

Diary from Quarantine – 24 – Lockdown Holidays and Civic Sense

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The total cases in Italy are 152,271. Currently infected people are 100,269 and 19,468 are dead. Here in Lombardy, the region of Milan, currently infected people are 57,592 and 10,511 lost their lives (April 11). Given that Italian regions are 20, these data can give you an idea of the situation here.

Today is Easter, the first holiday we spend in lockdown. The numbers above clearly show that we cannot lower our guard so - once again - we will stay home, hope, and wait.

As I woke up quite mad at them, I am going to tell you about the health and social damage caused by people who systematically break the lockdown measures.

On Friday, the day that in a normal year would have started Easter's holidays, the mobility in Lombardy reached 41%.

This means that 41% of citizens were not at home and, turns out, the mobility was particularly intense on the routes heading to touristic destinations.

Obviously a portion those people had the right to circulate, for example for emergencies or because they work in sectors that never stopped functioning, but clearly not all of them.

Another frustrating data showed that, in the last few days, mobility in Milan at 11 p.m. was the same as 7 p.m.: how was this possible?

Apparently, for many of my fellow countrymen the numbers mentioned above are not enough to give up on their Easter gateways or on the barbecue in their second house on the mountains.

This non-existent sense of responsibility led authorities to dramatically increase the number of law enforcement officers on the ground, intensify controls, place more checkpoints on the highways leaving cities, and use more drones to monitor citizens' movements.

I do not own the information concerning the cost of these intensified measures, but I am quite sure that Italy's devastated economy does not need this huge expense caused by people's lack of civic sense.

Civic sense can be seen as an ethics to be followed by people for everyone's sake. Those who keep breaking the rules are treating the pandemic as nothing more than an annoyance, whereas it is a worldwide disaster that we can contribute to stop by staying home.