



My name is Giovanni Savino and I am President of *Cooperativa Sociale Onlus "Il Tappeto di Iqbal"*. We are set in Naples, in the neighbourhood of Barra.

We use the pedagogy of social circus applied on the crime-contaminated streets of Barra. Barra is a working class and hard-working neighbourhood of the metropolitan area of Naples (6th section of Naples' *Municipalità*). Since about a decade it has turned into a vast area of unemployment and poverty. Even if the neighbourhood is not under any media or social spotlight, it is in fact a high-risk area, not only because it is badly contaminated by the crime models that actually rule in it (proof of this are all the magistrature's acts since September 2012 that demonstrates the presence of crime in such territories), but also for the total absence of social places of encounter different from the road. Moreover, Barra has a recorded high rate of school dispersion. Higher than the rest of the whole city of Naples.

In Barra there is a strong presence of Neapolitan Mafia ("Camorra"), that once a year has even its own popular fair which is very profitable for the organised crime.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ095CAwG8k>

The internationally recognised *Cooperativa Sociale Onlus "Il Tappeto di Iqbal"* is engaged in helping kids, teenagers and poor people from Barra, and it is now succumbing under the enormous financial cuts to welfare.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fBy9nEjt1e4>

http://videos.arte.tv/fr/videos/naples_le_salaire_des_enfants--6456724.html (15.07.00)

<http://www.europe1.fr/MediaCenter/Emissions/Carnets-du-monde/Sons/Les-carnets-du-monde-13-10-12-1273861/> (Watch at 57:00:00)

<http://www.presseurop.eu/en/content/article/1722081-child-labour-re-emerges-naples>

We work here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79CABUonyszQ>

It is a tragedy for social workers to see the weaker people suffer the violence of devastating cuts to social policies. The bad management of these funds have led to the closure of foster homes, the renounce to services for disabled people, for kids and for the others weak of this country. The paradox is that these cuts are causing many other people (mainly social workers) to lose their jobs.

This truly is a human tragedy!

"*Il Tappeto di Iqbal*" in Barra denounces a neighbourhood that has the highest average of youth out of all the city of Naples, but has also the highest rates of school dispersion in the whole region of Campania. It denounces the absence of a cinema, of a theatre, of places destined to social meeting, the absence of a recreation ground, the abandoning of green areas, the merciless conditions of a refugee camp, the presence in homes of

asbestos cement (ethernit) expired since 1980 where people still live in terrible conditions.



“*Il Tappeto di Iqbal*” has been abandoned because he denounced all of this. It works with a group of forty children from Barra, poor, with no education, and it works on the road because it has no other place to bring this beauty, in order to create a place where european cultural exchanges could be made, a cinema, a theatre, a class of work formation for the youth and a new artistic and cultural place where young people can actually meet, also learning English and making theatre and films.





http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu_8EYLJx3o

Because we work in the streets, the organised crime of Barra is constantly menacing us. They don't want us. This is very dangerous. We have demanded, helped by *Save the Children*, to obtain a school that has been abandoned for over six years, the *Plesso Salvemini* in Via Mastellone, Barra. We would like that building in order to create a home for Barra's Social Circus and work in safety and not on the streets. Unfortunately no one has ever answered to us and local institutions rather prefer to leave it in the hands of a family that's illegally occupying it.

This is all absurd.

We call out for help.

It is essentially important to us that *Cirque du Mondo* helps us for this.

We need to install a big top for a circus in our neighborhood. The costs are incredibly high to us and for this we ask to *Cirque du Soleil* to help us promoting our research to realities all over the world in order for us to buy the big top. We believe that *Cirque du Mondo* could afford this for us or at least help us to move such realities in order for the *CIRCOANTICAMORRA* (a circus against the mafia) can finally find its home. I hope that *Cirque du Soleil* wants to meet the main figures from *Il Tappeto di Iqbal* in the London branch to discuss this proposal which is an important call for help, because such an important reality like ours can keep on living.



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