Scirocco - Latest News from Italy

10.11.2026: Not here, not anywhere else

The national immigration policy of the CPRs, Italy's human rights violating repatriation detention facilities, under Meloni's far-right government conflicts with local political interests. CPRs are being imposed on regional governments as they are framed as a measure of national security.

It appears as if the far right government around Giorgia Meloni uses the proposals for locations of new CPRs following a polarizing political strategy. In regions with favorable political majorities the initiative of Italy´s interior minister, Matteo Piantedosi, preaches to the choir. However, in regions with majorities unfavorable of new CPRs and against the idea of detaining people on the move more generally, the discussion allows to (re)open and intensify public debates on migration thus contributing to a discursive shift, which sets migration on top of the political agenda.

The Meloni government's far-right narratives, which frame migration as a threat and allegedly prioritize security, are encountering real-world political limits in the planning of CPRs on Italy's regional level. In the beginning of October Piantedosi, presented the plan for six new CPRs in Castel Volturno, Aulla, Trento, Bolzano, Bologna, and Crotone. While some regions reacted with agreement, most regions signaled their disagreement due to inefficiency, a lack of capacities, and economic usefulness, while other regions argued against the concept of CPRs more generally based on moral grounds.

The criticism is not just political or economic. It concerns the conditions of detained people and the consequences of the deprivation of liberty in facilities without a criminal conviction. CPRs are considered places that harm the mental and physical health of people who are detained there against their will. The facilities of CPRs are not accessible for the public and there are major restrictions and obstacles on the visits of experts assessing the sanitary and health situations within CPRs. In addition, civil servants regularly abuse their power, and people in CPRs are structurally denied access to information about their own situation, their rights, and potential legal assistance.

The government's tightening of immigration policies opens the door to restrictive policies targeting segments of the population who oppose rampant racism. At the moment several doctors are under investigation in relation to alleged false certificates that are supposed to medically guarantee the health of people on the move under undignifying detention conditions. In the future, medical reports in CPRs certifying that a person is unfit for detention pending deportation will no longer be binding. The debate over CPRs systematically turns those who were heroes during the pandemic into criminals and drives medical personnel on the streets against CPRs.

The Italian government is shaping the world to suit its own interests. Whatever the cost, but preferably at the expense of marginalized people.

While Meloni's far-right government pits the socioeconomically marginalized and people of migrant background against one another on a daily basis, the government's strategy regarding the CPRs is not working without resistance. Nationally there would be social investments needed for education, infrastructure, and health care, as regional populations and their governments keep on demanding. However, the far right government prioritizes the expansion of the restrictive migration system incurring the wrath of the people living in Italy´s regions. Once again, sustainable social politics are getting sacrificed for the sake of racist migration policies.

Regardless of the discussions between the national and regional governments, it is important to clarify that CPRs should generally not exist. CPRs are morally wrong facilities of rights abuses and should not exist. For that purpose, people from all over Italy came together in Castel Volturno to protest. Here, one of the six new CPRs is supposed to be created in the middle of a natural reserve. Under the slogan "Ni al Castel Volturno ni altrove" (not at Castel Volturno, nor anywhere else). They are refusing the governmental plans of further CPR facilities of racist violence and condemn the ignorance for local needs and struggles.

However, against the will of the regional population the CPR of Castel Volturno is likely to be constructed. The building permit has already been issued. A political decision of a government failing to recognize the characteristics and needs of regions. The government's migration policy plans are and will continue to drive people on the streets. While on a regional level there are already small-scale, often donation-based integration initiatives, which are taking on the social welfare tasks that the government refuses to address, the government prefers to arbitrarily imprison people, abuse them, and regularly drive them to their deaths. While regional initiatives can only partially offset structural shortcomings provided by the national government, it highlights that Italy´s regions, their civil society, and to a certain extent even regional governments share a common will. They want to implement inclusive measures for social welfare, search sustainable and pluralist solutions for everyday struggles of local communities, and not divide along racist categories. What is the current far right national government offering beyond social division and racialized detention?