni ed organismi internazionali presenti in diversi paesi europei ed extraeuropei, che la nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza preveda la possibilità, per gli obiettori di coscienza italiani, di svolgere il servizio civile all'estero, non solo per le attività di cooperazione allo sviluppo, ma anche nei paesi della Comunità Europea, tramite enti convenzionati operanti all'estero o perché sedi italiane di organismi internazionali.

Il processo di unificazione europea, che in materia economica e commerciale avrà come tappa fondamentale il 1992, non può non riguardare anche il servizio civile e l'obiezione di coscienza. La solidarietà, i diritti umani, la pace, la difesa dell'ambiente, temi sui quali si svolgono le attività di servizio civile, non possono essere confinate in un ambito puramente nazionale, necessitando di soluzioni complessive e di un impegno solidale a livello europeo ed internazionale.

Cordiali saluti

Servizio Civile Internazionale, World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, Pax Christi, Movimento Cristiano per la Pace, Amici della Terra, Movimento Internazionale della Riconciliazione, Afsai, Fratelli dell'Uomo, Intercultura

AVVENZIMENTI

MILANO

Roma, Torino, Padova, Modena: queste sono

alcune delle trentacinque città italiane nelle quali durante il mese di marzo si svolgerà un digiuno a staffetta di trecento volontari, obiettori di coscienza e pacifisti.

La manifestazione, organizzata dal Servizio Civile Internazionale (un'associazione che fa parte dell'Unesco e del Consiglio d'Europa), intende richiamare l'attenzione dell'opinione pubblica sulla necessità di una profonda modifica della legge 772 sull'obiezione di coscienza.

Inoltre il 21 marzo gli obiettori di coscienza di tutt'Europa digiuneranno per esprimere solidarietà agli obiettori italiani. (s.n.)

il manifesto

/sabato 18 marzo 1989

UN DIGIUNO A STAFFETTA

Siamo un gruppo di 200 obiettori di coscienza, volontari, pacifisti del Servizio civile internazionale, di altri enti di servizio civile e di vari coordinamenti di obiettori di coscienza. Dal primo marzo abbiamo iniziato un digiuno a staffetta, in 52 diverse città, per sollecitare una

maggiore attenzione dell'opinione pubblica e delle forze sociali e politiche sul problema dell'obiezione di coscienza al servizio militare.

Il 21 marzo obiettori di coscienza di diversi paesi europei effettueranno un digiuno simbolico per manifestare la solidarietà con le nostre richieste e con il nostro impegno per ottenere una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza. La nostra iniziativa intende sottolineare l'urgenza dell'approvazione di una nuova legge sull'obiezione di coscienza che raccolga le richieste più importanti degli obiettori di coscienza e degli enti di servizio civile: il riconoscimento del diritto all'obiezione di coscienza che raccolga le richieste più importanti degli obiettori di coscienza: il riconoscimento del diritto all'obiezione di coscienza, l'equiparazione della durata tra servizio civile e militare, l'esclusione dei militari dalla gestione del servizio civile.

Facciamo appello alle forze politiche e parlamentari affinché la nuova regolamentazione legislativa sull'obiezione di coscienza venga varata nel più breve tempo possibile, superando la grave situazione di disagio esistente tra gli obiettori di coscienza e gli enti di servizio civile che vedono mortificati ed impoveriti — con la presente legge e l'attuale gestione del ministero della difesa — i principi e le ragioni della scelta dell'obiezione di coscienza e del servizio civile.

Servizio civile internazionale

le

Roma

RAIDUE

Intervista sulla campagna del S.C.I. durante la trasmissione
Radiodue 3131, 10/2/1989-Intervento di Giulio Marcon

AREA

Circuito di 98 radio private in tutt'Italia

13 marzo, radiogiornale delle 17.15:
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