

Coming back from the Preparatory Assembly of the European Social Forum in Berlin, our comrade Marco Lenzoni of the Proletarian Solidarity Association was protagonist of an episode told below. We thank you for the story he told us but mainly for the lesson he gave.

Carc Party “ International Department

Proletarian Solidarity Association (ASP)

PO Box 380, 80133 Napoli - Italy

E-mail: info@solidarietaproletaria.org

Website: www.solidarietaproletaria.org

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Racism does not take off! A comrade of the ASP and a comrade of COBAS International Department, when coming back from the European Preparatory Assembly in Berlin for the European Social Forum in Istanbul 2010, make the captain of the airplane send out a passenger who insulted a Filipino migrant with racist expressions.

As he was coming back in Italy from Berlin meeting for Istanbul 2010 ESF, on Lufthansa flight from Monaco to Pisa, an ASP delegate witnessed an episode of vulgar racism against a Filipino migrant.

As there had been a mistake in assigning the numbered seats, the Filipino migrant had the 9F, the same given to an Italian passenger. When this one came in the plane saw the Filipino migrant already sitting on that place, and began to insult him with racist expression claiming he would get up for making room for him. The migrant was not able to defend himself as he did not spoke Italian and then did not understand why that man has it in for him.

ASP comrade immediately denounced aloud the episode in front of other passengers, asking for the racist who insulted the migrant getting down off the plane.

Hostesses called the captain because the situation had become tense. The captain stopped the action for starting the taking off, get out of the cockpit for personally make sure of the situation.

As the captain was in front of ASP comrade sitting near 9F seat, a fellow traveler of the racist presented himself, telling to the captain he too was a commander (not telling the corps he belonged to), clearly aiming to frighten ASP comrade.

Firstly the airplane captain and the hostesses incredibly justified the racist insults, and they even asked ASP comrade to be more tolerant and to not speak aloud! The comrade answered to the captain that he could not ask a passenger to tolerate such racist insults and that its captain role imposed him to report the episode to airport authorities and if it was needed make the racist get down off the plane.

Just in this agitation a comrade of Leghorn of COBAS international department, she too coming from Berlin ESF, realizing what was happening, get up and strongly reminded the captain that Italian Constitution says that racism is a crime.

At that point, racist's friend ate humble pie, admitted his friend went too far with his racist insults and asked for some quiet solution. So, the captain made that dirty racist turn away and he sat near the cockpit by hostesses' side.

Let's nip every testing of fascism in the bud!

Let's fight and denounce racism and fascism in roads, neighborhoods, schools, on the jobs, on public transports, at the stadium and everywhere is necessary!

Let's struggle against the reactionary mobilization of people's masses! Let's transform it in revolutionary mobilization! Let's fight by the side of our migrant brothers for the emancipation of all workers, of the autochthonous and immigrant ones!

Let's have 10, 100, 1000 Rosa Parks Lee*!

*Rosa Lee Parks (1913-2005) was the heroine who embodied the struggle for American black people's right since when, on 1st December 1955, coming home after a workday, refused to let a white man sit in its seat, so infringing the protocol of racial laws. That was enough for being arrested, but she also became the champion of the Civil Rights Movement that broke out after her brave refusal. In fact, after Parks's refusal it started the "Montgomery Bus Boycott" for the emancipation of Black community, and it lasted 381 days

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