



The voice of Maria Dolens

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UKRAINE

A strong and unambiguous response

RUSSIA

The large-scale attack launched in the early hours of 24th February by the Russian armed forces on Ukraine represents not just an arbitrary and unjustified act of aggression towards a neighbouring country, but also an illegal and very serious violation of the international order in force today, whose fundamental and undeniable principles lie in the peaceful coexistence between peoples, in the inviolability of borders and in the entrusting of disputes in progress to multilateral authorities designated for this purpose.

In the face of this evolution, which invalidates years of efforts made in various forums (United Nations, OSCE, Council of Europe) with a view to identifying possible solutions for this crisis area (which our most recent "editorial" also discus-

sed in detail), the response of the international community must be unambiguously strong and determined. Beyond the immediate statements of condemnation, already made in the European capitals as well as in New York, Brussels and Strasbourg, it seems imperative to create a sort of "red line" around the Russian Federation, with the aim of politically isolating the leadership and making it impossible for President Putin and for the "nomenklatura" backing him to "dialogue" with the rest of the world, obtaining substantial profits in the industrial, financial and commercial fields. Or, at least, with those countries that recognise values of democracy, respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights as enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

To be continued on page 2...

IN THIS EDITION

03

Peace is never taken for granted

04

Happening at the Council of Europe
Interview with Ambassador
Michele Giacomelli

06

Happening at the UN
World Water Day

07

the exhibition "Human Crossing -
Footprints of culture and Peace"

08

It happened today
Mancino at the Bell



Continued from Page 1...

These measures must be applied for all the time that the military aggression decided by Moscow continues (and nobody is able, at the moment, to predict its duration), trusting that the Kremlin dictator may be persuaded to put an end to the fighting by a mix of external pressures and, hopefully, also by the spread of a national opposition, of which (and the courageous example of Navalny teaches us this) some not insignificant manifestations have already been apparent in that immense country-continent.

Once the guns are silent, there can be no doubt about the fact that only a subsequent negotiation phase - of which we can already imagine the extraordinary complexity - can bring hope, not just for the European continent but also for the entire community of states, to rebuild an acceptable international order, leaving behind the repercussions of the greatest world crisis since the Second World War.

To close this comment we, the Campana dei Caduti Foundation, would like to express our most heartfelt and active solidarity with the

government in Kyiv and the Ukrainian people, many of whom are our guests here in Italy, and whose high level of professionalism and human kindness we very much appreciate.

At the same time, our thoughts must also turn to the Russian population, who have given so much to the world in terms of art, culture and science and who do not deserve to be represented by a disgraceful political class, clearly emerging as the exploited and most direct victims.

Marco Marsilli, Regent



Peace is never taken for granted

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

It is happening again. There are always those who lay claim to something because it was theirs two centuries ago, and others who do not want to give it to them because in the meantime the issues involved have changed. Add to this some nationalistic rhetoric, a few resurrected flags, emphatic speeches, a pinch of misunderstood patriotic enthusiasm and war is served. The Russia-Ukraine conflict, which is in danger of setting the whole world on fire, is no exception. As always, the motives do not correspond to the declarations of the leaders and in any case, whatever justification they invoke, those who invade violate international agreements and do not act to liberate or defend anyone.

Historians will explain to us how it happened, and in the meantime comes the tragic confirmation of what we have always known: we work every day for peace, especially when nothing is going on. Underestimating the cry for help of those who have on their agenda the need to open up to dialogue before the armoured cars fill up with fuel may turn out to be lethal. United Nations and Council of Europe, where the Campana dei Caduti Foundation is present with observer status, pursue with determination, also in times of peace, a continuous diplomatic action in crisis regions, precisely in order to avoid the underground river of nationalism re-emerging to stoke economic wars - which what wars always are. And they ask the organizations who work on the ground to do their part, especially when the weapons are silent.

A few years ago, two chess grandmasters, one Russian and one Ukrainian, went up to the Colle di Miravalle. Their names are not important now. They were two men who were aware of the situation in their countries and knew that it could come to a head at any moment. They did what they knew how to do. They played chess according to the rules, they shook hands and accepted the result. Symbolic actions do not serve to stop the surface-to-air missiles, but they may help us to recognize the human-being that lies behind the enemy. Soldiers are all dressed alike. They do not kill a person, they strike at an indistinct mass that is chromatically uniform, which is the meaning, in fact, of "uniform". The role of civil society is to help us to see the faces behind the guns. Before the guns are loaded.

It is now time for diplomacy, which has not managed to avoid the bombs but cannot give up. From Strasbourg Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, has "strongly condemned the Russian military attack against Ukraine in flagrant violation of the Statute of Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights. This is a dark hour for Europe and everything it stands for". In New York António Guterres, UN Secretary General, has urged President Putin to withdraw his troops and stop "what could be the worst war since the beginning of the century".

Is this the first time we have heard these words? No, but it is one of the few times we have listened to them, because we are afraid of losing what we thought we could take for granted: Peace. Violations of international agreements capture our attention when we start to hear the sound of tanks. This approach has never worked, however. It may be naive, but there are those who think everybody must do their part all the time: politics, by showing the way, diplomacy by creating the conditions so that agreements are signed and respected, civil society by working on people, on consciences, on memory, on ideals and on rights.





HAPPENING AT THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The only way forward is multilateralism

INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR MICHELE GIACOMELLI

Multilateralism is a sort of fingerprint of Italy starting from after the Second World War. The active presence in the institutions in which ideas meet, grow and find a way for shared action has been one of the characteristics of Rome's political and diplomatic activity for decades. It is a complex path, difficult at times, during which we have to keep certain key principles fixed, repeat them and patiently carry them on, knowing that although we ourselves may not reap the fruits of this resolve, somebody in the future will do so. Meeting Michele Giacomelli, permanent representative to the Council of Europe, halfway through Italy's six-month presidency, it is interesting to find out how this path has developed in Strasbourg, and to get an idea of possible future developments.

«Italy», he says «has held the Presidency of the Committee of Ministers seven times before this one, which is the eighth, 21 years after the previous one in 2000. With the current membership this periodic appointment will be repeated only after another 23 years. It should also be said that, until the 1980s, the role of the Presidencies of the Committee of Ministers was essentially bureaucratic. It was only from the 1990s onwards that they began to express their priorities in the activities on the Committee of Ministers and therefore to have a role as a driving force in the overall life of the organisation. Among the Italian Presidencies of the past we find outstanding politicians in the history of Italy, such as Carlo Sforza (1950), Gaetano Martino (1955), Aldo Moro (1969), Arnaldo Forlani (1977), Giulio Andreotti

(1986) or Lamberto Dini (2000). Under the Italian Presidency of 2000 the membership was widened to include Armenia and Azerbaijan, parties to an exhausting conflict that is still going on today. Under the current Presidency, the process of reforming the system of

The principles underlying the construction of the "common European home" are more present than ever and we cannot take them for granted



Ambassador Michele Giacomelli, permanent representative of Italy to the Council of Europe

the European Social Charter, first activated in 1961 in Turin, has been set in motion».

During the first half of the current Presidency, Italy has organised numerous initiatives and dictated the agenda of the Council of Europe- What have been the main results achieved?

Among the most significant events created up to now, I would like to mention the visit to Strasbourg of the Equal Opportunities Minister Elena Bonetti and the meeting in Venice between Justice Ministers of the Council of Europe countries. The former took place on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, in which Minister Bonetti reminded us of the importance of the Istanbul Convention on the tenth anniversary since its signing and took part in the High Level Segment of the Gender Equality Commission (GEC) of the Council of Europe. The latter took place on 14th and 15th December in

Venice, under the Presidency of Minister Marta Cartabia and a significant presence of various ministers; this led to the approval of a declaration on reparative justice, a new form of criminal justice which enables a dialogue and cooperation between the perpetrator of the crime and the victim, and acts as a form of complementary justice to the traditional punitive model. Finally, I should mention the approval by consensus, in November, of the Organisation's two-year budget and four-year programme, achieved through negotiations that were not always easy between the various sensitivities present in the membership.

What are the next initiatives from which you expect the most?

In the second half of our Presidency we have events of equal importance. I would like to mention three of them. Firstly, the meeting of Culture Ministers, planned for 1st April in Strasbourg, which will be dedicated to the theme of culture as a strategic resource for a more sustainable, pluralist Europe. The second is the high-level meeting on Friendly Artificial Intelligence, to take place in Rome on 4th and 5th April, where politicians and experts will discuss how to make these modern tools compatible with human rights, the rule of law and democracy through, among other things, setting up negotiations for a framework instrument, legally binding, to regulate the entire subject. The third event is the launch of the new Council of Europe strategy

for the Rights of the Child, expected to take place in Rome on 7th and 8th April in the presence of Luigi Di Maio, Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Marija Pejčinović Burić, Secretary General, and Tiny Kox, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Italian Presidency concludes in May, but Italy's diplomatic initiatives will obviously continue beyond that date. What is, or might be, the role of Rome in the Strasbourg Assembly?

Italy's role in the Council of Europe is, and will continue to be, on the front line. Remember that Italy was one of the founder-member countries and is one of the largest contributors in the Organisation. Ever since its constitution, Italy has always been inspired by the values and principles on which the Statute of the Council of Europe and the construction of the "common European home" are based - values that are now more current than ever, that we cannot take for granted, and that should be repeated through the tool of multilateralism, in which we continue firmly to believe. In this context Italy will continue, even when its Presidency is over, to work so that its priorities remain high on the Organisation's agenda and will continue to be developed in the actions of future Presidencies following ours.

LECTURE BY MICHELE CANONICA

In April the Foundation is offering a lecture by Michele Canonica, columnist for the main Italian newspapers, presenter of radio broadcasts and a great expert in history and in particular, the relationship between Rome and Paris. In 2011, along with Sergio Romano and Marc Lazar, he published for Longanesi *L'Italia disunita*, a "journey" through Italy that touches all stations in space and time, and primarily explores the reality of everyday life, the State and the citizens, in every aspect: healthcare, pensions, justice and public administration. The date and time of the lecture, which may be followed remotely, will be notified shortly via the Foundation's social media and on the website www.fondazioneoperacampana.it.

HAPPENING AT THE UN

The strength of the invisible

WORLD WATER DAY

Sometimes, you need to go right down to the bottom of things. Look at what is underneath, and seek out hidden treasures. For example, World Water Day this year requires an effort from visionaries, to imagine invisible, underground deposits, and especially the impact they may have on the life of the planet, life on the surface, which we see every day before our eyes. It is not easy but it is necessary, because almost all the freshwater in the world is located underground. And not only this, but the consequences of climate change make finding it more and more complex and conserving it more critical.

«All human beings must have access to a safe source of fresh water»: this is what human rights charters, the aims of the United Nations and also common sense tell us. But this is not how it is, and we are not even close to it. A few figures to clarify the situation: 2.2 billion people do not have access to drinking water, 26 per cent of the world's population do not have basic sanitation available to them, 10 per cent consume food irrigated by waste water and over 430,000 people die each year from diarrhoea caused by deficiencies of this type.

Are we doing enough to avoid all this? Maybe not, but since 22nd March 1993, the States that make up the United Nations General Assembly have been invited to

26 per cent of the Earth's population do not have basic sanitation

promote water by means of "concrete activities". Since 2005, also various NGOs have been using this anniversary as a time to raise public awareness on the subject, with special consideration given to the sustainability of natural water habitats. In addition, since 1997, the World Water Council, an international non-governmental organisation created in 1996 as a platform for specialists in

the sector, has convened a World Water Forum every three years to debate local and regional problems. These are questions that cannot be resolved without a framework agreement between States with common aims and strategies. The next one, the ninth, is planned for 21st to 26th March in Dakar.

But there are not only the global questions, big ones but far removed from us. There are also everyday patterns of behaviour - small, but close to home. And given that the big players have difficulty in changing their habits, many programmes focus on children's education. Numerous schools give practical advice that may make a difference. Simple things, such as taking a shower rather than a bath, washing one's hands by soaping them while dry and rinsing them only after rubbing, ensuring that taps are properly turned off, filling a few bottles and putting them in the fridge rather than letting the water run and waiting until it gets cold. The hope is that children learn and especially that they have the patience to teach these things to adults.



STARTING 8TH APRIL, THE EXHIBITION "HUMAN CROSSING – FOOTPRINTS OF CULTURE AND PEACE"

Against all discrimination

A narrative centred on respect and defence of civil rights. This is the declared aim of "Human Crossing – Footprints of culture and Peace", the exhibition devised by Roberto Ronca and Debora Salardi, opening on 8th April at the Peace Gallery, the exhibition space at the Peace Bell. The intention is to represent the path of the human race, with all its contradictions, and to do so without prejudices. For this, Artistic Director Roberto Ronca has chosen works by Francesca Lolli and Ignazio Fresu - two very different narrative worlds, both converging in their rejection of any type of discrimination.

Fresu's installations offer us a silent environment, made up of petrified scenery where human beings are totally absent. A world that makes sense only at the moment when we enter it to experience a narrative composed of equality, of solidarity, Peace and freedom. Scenes are created around us, static at some unspecified point in the timeline. Perhaps everything is ephemeral, but our footprints remain and may represent a signal for change.

Francesca Lolli does the exact opposite: the body and her voice become weapons against any form of discrimination. Ironic, sarcastic and direct, she pitilessly demolishes gender stereotypes. Her performances denounce male chauvinism, patriarchy and any form of abuse of power and discrimination. Screaming out for those who cannot speak and for those who are not listened to.

The two artists so different that they represent two sides of the same coin, which never see one another, but remain

Different aesthetics and narrative worlds converge in rejecting prejudice

closely connected. Fresu bamboozles you with poetry. He makes you enter what seems to be a romantic illusion and envelops you in melancholy, to then hurl an unexpected blow, a blunt message that forces you to face up to your own limitations. Lolli starts almost by joking, lures you into what may seem a normal theatrical per-

formance and then disarms you by making you face a sincerity that is completely without filters, that speaks to you in the first person, compelling you to confront your own prejudices. Two artists who appeal to our humanity, Lolli by demolishing the superfluous elements, and Fresu by revealing their futility.



IT HAPPENED TODAY

Mancino at the Bell



17th March 1991: The President of the Senate of the Republic of Italy, Nicola Mancino, visiting the Bell



22nd March 2003: The closing ceremony of the course "Unip: Israel - Palestine - Northern Ireland" in the presence of Parliamentary Deputy Sergio Mattarella (in the centre)