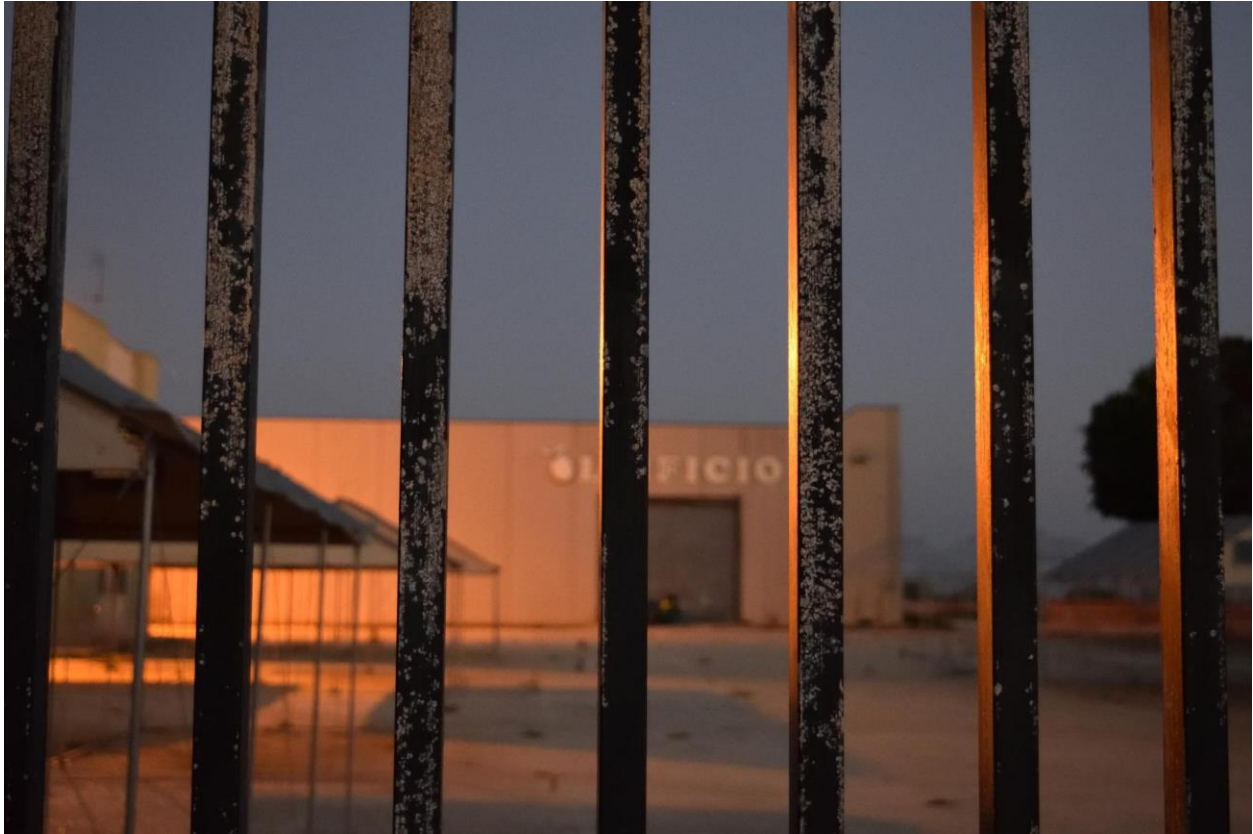


## Urgent Request for a Meeting at the Prefecture of Trapani



**To Trapani Prefect Filippina Cocuzza**

**To ARS President Gaetano Galvano**

**To the director of the Immigration Office of the Regional Department of Family, Social Policies, and Labor, Dr. Michela Bongiorno**

**To Giuseppe Castiglione, Mayor of Campobello di Mazara**

**To Enzo Alfano, Mayor of Castelvetrano**

**Objective: Urgent request for a meeting at the Prefect of Trapani between representatives of the regional associations and seasonal laborers of Campobello di Mazara.**

Having acknowledged on 10 October that nothing had been done to prepare the camp that was supposed to accommodate the seasonal laborers who annually travel to the Campobello di Mazara area from different parts of Italy to harvest olives;

However, since the end of September, dozens of seasonal laborers have been arriving at the municipality of Campobello di Mazara and in the neighboring area under the jurisdiction of the municipality of Castelvetrano for the start of the olive harvest. They have nowhere to live, being forced to take refuge in makeshift accommodations in absolutely unacceptable living conditions;

Considering the fact that the people living in the former cement factory were forced to leave these premises on 24 May, being removed again on 21 June from Fontane d'Oro – a similar housing solution, lacking necessary requirements: *"a large part of the former Fontane d'Oro oil*

factory and neighboring land is the subject of construction work under the project financed with funds from the Ministry of the Interior - Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration – concerning the set-up of a camp - for a total value of 350,000 euros, in order to make it suitable for the reception of non-EU migrant workers during the next olive growing season - equipped for migrant agricultural workers who are victims of forced labor in the area of the former Fontane d'Oro oil factory.” This is to be found among the points of the union ordinance of the Municipality of Campobello di Mazara dated 05/30/2023, provision n.106;

Given the fact that, with the non-opening of Fontane d'Oro, seasonal laborers and people experiencing severe housing and healthcare hardship were forced to live in even more precarious situations;

Considering recent statements by the Syndicate of Campobello di Mazara that notice was given by the Prefecture of Trapani informing the Municipality of the fact that this year the Regional Department of Family, Social Policies, and Labor will not be able to provide the necessary resources for setting up the camp in the former oil factory Fontane d'Oro;

Finally, given the latest reports by the local press of a regional deputy's statements regarding an alleged intervention by the regional Civil Protection department for the set up and management of the camp;

Workers, together with associations that have been operating in the area for years to support seasonal laborers and other people in a state of severe housing and healthcare hardship, as well as legal and employment precariousness - people in the area are at very high risk of labor and sexual exploitation, made further marginalized due to the numerous evictions in recent months not providing for socio-welfare care, as repeatedly denounced in letters we sent and which did not receive any kind of response,

#### **Urgent Request**

- a meeting with all involved institutions, in order to clarify the latest news of the opening of the camp dedicated to seasonal workers at Fontane d'Oro, and the possibility of its management, as well as methods of the management;
- clear information with regard to Project PON Legality “concerning the construction of a hostel for agricultural workers” at the former Fontane d'Oro oil factory, with a start date of 01/08/2022 and a duration of 18 months, with € 1.300.000 euros of resources allocated by the Ministry of the Interior – no results of which could yet been seen;
- clear information regarding the management of PNRR funds intended for replacing the illegal settlements of the Commune of Castelvetrano, as well as regarding other types of requested and existing financing;
- to ensure that workers' rights are guaranteed, listening and responding to requests from workers themselves, with support of various groups of grassroots associations and trade unions, during the September 30 protests: requests not to have to sleep in tents in the lands of large local olive producers and suffer daily threats; not to have to sleep in the street or in the middle of the olive fields; the request for the immediate opening of Fontane d'Oro, an asset confiscated from the mafia that must be generally made accessible to workers and citizens without discrimination between those who have papers and those who don't; the self-management of the camp guaranteed by the commitment and responsibility of the workers who have lived and worked in this area for years; the possibility of being able to cook independently, guaranteeing sanitation and separate waste collection; forms of contract that respect the real productivity of workers

(as proposed in the document "Our labor, Our rights") and that take into consideration the increase in the purchase price of the olives.

Finally, it is required to honestly acknowledge the requests of the workers - as real people who experience firsthand these decisions or their absence – as well as the repeated requests for dialogue with local associations that are well acquainted with a territory that for years has been the subject of interventions aimed at "moving a problem" rather than addressing certain critical issues and developing opportunities, through multi-level management and thoughtful planning.

Arci Porco Rosso, 16.10.2023

Translated from Italian by Olivia Taibi