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What is your role in the Inner Life Working Group?

My role inside the ILWG is to research and analyze data about life imprisonment around the world. Going through State's Constitutions, Criminal Codes and International Treaties, my co-workers and I try to gain as much relevant information on the topic (life imprisonment and death penalty).

For example in the last months we have worked on a list of sheets written by Italian lifers on their conditions of imprisonment. It is a really interesting and emotional work that really helped us in understanding what the Italian life imprisonment (ergastolo ostativo) really is.

How did you get involved in the project "Life Imprisonment: Right to Hope"?

Around 6 months ago I joined the project. It was the curiosity I had on these themes that pushed me to ask Professor Galliani (the founder of this project) to be the supervisor of my bachelor's degree thesis (on Life Imprisonment in International Criminal Courts). He advised me to join the group to gain more knowledge on the topic.

During the last months we organized different activities.

Once we went to visit Padua's prison facility. In this occasion I had the opportunity to talk and share thoughts with many detainees, most of them were lifers. Talking for the first time with someone who was actually living in prison had a big impact on my perception of justice. I won't easily forget this experience. Another time we spent the whole day with the President and other

members of the NGO Hands Off Cain. The object was always the same getting more knowledge on the topic.

Why did you decide to work for the lifers cause?

I think I am a very sensitive person and I was always bonded to the cause of human rights protection and especially to the protection of human dignity.

I was always against death penalty and initially I saw life imprisonment as an alternative. Thanks to my university studies, that I am really proud of, I understood what life imprisonment actually was. I realized how similar it was to death penalty, they both consist in a State that takes away someone's life, someone's hopes. The only difference that in life imprisonment the inmate waits for his death for his whole life.

What is the most exciting project you have been a part of while working in the Inner Life Working Group?

The most interesting projects were reading those sheets written by lifers about their conditions of detention and being able to hear inmates talking in Padua's prison. This opportunity helped me open my eyes on some realities that first were hidden.

I hope that in the future I will be able to participate in other projects that aim at bringing serious changes in Italian prisons.

What do you do besides working at the ILWG?

Other than working for ILWG I am writing my thesis (I will graduate in July 2015), I am also looking for a master course on

human rights protection.

I am passionate about sports, i practice track and field. My days are divided into studying, sports and friends.

What are you reading right now?

I'm reading two really interesting books. "Lettere contro la guerra" by Terzani and "Un uomo" di O. Fallaci.

The first one contains a series of letters between the author Terzani (a journalist) sent to Kabul and Mrs Fallaci, after 9/11. The letters have interesting reflexions on terrorism and war.

The second book talks about a young man who was brave enough to rebel against Greece's tyrann Papadopoulos. He tries to organize an attack against Papadopoulos, but he fails, he gets arrested, tortured and sentenced to death. But the death execution keeps being rescheduled because the case gets really big in the international scene. In the meanwhile the young man keeps being tortured secretly but he never accepts to bend on his knees in front of the dictatorship.

In the last two years of incarceration he is imprisoned in a really small cell, build precisely for him. They call it "the grave" because it has that shape. After years of confinement, tortures and other degrading treatments he is released when the dictator falls. Some days after his release he meets Mrs Fallaci who went to visit him for an interview. Since that meeting a love story starts to develop and it will continue until his death.

How would you sum up life imprisonment in three words?

Hopeless, inhuman, cruel. It is a real sentence to death.