

We support the Italian Judiciary on Strike on July 14th, 2005

Italian magistrates have been forced to call for a fourth day of protest against the Government's proposed reform of the judiciary organization, to be held on July 14th, 2005.

In December 2004 the President of the Italian Republic, Mr. Ciampi, refused to promulgate said law, inviting Parliament to amend several points which he considered unconstitutional.

The decision adopted by Mr. Ciampi received the support of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission for Human Rights of the United Nations on independence of judges and lawyers, Mr. Leandro Despouy, according to whom "*the proposed reforms represent a serious limitation to the guarantee of independence which, for decades, has been a characteristic of the Italian judicial system, awarding Italy an international prestige and an enviable moral authority, offering a model to other Countries*".

The main objections of the President of the Republic have been substantially ignored by the parliamentary majority and the Senate has, with its vote, confirmed the criticized text which:

- will subtract from the Superior Council of the Judiciary its constitutionally based prerogatives concerning judicial career;
- will bring by a *de facto* separation among judges and prosecutors and a strong hierachization of prosecutors' offices;
- will not respond in any way to the legitimate concerns of citizens with regard to the functioning of jurisdiction.

Italian magistrates are waiting to be heard by their Parliament in order to avoid definitive approval of the proposed reform, which goes against the principles laid down by the Council of Europe and by the United Nations.

We, European magistrates, express our concern about the fate of judicial independence in Italy.

Message to be forwarded, followed by your coordinates (name, association, jurisdiction, function...) to:
posta@associazionemagistrati.it