

# Scirocco - Kurzinfo aus Italien

## 25 May 2026: 4 Years in Prison for Videos About the Genocide in Gaza - The Criminalization of Palestinian Resistance Through Meloni's Security Package

"My name is Ahmad Salem, I was born on April 8, 2001 in Lebanon. I am Palestinian. I came to Europe because I need to help my family. I am not a terrorist. I have lost 73 members of my family in Gaza, they are all buried under the rubble."

With these [words](#), Ahmad Salem begins his testimony in the courtroom of Campobasso, the capital of Molise, on April 14 - the final day of a six-day trial. Shortly afterward, he is escorted out of the courtroom by nine Carabinieri. The verdict: four years in prison for alleged self-directed training for terrorist purposes. The evidence: possession and sharing of images and videos about the genocide in Gaza.

[Ahmad was born in al-Baddawi](#), one of twelve Palestinian refugee camps in northern Lebanon, and left the country to seek international protection in Europe. When he filed his asylum application at the Campobasso police headquarters last May, the then 24 year old was taken into pre-trial detention and transferred to the high-security wing of the Rossano-Corigliano prison - also known as "[Italy's Guantanamo](#)."

Since Ahmad had lost his identity documents while fleeing, he showed the officers photos of the documents on his phone. They then decided to search the entire memory of his device and found images and videos related to the conflict in Palestine, including footage of armed resistance attacks on Israeli military vehicles as well as material documenting the genocide in Gaza.

The mere possession of these images, along with the sharing of a [TikTok video](#) in which Ahmad condemned the silence of Arab, Islamic, and European states in the face of the ongoing genocide in Gaza and called for mobilization against it, was deemed sufficient by the Italian judiciary to find him [guilty on two counts](#):

1. Incitement to commit a criminal offense under [§ 414 of the Italian Penal Code](#), and
2. Self-training for terrorist purposes under [§ 270d of the Italian Penal Code](#).

The [offense](#) of possessing terrorist material was only introduced in April 2025 through [Law 80/2025](#) as part of the first "[security package](#)" of the Meloni government, and had drawn widespread criticism. Under this law, it is no longer necessary to prove membership in a terrorist organization, nor to have undertaken any concrete training activities. Instead, the mere possession of materials that could potentially be used for terrorist acts is sufficient to fall under the offense.

The videos on Ahmad's phone, however, were [not tutorials on how to make bombs](#). Rather, they were depictions of the ongoing conflict in Gazam, content that had already been widely circulated in international media as part of reporting on the genocide. The fact that the very same videos also published by major Italian outlets such as *La Repubblica*, *La Stampa*, and *RaiNews* were used in Ahmad's case as evidence of potentially terrorist activity amounts, according to his attorney Rossi Albertini, to nothing less than "[the result of ethnic prejudice](#)" and the expression of a "[hostile and Islamophobic attitude](#)" on the part of the court. Immediately following the verdict, the defense announced it would appeal.

Ahmad's case is the first known proceeding in which Article 270d has been applied. The ruling thus sets a dangerous precedent for the criminalization of political solidarity in Italy, and at the same time fits into a broader structural trend increasingly observable across Europe. One only has to think of the cases of [Mohammad Hannoun](#), [Mohamed Shanin](#), or [Anan Yaeesh](#), to recognize the underlying pattern: Palestinians and pro-Palestinian activists are facing growing surveillance, raids, and prosecution solely on the basis of their speech, their associations, or their possession of political content.

*"If the same reasoning were applied to a ukrainian citizen, no one would think of convicting him for possessing images of war", so [Albertini](#).* Defense and opposition alike agree: Ahmad Salem's only 'guilt' is that he is Palestinian.