

« Stories »

*« If we'd teach beauty to people,
we would give them a weapon
against resignation, fear, and omertà ».*

This is the area that contains all narratives languages, from those of the journalistic information to the artistic ones able to create antibodies against the cultural abuse of mafias.

This area was divided in two workshops, in order to give space to the voices of national and local journalism, but also to the voices of writers, scenarists, and directors.

« *Stories* » has contributed to the organisation of the « **MafieStop** » initiative, on the night of the 3rd of February 2018, during which, in different parts of the city, projections, debates, and lectures were made about mafias and corruption.

Groups :

1. The good practices of journalism against mafias and obstruct access to information
2. Lorenzo Frigero (Libera) and Beppe Giulietti (FNSI) - Words and images against mafias : Nello Ferrieri (Cinemovel Foundation)

Discussion paper

The **National Federation of the Italian Press** significantly welcomed the seminar of **ContromafieCorruzione** " *The good practices of journalism against the mafias and the obstruct access to information* ". Significantly because we dealt with the difficulties the journalistic profession meets in its storytelling of the mafias and the corruption, the correct use of sources, and physical and legal threats.

Significantly because, for the first time, there was a confrontation of the numerous associative experiences, the charters, the manifestoes that the journalists and the citizens had realized during all these years to give meaning and dignity to the journalistic profession and to the article 21 of the Constitution, understood not as a corporatist defense but as a fundamental right of the citizens to be informed, to be actively involved in the democracy.

The attention was focused on the draft of a manifesto of Assisi, which constitutes a starting point to establish the real charter not of bans but of values which are not only an instrument for the professionals of the information but for all the citizens.

All of this in the furrow of an ideal and professional path which we were able to found in the concrete testimonies of Roberto Morrione and Santo Della Volpe.

Each of us, especially as citizen, is called to illuminate with his own contribution the outskirts - which are not only geographical but also thematic - of the world, helping the journalists to reveal and to denounce the events of the mafias, the corruption and the criminality.

We need a journalism of peace which, as underlines Pope François, is not a sermonizer journalism but a journalism by people for people, which wonders about the reasons at the origins of the facts. A journalism which is documented, in capacity to go in depth by correctly using diverse sources. Because, should the opposite occur, documents, out of their context, would become fake news.

Without transparency, we cannot have democracy. Instruments, we have them: we can make a reference to the "*Rete degli archivi per non dimenticare*" (Network of archives to never forget) or the *Parliamentary Observatory of Public Notice*.

It is necessary to strengthen these initiatives and to ask the institutions that the system of the Archives of State can overtake the obvious difficulties and be enabled to work.

In this context, it is impossible not to reference some fundamental passages of the Manifesto of Basis, that is: "*Do not write about others what you would not want to be written about you*", "*The words are stones, use them to build bridges*", "*Become the media escort of the truth*".

We have to take into account that the international dimension of the fight against the mafias has to be constitutive, as it is it for the organized crime, because the theater of the challenges which we are facing today is global (as Yolanda Moran Sais of **Fundem's** poignant testimony on the Mexican missing persons reminded to us).

To the institutions which represent us, we offer them tracks which can always aim at an information following the article 21 of our Constitution, which is not only a right or a duty of the journalist to inform but especially a right of the citizens to be informed.

We have to throw a series of reflections on the so-called « reckless complaint », introducing new measures intended to act on the instrumental appeal but also to eliminate detention for the journalists. We do not ask to prefigure an impunity but to limit the intimidating effect, adapting to the demands of the European Court of justice.

It is necessary for us to continue - as the Order of the Journalists, the National Federation of the Italian Press and Libera do - to act jointly with the public prosecutor during the trials in which journalists have to speak about the threats and the violence they had to bear while they were only trying to do their job. The threatened journalist is always alone: it is necessary to avoid this dangerous isolation by mobilizing in solidarity with them in their fights and appeal to "the media escort", which resumes and boosts the inquiries which caused the threats.

Precariousness is a form of slavery. It is necessary to put up a real fight in order against this obnoxious practice, to avoid exploitation within a redaction, to protect the spaces of freedom and the autonomy of the columnists.

We have to strengthen the fight against the endemic forms of "hate speech", reaffirm the primary requirement to protect the original values of our Constitution - which is not neutral - in its democratic, antiracist and antifascist matrix.

Without truth, there is no justice. For that purpose, we shall never stop demanding the truth and the justice for Ilaria Alpi and Miran Hrovatin, for Giulio Regeni and for Andy Rocchelli. From the facts, we see that we face a misinformed country, without civic consciousness. We cannot fight violence without an education bound to the values of the Constitution and the history of our Country.

At the same time, we are facing a generation problem, where the young people are often made guilty to be objects and subjects of the superficiality and the disinformation.

It is necessary to diversify the production of the movies which deal with the mafia, to show the positives and negatives characters, without mythicizing them. The actor also, with the director and the scriptwriter, has the duty to understand the evil, by documenting, by reading journalistic investigations and legal documents.

The power of images can provoke positive reactions and make media places of elimination of illiteracy, thus knowledge, in which sources would have an essential power.

In that sense, we propose that the Italian school promote international models of literature of the media and image education : nowadays, children are more exposed to the visual language than the verbal language, and we have to realize a path of support of the interpretation of the power of images, to give to the school necessary instruments for the formation of the citizens of tomorrow.

The cultural institutions will have to become the base to begin a new interpretation of the school, deepening the study of media languages, restructuring the formative offer and creating new figures able to interpret the present.

It is desirable that, with these institutions, we can build a workgroup able to propose new formats, which would tell the mafias and their evolution, with the help of public and private media.

The film proposal will escape the debates when it will benefit from numerous points of view and from diverse esthetic methods to tell a story, whatever are its distribution channels. The impact of images is determining to become aware of the history of our country and of Europe, and can be the basis on which to work to increase this awareness.

There is a world of women and men which risks to stay out these creative and communicative processes and to be only a passive beneficiary and an illiterate of these new languages for which an educational process must be launched.

Our commitments of co-responsibility:

- As citizens, to support the practices of the responsible use of information and the critical consummation of journalistic products and broadcasting generally.
- As associative network:
 1. Support the production and circulation of quality information, with reliable and verified sources, able to emphasizing the positive heritage of the existing facts concerning the antimafia.
 2. Activate a path of unification of the network of the good practices of the Italian journalism with the other existing associations involved in the fight against mafias and corruption.

3. Promote moments of formation, in association with the biggest journalistic labor unions, from existing codes of ethics.
4. Promote moments of reflection on the audiovisual production in term of mafia, antimafia and corruption as well as its educational fallout, putting in relation those who take care of the film language and those who take care of the education.

Our proposals for institutions:

- activate a discussion with national cultural institutions which commits the associative and journalistic world, to lead a common reflection on the productions regarding mafias and regarding corruption.
- Make the revision of some standards in journalistic material, those concerning the "reckless complaints", the interceptions, and the secret of State.