

## **35 years ago it was destroyed in the name of "progress and labour" Marina di Melilli**

### **Marina di Melilli - The bay of the Gods**

The bay of the Gods, the name given to the territory of Marina di Melilli by the ancient Greeks, inspired by the enchanting sea and the fine white sand, in a beautiful bay in front of the Magnisi peninsula, with the prehistoric settlement of Thapsos among the first inhabited part of land in the world.

Marina di Melilli is located on the State Road 114, just outside Syracuse north.

Since 1954 was a bathing location and then later became inhabited, as a fishing village with 1500 inhabitants. Here there was a tobacco shop, bakery, bar and butcher. Many residents of the city of Syracuse and its province benefitted during the summer of the beautiful beach "near the house".

In 1979 to expand the ISAB refinery, it was decided by national and local politicians, to raze it to the ground. To the inhabitants were sold dreams of progress, jobs and wealth for all.

Some families were compensated while others put up a strong resistance. For this reason electricity and water were disconnected. The last baker in 1982 continued to make bread with sea water to avoid losing the license.

The last resident of Marina di Melilli, Salvatore Gurreri, was assassinated on

13 June 1992 on the night between Saturday and Sunday, with the mafia method of *incaprettamento*, [method of strangulation used by the Mafia whereby a rope is passed around the victim's wrists, ankles and throat] the man symbol of Marina di Melilli. A murder that will remain unravelled in an impenetrable mystery and followed by two long trials, in October of 1996, culminating in two half-truths, when 25 years of prison were inflicted to a Priolese who had disappeared (perhaps a victim of "lupara bianca").

Gurreri in recent years had reported those who threatened him: the local politician or the mobster in charge. La Cassation had also decided that the expropriation and demolition procedures were illegal.

The State bodies, investigators, tried in all these years to make it appear as a common murder of some thugs who wanted to rob. But the discovery of the contents in his car trunk and the *incaprettamento* show a clear mafia matrix.

The dynamics of the investigation, the dissemination of information remind us of the crimes of Peppino Impastato and Mauro Rostagno indicated at the beginning as "common murders".

Today at Marina di Melilli there are only a few houses, the bulldozers of the *Tabula Rasa* operation were not able to tear them down all, I'm here as a thorn in the flesh for those responsible for this disaster but also for former residents who grew up and were born here. Some still remember "the deportation" free or forced they have suffered.

Remain the ruins of a town that does not exist anymore, witnesses to non civilization and destruction that cause men thirsty for power and money.

Marina di Melilli takes, in its small, placed next to other towns' of the world who have been victims of "progress" like Tschernobyl and Fukushima.

These stories should be a warning to the next tragedies announced such as the installation of MUOS antennas in the nature reserve Sughereta of Niscemi.

