



## ASILO SQUAT UNDER THREAT OF EVICTION



The Asilo Squat is under threat of eviction because the Romanian association "Fratia" ('brotherhood' in Romanian) based in Torino, Italy has decided to expand its offices located at 29 bis Corso Giulio Cesare and spotted our house as a site for its new premises. The Association requested, through the Municipal Councillor Ilda Curti (Chairperson responsible for the politics of immigration), that the Asilo Squat building be handed over to them. The problem is that this place is not empty but has been built up and animated for almost thirteen years by many people, including a family, a fact which is well known to the authorities. At this point in the game, Councillor Antonello Angeleri solicited Councillor Ilda Curti to positively consider the request of the association. There could not be a better occasion to enact the "eviction policy" which has been realized in Torino during these last years of repression. In fact, the Municipality has already undertaken this policy to evict squats in order to transfer the buildings to associations offering "services to citizens" (i.e. rRosalia, Alcova and Fenix).

As there are upcoming elections, Angeleri does not wish to lose the opportunity to promote himself in the eyes of the citizens as a supporter of a "multi-ethnic Torino", particularly in light of the large Romanian community in the city, and to demonstrate he is against the squatters, who for many years have neither cooperated with communal institutions, nor voted in elections.

Comfortably seated on their thrones, these councillors await the fight between the squatters and their supporters on one side and the Fratia Association on the other: a scene that would distract the citizens from seeing the bluff of the Olympics (excessive debts of the municipality, speculation, environmental devastation and the development of unused public structures such as the Palafuksas of Piazza della Repubblica) and to feed journalists who are always looking for sensational stories about squatters and immigrants.

To avoid a war between the poor, we went to speak to the Association's spokesperson, Aurelia Mirita: their response was not receptive but was rather insolent (their advice was that we find them another place so that we can remain in our current location). As a result, we are forced to believe that underneath this masquerade of finding a suitable location for this association, disguised as trendy political speeches about integration of immigrant communities, is merely a new attack on urban occupations of empty buildings.

We are well aware that a successful eviction of Asilo now will lead to the attempted evictions of other squats in the future. Therefore, we invite everyone who has an interest in this house and occupations in general to show their solidarity and participate in upcoming actions against the eviction.

*Asilo Squat Principe di Napoli*