

To Whom It May Concern:

I was present in Comiso on March 9th, and I was standing near the women's blockade of the main gate of Magliocco airport on the morning of March 9th, 1983.

I saw Carabinieri and men in plain clothes charge the blockade.

I saw women being dragged by their arms, legs and hair approximately twenty to twenty-five feet down the road by the Carabinieri and the men in plain clothes.

I saw a woman's arm being twisted by a Carabiniere.

I saw a woman being struck on the breast by a Carabiniere.

I saw women being held on the ground by the Carabinieri; in at least one case the Carabiniere was using his feet to restrain a woman on the ground.

I saw cameras being taken away from photographers by Carabinieri and the film being removed forcibly.

I saw a photographer being tackled by the Carabinieri and held on the ground while the film was removed from his camera.

I heard a photographer protest that he was a journalist and his right to take pictures was protected by the Constitution before his camera was taken away and the film removed.

When I, with other members of my group, asked a Carabiniere who the men in plain clothes were, he replied, "They are workers."

When we asked the same Carabiniere why it was necessary to be so violent in removing the women, he replied, "The Republic of Italy was founded on the right to work. The women were obstructing the workers right to work."

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Frances Tarlton Farenthold

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