

US Ambassador to Italy  
Mr. Maxwell Rabb  
United States Embassy  
119 v. Vittorio Veneto  
ROME

March 11, 1983

Dear Ambassador Rabb:

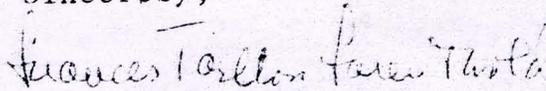
We, the undersigned citizens of the United States; came as a peace delegation to participate in peaceful demonstrations in Catania and in Comiso on March 8, 1983, International Women's Day.

On March 9th we visited the International Peace Camp set up in protest of the deployment of cruise missiles at Magliocco Airport. We were at the point of leaving when, without warning, the women of the peace camp, who were engaged in a non-violent direct action, were forcibly removed by the Italian Carabinieri. We were appalled and shocked at the brutality of this assault.

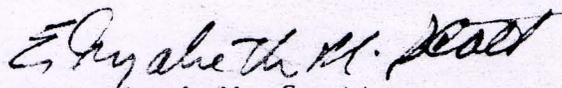
To our dismay, the camera of one of our members was snatched away from her. It was later restored after the film had been confiscated. This tactic, generally associated with countries where repression of human rights is common, is a violation of western democratic principles.

We protest the brutality of the police in their actions against the women of the peace camp, and call upon you to bring our protest to the Italian government. We hope that in the future more civilized means will be used in response to non-violent passive resistance.

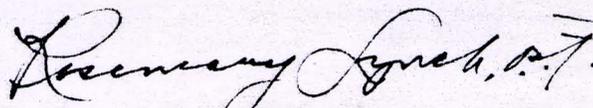
Sincerely,



Frances Farenthold



Elizabeth M. Scott  
Director, Justice for Women  
National Council of Churches



Rosemary Lynch, O.S.F.

