Scirocco - Lastest News from Italy

14.10.2026 - Increased controls and "safety walks" - How migrants in Italy are targeted on the streets

In September, police organized "extraordinary controls" in several Italian cities, including Naples and Milan. These were carried out under the pretext of "public security" and "combating illegal immigration". In Parma, for example, an operation called "Parma Sicuro" (secure Parma) checked over 4.000 people, roughly 1,500 of whom were not Italian citizens, yet none could be arrested by the police for "illegal" immigration. The checks in the other cities showed similar results. What is particularly striking is that almost no one was arrested for "illegal" immigration during these operations. Most arrests were for theft and drug possession, which in some cases also led to detention in a CPR.

The controls reveal a great deal about how migration is criminalized. It is not only border controls that have intensified, but active measures are also being taken against migrants inside the country. People are taken to CPRs for minor offenses and even when they hold a residence permit, all under the pretext of "public safety". Conditions in these CPRs are inhumane. The right-wing government uses this as a symbol to further incite hatred against migrants and to legitimize extraordinary measures, such as increased controls. Its racist policies are becoming even more obvious, and safety on the streets is not improving. It is only increasing for people with a migrant background, partly because right-wing groups feel empowered to act racially without fear of consequences.

So-called "safety walks" are one example. In several cities, groups of right-wing citizens call on people to gather and patrol the streets, exercising vigilantism against people with a migrant background in the name of "public safety". Such a "walk" occurred in Rozzano, on the outskirts of Milan. A group of over 100 people joined forces to patrol the neighborhood. The trigger was an attack on a woman by a man of Moroccan origin. During this patrol, another man with a migrant background was attacked by the patrolling group, prompting police to disband the group. Another "security walk" took place in Lecco, supported by the neo-Nazi group CasaPound. In response, other citizens came together a few days later to demonstrate against these patrols. In a district of Rome, another protest under the slogan "to restore security on the street" took place. This was openly supported by the Fratelli d'Italia party.

The "safety walks" are neither a coincidence nor an isolated phenomenon. They are the result of incitement. What begins as rhetoric against migrants ends as vigilantism on the streets. While politics supplies the enemy images, right-wing groups put them into action. This doubles the danger for migrants on the streets. Not only must they reckon with state control, through which they can be placed in deportation detention at any time without much pretext, but they also have to expect to become the target of right-wing violence, which is even endorsed by politicians.