

Regularization: An Expensive Failure Charged on Migrants

The regularization of the last summer completely failed. About a year ago the minister Bellanova declared triumphally that she would have put an end to the irregularity of hundred thousand of migrants. Six months after the deadline for the applications, the data of the ministry of Interior contradict so much optimism. In the agriculture the applications have been few, the 15% of the sum, and that's not surprising. In the fields, illegal employment is the normal condition of the exploitation and everyday bosses and middlemen grasp the fruits of the blackmailing of the residence permit established by the Bossi-Fini Law. **The proceedings for regularization have been left in the hands of the employers, who charged on migrants the cost (hundreds of euro) to apply for residence permit, which is tied to the job contract by law. Most of migrants refused these conditions.** They didn't accept to pay on their own or to make debts with the bosses and eventually lose their documents after six months. 85% of the applications refers to domestic and care work, making once again clear the essential work that migrant women do in the houses as caregivers, maids and baby-sitters.

The failure of the regularization is unsurprising, but the administrative management is even worse of the failure itself. About 68% of the requests directly presented by migrants was accepted, but the absolute number is small (around 8 thousand) because migrants had to prove they were employed even in work sectors highly affected by illegal labor. **Yet, on more than 200.000 requests presented by the employers, a bit more of 1000 permits have been issued up to now.** In February, many prefectures hadn't yet opened the proceedings. In Bologna, where 4207 applications were submitted, just a bit more than 300 have been completed so far. In Milan more than 26000 applications were submitted, but still in February just some hundreds of applications were already started, and dozens of rejection letters were already sent, announcing the return to illegality for migrants. It will take years to examine all the applications at that rate.

Prefettura replied to whom asked to put an end to illegal employment with the same racist treatment all migrants experience every day. This administrative management confirms that regularization worked only for the bosses, turning out to be another theft of money for migrants. It made the bosses safer in case of checks, while putting men and women migrants, hoping regularization, in the same bad situation of who has been waiting for years the decisions of the Commissions, or for many months to renew a work permit. The proceedings for regularization added to the thousands of permits blocked under the guise of the pandemic, without giving any news regarding the status of the applications. **Affirming the false promise to end illegal employment, regularization ended up reestablishing the violent normality of the Bossi-Fini law, in an even rougher way.** In the fields that results in extending the unpaid work hours, exhausting work shifts, unbearable work conditions. For migrant women who work in homes that means giving full availability of their own time to the families and intensification of exploitation, risking also more abuses and harassments.

Notwithstanding the predictable failure of the regularization, **women and men migrants have been organizing in many cities to claim that all the pending proceedings must be unblocked, and the documents must be issued immediately in order to escape illegality and stay in this country.** The Migrants' Coordination completely supports their struggle, which is essentially part of the path towards the May Day of Migrants, when in Italy and in Europe their claim of freedom against exploitation, racism and sexism will be taken to the streets