

NO VAT

SELF-DETERMINATION, LAICITY ANTI-FASCISM, LIBERATION

DEMONSTRATION, SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2009

venue: ROME, ITALY – Piazza della Repubblica at 2 PM



Eighty years after the Lateran Pacts between Pius XI and Mussolini (11th February 1929), at the height of the crisis of the neoliberal system, the connivance between the authoritarian State and the Vatican, that is at the core of the Concordat, still remains. Decades of institutional rehabilitation of Fascism find an echo in the present revisionism of Ratzinger on Pius XI and Pius XII, both accomplices of Fascism, Nazism and thus of the deportation and extermination of women and men considered "different."

Meant as an agreement for the reciprocal protection of privileges, the Lateran Pacts, and their 1984 updated version, the Concordat, still prove to be powerful tools of control. In their name the Catholic religion and its symbols continue to rage, feeding the logic of the "clash of civilizations" and a climate in which self-determination, laicity, atheism and freedom of thought are stigmatized and often punished as acts of cultural terrorism.

The demonstration NO VAT - claiming self-determination, laicity, antifascism, liberation and citizenship - aims to denounce the Vatican plans for hegemony and its support to a sexist, racist and fascist system as well as its role in the management of the crisis of the neoliberal system. As in a game of roles, in times of economic crisis, to the progressive destruction of a welfare state that, at least on paper, offered assurances to each and everyone, the church answers back offering charitable "solutions" which prove to be discriminatory and familistic.

Meanwhile, the cuts to education and the public health systems continue to ensure a constant cash flow in the coffers of confessional schools and universities, Catholic hospitals and clinics. The depletion of the public school system, denounced by the student movement of the "Anomalous Wave" in Autumn 2008, has not only the purpose of redirecting resources somewhere else but also, on the long run, to rob the next generations of the tools for knowledge and critic judgement, necessary to understand the mechanisms of power.

In Italy, Catholic associations fatten their wallets thanks to their involvement in manifold social programmes and in the direct management of some CIE – Centers for identification and expulsion - and CARA - Centers for asylum seekers. In so doing they endorse a logic of securitarian management of the phenomenon of migration and are able to control a "reserve army of labour" from other countries. Meanwhile they are gaining the management of international crises in order to multiply their businesses: AIDS, refugee camps, humanitarian aids.

On the ideological ground, the Vatican hierarchies defend and foster the patriarchal subordination of one sex to another, waging war with the concept of *gender*, that is claimed to deconstruct the "naturalness" of roles between men and women, and using this ideological war to support its constant interference in the politics of national and international organisations (UN, European Union).

The pontificate of the integralist Ratzinger, through control over birth and death, seeks to manage and re-discipline bodies and forms of life; the Vatican anathemas against any instance of self-

determination go hand in hand with the multiplication of bylaws and bans of “mayors-sheriffs”. The family shown on television commercials is imposed by the state and the church as the unique model of respectability and those who don’t comply with it become unseemly if not dangerous.

After eighty years since the stipulation of Lateran Pacts, the Vatican hierarchies and the state are determined to neutralize the social conflict by producing new marginalities to stigmatise and new "human wastes" to discriminate with the pretext of "security."

We know what is concealed behind these campaigns of hatred: fear of losing privileges and power. But we won’t pay for their fear! Let’s raise our heads. Let’s say with determination that we are not afraid of being frightening.

We denounce the connivance between state and church in the management of securitarian, racist, transphobic, lesbofobic, homophobic and misogynistic politics and we go once more back to the streets for the NO VAT demonstration on 14 February 2009 to march and act for:

- *Self-determination and freedom of a responsible choice at any stage of life;*
- *Public and secular education and the abolition of religion courses in public schools;*
- *A secularly managed Public Health Service;*
- *A welfare state that meets the real needs of different people;*
- *The rights and full citizenship of lesbians, transgender people, gays and immigrants;*
- *The suppression of Italian ideological acts, lobbied by the Vatican and the repeal of the Italian Medically Assisted Reproduction act (40/2004),*
- *The abolition of the Concordat and the arising privileges (local council property tax exemption, “eight per thousand” funding ...)*

Promoted by the Facciamo Breccia Network

Website: <http://www.facciamobreccia.org>

To support the demonstration send an e-mail to: adesioni@facciamobreccia.org

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National demonstration NO VAT 2009: self-determination, laicity, antifascism, liberation and citizenship

**Rome, 14 February 2009 - moving from Piazza della Repubblica, h
14.00**