Italy

Ri-Maflow wants to exist!

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This appeal in support of the self-managed factory Ri-Maflow in Milan, Italy has already received international support. Collective and individual support can be sent to: rimaflovvuolevivere@gmail.com. All donations to help the factory continue are almost most welcome.

The economic crisis has led to deep social transformations and job losses all over the world, destroying the plans and expectations of millions of men and women. The answers given so far have been completely negligible from a social point of view and favourable only to the profits of the financial capital, with no positive repercussions on the real economy.

Many have opposed these policies so far: from the Occupy mobilizations in the US, to the struggles of workers in Southeast Asia, peasants in Africa and Latin America, students in Quebec, from the movements in defence of migrant rights, to those against the debt, to women's movements, to the movements of people who are denied every right. The experience of Ri-Maflow in Italy stands in full solidarity with this international movement that, in spite of its efforts, has not managed to challenge the capitalist management of the crisis.

Ri-Maflow is a workers' cooperative in Trezzano sul Naviglio (Milan). Until 2012 it has been the seat of the company Maflow, which made profits, fulfilled orders and ran factories all over the world. When the company shut down, the workers did not give up and decided to occupy the plant, beginning a completely new experience, based on self-management and democracy. They looked at the experiences of the Argentinian fabricas recuperadas and the Sem terra movements in Brasil. "Occupy, resist and produce" has become their motto, too.

Much has been done in just one year and a half: the disused workshops have started operating again, a "Town of another economy" has been realized, an alternative marketplace has been created, together with cultural and performing art classes and a place for "outside the market" distribution in collaboration with the association SoS Rosarno, created in Calabria (a southern region of Italy) to free migrants from the exploitation in orange plantations.

In the very same place that the owners of Maflow decided to shut down, the workers, together with young precarious workers, have created moments and spaces for a new sociality.

But this experience today wants to take a step forward and must do so, accomplishing the goal of operating the factory, in order to obtain a full wage for all the workers during 2015. For this purpose, Ri-Maflow is promoting a solidarity campaign with the minimum, but fundamental goal of buying a plant for the production and distribution of compressed air, which is necessary to activate all the machinery.

Achieving this goal would be an important step not only for Ri-Maflow workers, but for all those who want to work on a project of self-management, of opposition to austerity, and of defence of labour rights. For this reason, we believe that it is important to support this campaign. As academics, artists, social and political activists, media and communication workers, simple citizens, we want to say out loud that RI-MAFLOW WANTS TO EXIST.

First signatures

- Joao Pedro Stedile, Movimento Sem Terra, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
- Ken Loach, film-maker, London, Britain
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Frei Betto, liberation theologian, SÃ£o Paolo, Brazil
Thembu Chauke, Landless People Movement - Via Campesina, South Africa
AndrÃ©s Ruggeri, Open faculty programme, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
PlÃ¡cido PeÃ±arrieta, CHILAVERT Artes GrÃ¡ficas y Red GrÃ¡fica Cooperativa, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Gladis and MarÃ­a del Valle, Hotel BAUEN, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Silvia DÃ­az, Cooperativa LA CACEROLA y FACTA, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Juan MartÃ­n Pereyra, Cooperative Restaurant LOS CHANCHITOS, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Daniel Zakuski, Universidad de los Trabajadores, IMPA, Buenos Aires Argentina
Patricia Acha, coop. LA YUMBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Pedro SÃ¡nchez and Fernando Rodriguez, Coop.TEXTILES PIGUE' Buenos Aires, Argentina
Enrique Iriarte, Coop. 19 DE DICIEMBRE, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Osvaldo da Costa Neto, FÃ¡brica FLASKO', San Paolo, Brazil
FRALIB, ex Unilever, occupied factory, Marseilles, France
Mondeggio Bene Comune, farms without owners, Florence, Italy
OZ-Officine Zero, fabbrica recuperata, Rome, Italy
Socrate, migrants homes Associazione Solidaria-Netzanet, Bari, Italy
S.O.S Rosarno, produttori and braccianti Piana di Gioia Tauro, Italy
VIO.ME <http://VIO.ME>, occupied factory, Salonika, Greece
Assemblea generale âEurosÜEncuentro Sudamericano La EconomÃ­a de los Trabajadores' c/o Textiles Pigué,
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Gilbert Achcar, SOAS, University of London, Britain
Giso Amendola, University of Salerno, Italy
Bruno Arpaia, writer, Milan, Italy
Cinzia Arruzza, The New School, New York, USA
Dario Azzellini, Workerscontrol.net and University of Linz, Austria
Walden Bello, Focus on the Global South, Bangkok, Thailand
Johanna Brenner, University of Portland, USA
Pino Cacucci, writer, Bologna, Italy
Salvatore CannavaÃ©, journalist, Rome, Italy
Vivek Chibber, New York University, New York, USA
Simon Critchley, New School for Social Research, New York, USA
Antonio Conti, Rete ONU-operatori nazionali USAto, Rome, Italy
Elvira Corona, journalist, author of âEurosÜLavorare senza padroni', Cagliari, Italy
Edenise Da Silva Antas, University of Serra dos Orgaos, Brasil
Erri De Luca, writer, Rome, Italy
Nicoletta Dosio, Movimento No Tav, ValsUSA, Italy
Valerio Evangelisti, writer, Bologna, Italy
Sara Farris, Goldsmiths, University of London, Britain
Angelo Ferracuti, writer, Fermo, Italy
Nancy Fraser, New School for Social Research, New York, USA
Andrea Fumagalli, University of Pavia, Italy
Mabel Grimberg, Directora Instituto Ciencias AntropolÃ¡gicas, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
Nancy Holmstrom, Rutgers University, Newark N.J., USA
Statis Kouvelakis, Kings College, London, Britain
Michael Lowy, author, University of Paris V and CNRS, Paris, France
Aldo Marchetti, sociologist and author of âEurosÜFabbriche aperte', Milano, Italy
Ana Marssani, University of the Republic, Uruguay
Sandro Mezzadra, University of Bologna, Italy
Antonio Montefusco, University Heinrich-Heine, DÃ¼sseldorf, Germany
Toni Negri, giÃ© University of Padua, Italy
Florencia Partenio, Carrera de Relaciones del Trabajo, Univ. Naz. A.Jauretche, Argentina
Charles Post, professor CUNY, New York, USA
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Alberto Prunetti, writer, Piombino, Italy
Gabriele Polo, journalist, Rome, Italy
Re:Common, sottrarre risorse naturali a finanza and mercato, Rome, Italy
Anabel Rieiro, UniversitÀ della Repubblica, Uruguay
Pierre Rousset, Europe solidaire sans frontières, Paris, France
Sally Rousset, Babaylan-Femmes philippines en France, Paris, France
Catherine Samary, economist and global justice activist, Paris, France
Heike Schaumberg, University of Manchester, Britain
Marina Sitrin, City University, New York, USA
Richard Smith, essayist, New York, USA
Cecilia Strada, presidente di Emergency, Milano, Italy
Peter D. Thomas, Senior Lecturer in Political Philosophy, Brunel University London, Britain
Massimiliano Tomba, University of Padua, Italy
Alberto Toscano, Goldsmiths, University of London, Britain
Eric Toussaint, presidente CADTM, Lièges, Belgium
Massimo Vaggi, lawyer and writer, Bologna, Italy
Eleni Varikas, University Paris VIII and CNRS, Paris, France
Guido Viale, journalist and essayist, Milano, Italy
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Wu Ming, writers' collective, Bologna, Italy
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