

## **Incitement to suicide, the president of Exit Italia sentenced to 3 years and 4 months for the case of Alessandra Giordano**

by Ferruccio Pinotti

*The third section of the Assize Court of Appeal of Catania overturned the sentence of first instance. According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, the woman suffered from "non-irreversible pathologies" and had been poorly treated and was depressed.*

The third section of the Assize Court of Appeal of Catania sentenced to three years and four months of imprisonment of **Emilio Coveri, president of the Exit-Italia association**, for incitement to suicide in relation to the case of Alessandra Giordano, who died in Switzerland with assisted suicide at the age of 47 in 2019. The sentence reforms that of acquittal issued on November 10, 2021, with the formula "because the fact does not exist", by the judge for the preliminary hearing Marina Rizza as the conclusion of the trial celebrated with the abbreviated rite.

### **Disqualification and compensation for damages**

The assistant prosecutor Ignazio Fonzo and the deputy Andrea Brugaletta appealed against the decision at first instance. The prosecutor Andrea Ursino presented in court the request for conviction fully accepted. The Court of Assizes of Appeal also ordered for Coveri the **accessory penalty of disqualification from public office for five years and compensation for damages for the civil parties** who appeared in court, five family members of the woman.

At the center of the trial was the assisted suicide in a clinic in Zurich, on March 27, 2019, of the woman who was not terminally ill, but who **suffered from depression and Eagle syndrome**. Also called styloid syndrome which is a disorder of the ligaments that connect the skull to the hyoid bone of the neck, which following calcification cause painful symptoms in the mouth, head, neck, throat and forehead, with limitation of neck movements and other serious limitations. The lady was a member of the Exit Italy association.

### **Public Prosecutor's Office: "Pathologies not irreversible, she was poorly treated"**

According to the Public Prosecutor's Office, which coordinated the investigations performed by the Carabinieri (State Police) and the Postal Police, Coveri "provided a causal contribution suitable for **strengthening a previously uncertain and hesitant suicidal intention** on a person suffering from pathologies that are not irreversible although painful, also because they are not well treated, exploiting the influenceability of the woman to inculcate her questionable ideas of assisted suicide as a solution to the physical and moral suffering of life". For the prosecutor "the individual choice, taken in full autonomy must be respected", but it is necessary to evaluate whether "we believe that it is licit to propose suicide to people who are not in conditions of irreversible pathology, perhaps only depressed, as the only remedy for their suffering". "The lady - Coveri has always maintained - was one of our associates and **we simply provided her, at her request, with the information she needed to make a decision. A normal procedure.**" Obviously, the opinion of the Public Prosecutor's Office that obtained the conviction is different, against which an appeal to the Court of Cassation seems likely.

Article published by Corriere della Sera – June 28, 2023

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