



Milan, 21 October 2021

Dear colleagues, friends,
Dear comrades in the international trade union movement,

Last week was a week of tension and concern, for us in the CGIL, but also for all Italian trade unionists and for all democratic citizens.

The attack we suffered was something unimaginable and therefore even harsher. They broke down the doors of our national headquarters, they came in and destroyed furniture, computers, works of art. It was a real devastation, violent. For us it was a shock, a trauma, also because it reminded us of what happened in the days of Mussolini's fascism, when squads of black shirts attacked and burned trade union headquarters, Chambers of Labour and People's Houses.

We decided to respond immediately, without hesitation, as democratic workers' organisations know how to do. A general mobilisation was called and the organisation of the demonstration in Rome on Saturday 16 October began immediately throughout Italy. It was an enormous success, a test of resistance, two hundred thousand demonstrators, democrats and anti-fascists.

We made a great organisational effort, but the real strength came from the passionate participation of all those who decided to be there.

In this dramatic moment, your support, your immediate mobilisation, was of great help. Messages of solidarity and support arrived from all over the world.

Through the contact with Fabio Ghelfi, our international manager in CGIL Lombardia, you sent messages full of humanity and empathy. I could see very well how you felt that the struggle was a common one, that you felt as outraged as we did and you were at our side. Thank you!

On the day of the demonstration in Rome, when tens of thousands of demonstrators had already arrived in the square, I wanted to prepare a message in response to your solidarity action. It has subtitles in several languages (English, French, Spanish, German, Portuguese - to view the subtitles from a telephone: click on the 3 dots at the top right of the screen, from a computer: click on the settings wheel).

I send it to you with pleasure and gratitude. You can find it on our Youtube channel at this link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nioe7zdkHtc>

It is with pleasure that I send you, together with my letter, the letter prepared by Maurizio Landini, General Secretary of the CGIL, to thank all comrades around the world who have supported the CGIL.

I thank you very much, on behalf of the whole CGIL Lombardy, the men and women of our organisation. You have not left us alone; you have shown how international trade unionism is a united and solidarity movement, capable of responding to the provocations of those who deny the fundamental principles of freedom, democracy and coexistence.

Thank you, Solidarity,

Alessandro Pagano
General Secretary
CGIL Lombardia