

LEGA NAZIONALE CONTRO LA PREDAZIONE DI ORGANI E LA MORTE A CUORE BATTENTE

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THE 20 YEAR STRUGGLE SINCE THE FIRST HEART EXPLANT/TRANSPLANT IN ITALY *Padova 14-11-85 Francesco Busnello, a 17 yearold, sacrificed by doctors and parents*

Whilst those in agreement with transplants celebrate in style the 20th anniversary of the 'first' heart transplant which took place on 14-11-85, we are remembering our 20 year struggle of constructive action with none of the pomp. We have given them a lot of trouble – the multimillion pound public finances and the institutional propaganda have not been able to hide the truth.

We have had to use other routes to raise citizen's awareness due to the press censorship which has worsened in the last 10 years. We have been able to do this little by little, inexorably and most importantly with the help of our activists and of those who believe in human rights and who, every year, finance the campaign for both correct information and the defence of the citizen.

The number of explants may be rising but they are not donations, they are dispossessions. Even the authorities are getting uneasy, so uneasy that research is trying to move 'painlessly' towards stem cells.

Let's run through the Hearings in the Social Affairs Commission which, together with the denouncements, are the principal efforts undertaken in the institutional circle.

The first Hearing on 05/04/1989 regarding the definition of death was monopolized by Dr. D. Lamb, of Manchester University, whilst the representative of the Lega Nazionale Contro la Predazione di Organi e la Morte a Cuore Battente (National League against Organ Removal and Brain Death) was not admitted. We participated anyway with the document entitled "Observations of the Report by Dr. D. Lamb presented to the Chamber of Deputies (Camera dei Deputati)" written by Dr. David W. Evans, a Cardiologist who objected to the definition and declaration of "brain death" and subsequently resigned from his position at Papworth Hospital in Cambridge. This text was given to all 930 deputies and senators by the Lega Antipredazione.

The second Hearing on 29/10/1992, again about the redefinition of death, was reserved for the Lega Antipredazione which was present with the following speakers: Prof. Dr. Massimo Bondi, Pathologist and General Surgeon, L.D. Univ. of Rome; Dr. David W. Evans, Cardiologist; Dr. David J.Hill Emeritus anaesthetist and resuscitator from Addenbrook's Hospital in Cambridge; Prof. Fausto Baldissera, Human Physiology Ordinary – Univ. of Milan; Dr. Nunzio Romeo, president of the Order of Medical Physicians of Messina, Prof. Giuseppe Penso, exponent of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.).

In January 1997 the president of the Lega Antipredazione was personally invited to a hearing to which she refused to participate due to the unjust conditions imposed by the Commission.

On 14/01/1998 there was a significant Hearing about the opting out reserved for the Lega Antipredazione. The president Nerina Negrello participated together with three anaesthetist-resuscitators: Dr. Giuseppe Bertolini, Dr. Maria Luisa Robbiati e Dr. Riccardo Sonnino. The scientific texts presented at the above mentioned Hearings are included in the dossier named "**The Brain, this unknown organ (Il cervello, questo sconosciuto)**", which has now been integrated by the **last Hearing on 14/07/2005**, reserved for the Lega Antipredazione, relating to the bill of law no 5083 about the use of the so called "brain dead" people for surgical training. (see **Press Release of 13/10/05**). Those present at this hearing were: Prof. Dr. M. Bondi, Dr. M.L. Robiati, (already mentioned), Prof. L. Corradi, Health Sociologist -Univ.of Calabria, Don C. Nitoglia, (Ethics), Ist. Mater Boni Consilii, Don M. Nely, Theologist, Fraternità Sacerdotale S. Pio X, and the president of the Lega Antipredazione N. Negrello.

Anyway our main objective is the citizen to whom we ask his commitment.



Presidente - Nerina Negrello