

Albert Einstein, Nobel Prize in Physics, in 1951 stated that " *THE LIBERATION OF ATOMIC POWER HAS CHANGED EVERYTHING EXCEPT OUR WAY OF THINKING*". Why do I quote this great German scholar's assertion?

As you are probably aware, in the recent years, I have become the object of considerable controversy with regard to my early operations on 14188 kHz and subsequently to my quite regular operations on 14195 kHz. This dubious and unwanted notoriety includes being the victim of deliberate interference and hate campaigns, which have inevitably included renewed threats° of physical violence against myself and my family. Other aspects of this un-ham-like comportment involve unidentified stations playing music, noises and, above all, masterly recordings of my station with false identities, all in an apparent attempt to discredit me and incite further hatred against me.

The reason of Albert Einstein's quotation is its irrefutable truth and, above all, its adequacy with regard to a disgraceful comportment of an unmatched horde of international self-styled "*gentlemen*" who, with outrage, arrogance, anonymity, cowardice, impunity and unmatched constancy, are still soldiering on with unpunished violation of the *International Telecommunication Union* (ITU) and national Radio Regulations, all in an obvious attempt to claim *their* alleged priority-right on *their* alleged *exclusive* "*DX window*" or "*DX expedition*" frequency 14195 kHz and, recently, also around 3795 kHz.

As most of you have probably noticed already, at the end of August 2008, after a regular presence started at the beginning of 2003 on the "*gentleman's agreement*" frequency 14195 kHz, I unilaterally decided to "abandon" this frequency and, except the 80 metre-band (after many years I recently started my transmissions on this band again), I limited to almost zero my transmissions on any other remaining HF band.

I took this decision to further substantiate that I neither "*own*" nor I want "*to monopolize*" 14195 kHz. I hope the above mentioned horde of rascals who in 2003 have determined my early decision to disregard their alleged sacred "*DX window*" will definitely understand that, except the *International Telecommunication Union* (ITU) or our national Authorities, NO Ham or ham ENTITY has the right to condition the use of whatever frequency allocated to the Amateur Service. Leaving the frequency 14195 kHz or returning back to it, is and remains my EXCLUSIVE and LEGITIMATE faculty.

From the end of August 2008 to date I constantly have been verifying how many questionable activities and wild, rude and unskilled operating practices an horde of very blatant "*DXing*" orientated fanatics is STILL permitted. The activities of a minority group has strongly been conditioning the remaining mass of reputable Hams to the immoral imposition of its camouflaged selfishness and hypocrisy of "*ham-spirit*" and "*tolerance*" respectively. The result is something which, especially in the case of 14195 kHz, not only has drastically compromised the attainment of a mandatory "*enhancement of rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the ham radio-frequency spectrum*" established by the ITU, but it primarily is causing an inevitable enhancement of illegal abuses such as deliberate interferences, indescribable vulgarities and, last but not least, HATRED and most vile INTIMIDATION.

During the period 2008-2010 I witnessed that, excepting myself and some other italian operators, any Ham can extensively use 14195 kHz without ever getting arrogantly OFFENDED and RUDELy forced to leave this frequency. This is not my own personal perception but an irrefutable fact demonstrating that anyone else can use the "*sacred*" and "*exclusive*" 14195 kHz.

At the beginning of September 2008 (few days after I again decided to "abandone" 14195 kHz), I was already wondering where had gone all those "*radio-policemen*" who, on a daily basis, used to reproach my presence on their alleged "*gentleman's agreement*" frequency. If these conceited "HF-traffic controllers" and their vile supporters were now afraid of something or if their deliberate interferences, offences and threats have ever had a relationship with my nationality or my being a

Sicilian, I would not really know. However, since the end of August 2008 I have been monitoring both "*DX-expedition*" and "*DX*" traffic on and around 14195 kHz and 3795 kHz.

Ever since I started my Ham activity (2003) I have been intrigued on how masterly some european Radio Associations kept promoting a most un-ham-like and blatant operating practice characteristic of an horde of scoundrels only. In the attempt to achieve exclusive and selfish privileges for their electorate, especially in the last decade Radio Associations have blindly been tollerating everything, even hubris and rudeness. Between 2003 and 2010 I have managed to verify how true it is to say that in the last 15-20 years a minority group has literally betrayed the widely known "*Ham Spirit*". In order to gain consensus, IARU and Radio Associations have even permitted this minority group to transform the "*Ham Spirit*" into a "*de facto*" enhancement of the moralization of concepts like "*every group for himself*", "*anything goes*", "*might makes right*", "*survival of the strongest group*" and "*interfere or be interfered*". The acceptance of these concepts has constantly been jeopardizing the credibility of Ham Radio and misleading its true purposes to an actual non-return point.

You probably may take me for too naive or bigoted, but between 1973 and 2001, I have always and profoundly believed that the "*Law of the jungle*" could never exist within the boundaries of a noble hobby for very reputable operators supposed to communicate with other hams to share recreation whilst training themselves and be even ready and prompt in active and effective help in an event of ill-fated public emergencies. Despite all that I have always regard our activity (hobby?) primarily as a Service and still continue to give a lot of consideration to the importance of its recreative aspect.

In the last decade or so, I have been sensing the irreversable decadency affecting the International Amateur Radio Service as profoundly disappointing and disheartening. The recent years of daily activity on 14195 kHz do allow me to go on record as saying that the manifest and increasing trend of abuses and even crimes witnessed by the whole Ham Community is the result of a growth of really unskilled, wild and meaningless activities practised by a minority group of thoughtless and arrogant fanatics.

In the attempt to gain further privileges and claims on the frequencies which the Ham Community has traditionally accorded an alleged "*special*" use such as the "*DX window*", some delinquents have erroneously received a lot of support (tolerance?) by Radio Associations and irresponsible and self-styled hams whose self-seeking has never let them care about their vile and anonymous actions which have irreversably been discrediting the International Amateur Radio Service at large.

The recent campaigns of vile and anonymous interference carried out with unparalled obstinacy against my operating on 14195 kHz are absolutely symptomatic of the worrying state of decadency of the Ham activities. To better understand what the Amateur Radio Service is doomed to, you only need to read the immoralities and crimes vehicled through a more and more abused "*DX cluster*". If you have not yet, please, just search the "*spots*" dedicated to "*IT9RYH*" or to "*Nino*" in the last few years.

Ever since the Italian Ministry of Telecommunication has given me the privilege to enter the Amateur Radio Service (1973), I have always been a tolerant "*rag-chewer*" attracted by many interesting operators and technical aspects and not by sterile long-distance QSO and its fateful "*five-n-nine*". Although very keen of "exotic" and rare stations, in forty years of Ham activity, I have always been taking advantage of my activity on HF to better understand the propagation without never becoming fanatic of meaningless collection of prefixes.

Since the very first day of my ham activity I have always succeeded to putting into practice what two unforgettable teachers taught me at the Porto Empedocle (Sicily) State Maritime Radio-School :

Luigi MARULLO, competently instructed me to the Maritime Mobile Service but, primarily, he taught me to persevere in the face of delay or provocation without acting against annoyance or anger in a negative way : ENDURANCE.

Gerlando VIGNERI, I1VIR (at the time Sicily was still allocated the prefix "I1"), while contributing to my preparation for the Maritime Mobile Service, he introduced me to genuine Amateur Radio Service and taught me how to accept something while disapproving it : TOLERANCE.

One and a half year spent in England and the island of Jersey (UK) but also ten months at the "Electronic War Dpt." (radio counter measures) in the Navy Academy of Livorno and ten further months at the "Lecture Hall" of the "NATO Defense College" in Rome as a "Sound Technician", have permitted me to upgrade my "school-made" English knowledge to more than adequate for a skilled ship's Radio Officer with the above two qualities.

Ever since my very first QSO on the amateur HF bands, politeness and respect have constantly distinguished the tolerance I always adopted in any kind of exceptionable behaviours, situations and activities. Till 2003 I have NEVER HAD one single significant struggle or conflict with any ham, neither when I was operating with my previous call signs IT9PZF and DJ0DF, nor with my present IT9RYH. Through those first thirty years I have managed to tolerate even the worstest "radio-bullies" every Ham, at least once in his ham activity, has to deal with or listen across our ham-bands. Apart some very rare and meaningless squabbles with some alleged "distinguished" individuals, I have NEVER BEEN involved in whatever serious conflict or quarrel with any other Ham as during the "14195-issue".

Ever since my first approach to the Amateur Radio Service, first as an SWL (1971) and as a Class A Licensee (1973) later, I have always been fully conscious that, no matter how small, our Ham Community represented a piece of "human society" which, inevitably and similarly to the latter, I too, had to tackle a mixture of blatant "radiobullying", cajolery, deception, sanctimony, abuses and even some sort of minor crimes, but NEVER EVER I would have believed to become the object of the DEATH THREATS received by some dastards.

If the abolishment of most of the control-Authorities left has been making possible the spreading of unexampled and un-ham-like comportments especially experienced on 14195 kHz, the pervasive promotion of meaningless and wild competition activities of the last fifteen years or so has irrefutably contributed to make such comportments quite irreverable.

Witnessing how all this has periodically coincided with an overwhelming growth of unpunished fanaticism and cynicism has been most sad. The last few years of activity on the "sacred" 14195 kHz have permitted me to definitely comprehend who and what is responsible of the problems and crimes unpunishedly and repeatedly committed in name of a sanctimonious and fraudulent "gentleman's agreement" and even "ham spirit".

I am well aware to be neither the first, nor will I be the last Ham to deal with some deplorable individuals, but unless IARU wants to deceive the international ham Community, the persisting shameful behaviours witnessed on our bands and, again, especially on 14195 kHz, cannot be explained as an harmless or tolerable "degradation in operating standards". Even the very last "new comer" knows too well that all that is nothing but the worrying result of a constant growth of an anonymous and arrogant horde of self-styled "gentlemen" only.

At the IARU Administrative Council held in Konstanz (Germany) at the end of June 2008 ([www.iaru.org/ac-0806min.pdf](http://www.iaru.org/ac-0806min.pdf)), the Secretary of IARU Region-1 simply affirmed that in this Region there is a perceived "degradation in operating standards by a small but noisy minority, including some who exert their claim to a particular frequency and others who simply seem to be anarchists". Probably in the intent of reassuring or minimizing the seriousness of an objective constatation, he went on by telling his audience that "the problem is not exclusive to Region-1". For very obvious reasons, instead, he preferred not to tell what could be causing all this. I think

that it should have been the right moment for IARU to officially tell that the core of the problem is the unlimited tolerance offered to a growing horde of arrogant individuals representing a minority of rascals hosted to nest even within some respectable Radio Societies. As far as I am concerned I have never read or heard of a single Ham expelled from his Radio Association. Unless the Secretary of IARU Region-1 was referring to those Hams operating in accordance with the international Radio Regulations, I wonder who were the "*anarchists*" he referred to.

In the attempt to dampen the spirits or defuse a very acute "*degradation in operating standards*" especially affecting the IARU Region-1 or perhaps avoid further publicity to the 14195 kHz issues, the Secretary has wisely (?) called attention to the necessity of educating operators in "*proper techniques*" and proposed the adoption of biblical principles set out in the booklet "*Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur*" by Marc Demouleneere, ON4WW, and the very respectable ham John Devoldere, ON4UN.

The belgian ham Marc Demouleneere, ON4WW, has also given existence to his own "*radio bible*" titled "*Operating Practice*" which has already been adopted by many radio associations including the "*Associazione Radioamatori Italiani*" (ARI). In paragraph "*11. Conflict situations*" he reports a "*very extreme*" case of a sicilian "*individual*" called "*Pipo*" (Nino ?) and callsign "*IZ9x*" (IT9RYH ?):

*" Let's have a look at an example of a very extreme case, namely IZ9xxxx from Sicily. OM Pipo had the annoying habit to call CQ on 14195 kHz, a 'de facto' DX frequency used by rare DX stations and DXpeditions, and to conduct QSOs with regular stations from Europe and America on that frequency. A lot of DXers worldwide felt offended. 14195 kHz was transformed to a mess every time Pipo showed up, because the DX community did not appreciate him 'monopolizing' that frequency.*

*If we analyze this case, we notice the following objective observations:*

- *Pipo asks 'Is this frequency in use?' before attempting a CQ and makes QSY when the frequency is in use.*
- *Pipo uses a frequency which he, as decreed by law, can use at anytime (see further).*
- *14195 kHz is situated in the de facto DX window 14190-14200 kHz. This frequency segment has been withheld by IARU Region 1 with priority for DXpeditions since January 1st 2006 (since that date Pipo had to emigrate to other frequencies).*
- *Whenever Pipo made legal transmissions on 14195 kHz (before 1 January 2006) he was being jammed by dozens of stations, who never identified with their callsign and who were, in fact, operating illegally (called pirates).*

*This situation came to my attention in mid 2003 and I witnessed on many occasions how dozens of DXers were deliberately jamming Pipo. Let there be no doubt that each of these stations transmitted outside the legal boundaries granted by their licenses. If their National Controlling Authorities would be stationed at their doorstep with a mobile unit, witnessing their illegal transmissions, these DXers would have lost their licenses. Not Pipo who was always working within the legal boundaries of his license!*

*As a quasi-objective observation we can say Pipo is an anti-social ham who on purpose spoils the pleasure of many. But, his actions are always conducted within the boundaries of his license.*

*What is a good approach to deal with such an individual?*

- *Certainly not by jamming him (and making illegal transmissions yourself). It gives him a feeling of power, and power tastes for more. so he will even step up his efforts to annoy you and others!*
- *Leave him be, and turn your VFO to another frequency;*
- *contact him in a normal manner and try to find out the cause of his behavior.*

*On 12 August 2003 my nerves were tested once more by Pipo. I called him in a normal manner and we had a QSO which lasted about 20 minutes on 14195 kHz. During this QSO I learned Pipo didn't appreciate (to say the least) how he kept on being jammed by dozens of 'unknown' hams. He was appalled by the death threats (!) he received by telephone (picked up by his daughter!), etc. During this 'calm' QSO we exchanged argumentation as to why Pipo should or shouldn't continue using 14195 kHz. We ended the QSO without reaching an agreement, but the next few weeks 14195 kHz was clear of IZ9xxxx transmissions.*

*Of course Pipo started using 14195 kHz again after a month or so, perhaps because someone caused him grief on another frequency?*

*On another occasion in 2005, when the K7C expedition was active on 14195 kHz, I overheard Pipo asking 'Is this frequency in use?'. I promptly responded: 'Yes Pipo, by K7C, tnx QSY, 73 from ON4WW'. Pipo immediately went down 5 kHz to call CQ. Case closed. "*

Now do not take me for a jackanapes, but if I publically assert that mister Mark Demouleneere refers to me it is because, with the exception of a very similar name and callsign, he quotes six details which nobody would ever consider mere coincidences :

- I have contacted him on 12th August 2003 between 1508-1530 UTC ( this QSO, in fact, "lasted about 20 minutes on 14195 kHz").
- I am located in Sicily.
- I have received death threats by telephone, radio, post and InterNET .
- I was much more than "appalled" when at the end of February 2003 my daughter happened to pick up one of the telephone death threats.
- After that QSO (12th August 2003) I left 14195 kHz for more than two months, but due to constant retaliating interferences ON EVERY frequency I tried to use, I decided to return back to this frequency.
- I quite remember ON4WW (at least on one occasion) telling me that 14195 kHz was occupied in the period when there was the KC7 expedition (2005).

I certainly could acknowledge this belgian ham as the most precise and impartial reporter of the facts, but like some other "prominent" Hams, for some unknown reason this individual neither reported the circumstances that have determined the beginning of the 14195 kHz story, nor he mentioned the ONLY AND MOST IMPORTANT REASON (has he forgotten, considered it irrelevant or what else?) that induced me to decide for the adoption of the "zero tolerance". For some unknown reason he, too, preferred not to explain the reason why after thirty years of impeccable activity, all of a sudden, "Pipo" has decided to disregard IARU's guide-lines and even the self-regulating "gentleman's agreement" itself.

Any good informed, impartial and honest ham would have reported that on 12th August 2003 he learned the reason why "Pipo" has decided to remain on 14195 kHz: the death threat received by his daughter has been received WHILE HE STILL USED TO OPERATE ON 14188 KHZ and NOT BACAUSE "HE HAD THE ANNOYING HABIT TO CALL ON 14195 KHZ".

Since I personally have irrefutable reasons to believe that "Pipo" and "IZ9xxxx" refer to Nino and IT9RYH respectively, I believe to have the right to remind that when a person decides to publically report about some serious deeds, his honesty and impartiality should both impose him to be fully informed about those deeds. Unless Mark Demouleneere (ON4WW) was in bad faith, he should have known that reporting a story with some irrefutable inaccuracy or a missing part, is a big moral responsibility which jeopardises both his reputation and credibility. After having reported so much positiveness about "Pipo's" operating practice and well-mannered comportments, unless very prejudiced or willing to report a lie, no Ham would have ever dare convince the readers about "Pipo's" alleged "annoying habit to call on 14195", especially not after having affirmed that "*the next few weeks 14195 kHz was clear of IZ9xxxx transmissions.*"

Despite years of an unexampled vile and non-stop discredit campaign against me, please, allow me to affirm that the "*annoying habit to call on 14195*" is one of the many masterly camouflaged lies dispensed to the ham Community in recent years.

On 17th November 2007, about two years AFTER a most unusual "*routine inspection*" (forced inspection? by whom?) carried out by my national Authorities (13th September 2005) and four years AFTER the beginning of my regular operations on 14195 kHz (beginning of March 2003), I decided to contact the IARU Region-1 and posed some formal questions about its official position in regard to some 14195 kHz related occurrences.

After having duly consulted his colleagues, on 29th January 2008, the Secretary of IARU Region-1 promptly and extensively answered the seven very specific questions I posed through a formal E-mail. Despite some disagreements in respect to my position, he has proven to be an honorable gentleman representing a reputable Federation of Radio Associations (IARU Region-1).

I would have liked to quote the whole E-mail and let you learn the official position of this Federation of National Radio Associations, but I want to honor its Secretary's request and abstain myself from quoting any part or all the content of an answer strangely considered as confidential by this international Federation representing a huge number of Radioamateurs.

Probably because IARU Region-1 reputed the 14195 kHz issue not quite relevant or, more likely, because conscious that the Amateur Radio spectrum is an open domain, it is well aware that in law no Radioamateur or groups of Radioamateurs can "own" a frequency. Since these might have been the only reasons that led its Secretary to avoid entering into any detailed argumentation, he had neither reasons to quote or discredit me, nor he could have commented negatively about my long proven impeccable position. He has wisely chosen to avoid giving any further publicity to a problem which had been underestimated, treated scandalously and even given an unexampled biased and immoral attendance by many alleged "high-ranking" individuals at the Radio Associations levels.

Unlike certain sneaky gentlemen who have been accorded to "use" some Official Journals of Radio Societies (especially the *Italian Associazione Radioamatori Italiani*) to masterly discredit my operations and even slander my person through biased articles, I must acknowledge that the honesty and impartiality of the reputable Secretary of a Federation of Radio Societies such as IARU Region-1, have restrained him from naming "*Nino*" or "*IT9RYH*" among "*those who exert their claim to a particular frequency*" or "*others who simply seem to be anarchists*".

If there has been something I never would have believed possible within the activity of the Amateur Radio Service it is the irrefutable existence of an horde of rascals I inevitably had to tackle at the beginning of 2003. What I am scientifically sure of, instead, is that if this swarm of self-styled "*gentlemen*" would have adopted just a little bit of the diplomacy (impartiality?) evidenced by the Secretary of IARU Region 1, today we would have long solved the 14195 kHz issues and would not have been still dealing with a trite controversy about a phantomatic and hypocritical "*gentleman's agreement*".

However, today I feel comforted by the largest part of honest and objective Hams who could witness that four times (4 !) I suspended my activity on 14195 kHz and moved over to other frequencies. Everyone knows that just a couple of days after my first operations on this frequency I left the then "*DXwindow*" for more than two months. Even those Hams who are only active on CW know that some time later I have exclusively been operating CW on 40 meters. Most of the European Ham Community could testify that each time I returned back to 14195 kHz the reasons have ALWAYS been the blameful interferences I received on each frequency I moved to.

In the recent years every Ham has witnessed the immoral attempt to extensively discredit IT9RYH, and that the radio-interference campaign has been supported by a shameful number of biased and

most deceiving articles vehicled thanks to a masterly and refined acquiescence of some shameless official journals of Radio Associations.

Since 2003, a large number of irresponsible and hypocritical anarchists has been absolutely more determined to impose an alleged priority-right on particular frequencies and band-portions to the rest of our ham Community. Their determination has taken advantage of the tolerance and common sense of many well-mannered Hams (majority), the obvious incertitude of a multitude of VHF and UHF operators admitted to HF in the recent years and, primarily, the strong support of several sneaky interest groups and individuals at the Radio Association levels. What the whole Ham Community has witnessed on 14195 kHz has only been performed to further impose their claims and advantages in activities which are irreversibly and profoundly perverting even the real basics and purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

More and more Hams have realized that the immoral horde of overbearing individuals heard especially on 14195 kHz has been generated by a tolerance to the bitter end. More and more individuals are responsible of an irreversible *modus operandi* common only to a showy horde of fanatics responsible of meaningless activities which are profoundly and irretrievably discrediting the Ham Community and the Amateur Radio Service itself. However, I have never accepted any form of provocation and have always managed to adopt what every Ham understands as "*common-sense*".

In the period between 2001-2002 while I still used to operate on 14188 kHz, as a result of my alleged "splatters" on the portion of band 14190-14200 kHz I became the object of vile "*jamming*" and ignoble "*mobbing*". I am sure that some of you may have overheard how a russian "*Honor Roll*" from Moscow and many of his supporters could offend and intimidate me in their arrogant attempt to force me away from 14188 khz. I could only tollerate all that till the very end of February 2003.

Although I had always regarded every conflict situation as a physiological result of the mixture of community and society, at the beginning of 2003 I definitely refused to further tolerate the interferences or passively react to the early physical threats and started to esternate my personal opinions about their activity.

The convincement that violence is the natural refuge of a frustrated and impotent subject has always led me to tolerate almost everything during my ham activity. I have always tolerated even an unexampled arrogance, impunity and anonymity prevailing on what normally any radioamateur understands as common sense. At the end of 2002 the situation was so drastic that what should have been treated as a normal conflict situation, has been permitted to degenerate into anonymous "jamming" and physical threats against me.

When at the END OF FEBRUARY 2003 some threats have been addressed even to my family, I decided to adopt the "*zero-tolerance*". Although at this stage I definitely decided to disregard any custom and tradition of amateur radio, I remained operating on 14188 kHz and began to operate in strict accordance with the official Radio Regulations only. Despite many unexampled provocations and acts of hubris I always managed to operate impeccably within the legal boundaries of my licence.

Since it is neither my intention nor it is so important to expose here a proper treatise on "*bullying*" and its relationship with Hams' behaviour, I only want to inform those who believe that "*bullying*" is simply a phenomenon of mere conflict that they commit quite a big evaluation mistake. "*Bullying*", instead, is a very negative phenomenon occuring when tolerance to the bitter end is erroneously mistaken for "ham spirit".

Especially in the last years, "*bullying*" has been adversely and irreversably affecting the self-regulation adopted by most Hams around the world and on which is based our activity. Tolerance to the bitter end has permitted an horde of bullies on 14195 kHz to profoundly discredit the whole

ham Community and irremediably affect the enhancement of the reputation of a radio service ratified by the *International Telecommunication Union* (ITU).

What I now more properly prefer to call "*radio-bullying*" is what we witness on 14195 kHz. This aggressive behaviour involves an imbalance of power or strength mainly encouraged by the almost total abolishment of the few national monitoring Authorities left and an hypocritical "*Ham Spirit*".

The "*radio-bullying*" is when an horde of overbearing Hams repeatedly try to harm a radio-amateur who is or is believed to be weaker. Since even the most stupid "*radio-bully*" is well aware of his objective impossibility to perpetrate direct physical attacks through the aether, normally he only relies on name-calling, taunting or teasing.

Till the end of 2002, I considered every "*DX*" fanatic as an exuberant but yet a "normal" Ham. When a lot of very arrogant individuals dared to make even death threats then they positioned themselves outside any legal boundaries and by far outside my conceivable tolerance. At this very point I stopped to consider them as Hams and started to treat them as actual criminals. The day my innocent family has also been intimidated by death threats, I definitively decided to react as legally as I could against jamming and provocation games.

As result of a masterly refined interference campaign supported by several sneaky individuals who, by means of InterNET and articles published by compliant Ham-magazines, I also became the object of a vile and biased discrediting campaign. This kind of "reactions" today is still perpetrated through masterly and indirect attacks such as the spreading of all kinds of lies in the most ignoble attempt to make the "*DX Community*" or the whole Ham Community, reject me. At some stage, several "well-distinguished" and influent individuals have even taken advantage of masterly subtle methods of coercion such as psychological and social manipulation.

Other shameless and influential personalities have even managed to get some "higher ranking" pressure to induce my National Authority to consider a large quantity of very risible and meaningless "*evidences*" periodically submitted against some alleged "*improper techniques*" adopted by IT9RYH. Although aware of the unsustainability of my "*improper techniques*", they even tried to produce some alleged evidences of Nino's "*vulgarities*". A german lady-operator has even hoped to support her risible evidence by submitting a recording of my alleged "*vulgarities*" transmitted on the "sacred" 14195 kHz. In the hope to get a stronger consideration, a North American protest on Nino's activity has been submitted through an official diplomatic". The point is that so far NONE of the "*evidences*" submitted to my national Authority has ever demonstrated a single infringement.

At a certain point, after almost three years of a boring piling-up of ridiculous "*evidences*", at the end of 2005, the Italian Authorities wanted to content the mass of profoundly offended or outraged "*gentlemen*" by "donating" (diverting ?) them the meager satisfaction of an official "Technical Inspection" of Nino's Radio Station.

**ON 13TH SEPTEMBER 2005 THE IRREFUTABLY IMPARTIAL RESULT OF A FIVE-HOUR (5 !) SO-CALLED "*ROUTINE TECHNICAL INSPECTION*" CARRIED OUT BY TWO OFFICIALS OF THE PALERMO TERRITORIAL INSPECTORATE OF SICILY (ITS) DECLARED THE STATION IT9RYH AND ITS OPERATOR IN FULL COMPLIANCE WITH THE RADIO REGULATIONS. THIS OUTCOME HAS DISAPPOINTED BUT, PRIMARILY, MADE A MASS OF FLAGITIOUS RASCALS BY FAR MORE FRUSTATED THAN MANY TENS OF YEARS OF "*NINO'S*" REGULAR PRESENCE ON "*THEIR*" ALLEGED 14195 KHZ.**

After almost forty years of ham activity, today I can go on record as saying that many alleged "ham-celebrities" are still permitted to restraintlessly offend not only me, but also many thousands of honourable Hams.

While "*bullying*" is done to coerce others by fear or threat, "*radio-bullying*" can only express itself by anonymous and deliberate QRM, obloquy and, primarily, discredit. However, I have never regarded the horde of mean "*gentlemen*" heard on a daily basis across our ham-bands capable of any real physical threat also because psychology confirms that anonymity is in the true nature of a typical dastard. This is why I have never feared the sub-category of dastards and energumeni heard on 14195 kHz.

Threats perpetrated by letters, InterNET and even by telephone, have always constituted the irrefutable evidences of the cowardly harassment perpetrated especially by a well-known horde of fanatics whose most relevant goal is largely shared by an ignorant and trivial minority of individuals allowed to nest within our Ham Community.

In the last few years, I repeatedly verified that a large part of these ignoble zealots simply relies on the power of their RF-capability. I could also verify the existence of a mass of individuals who are profoundly convinced to be representing an alleged chaste of "high-ranking" individuals. Some of these energumeni, solely because they sit among Board Members or Regional Managers of some Radio Societies, have come to the profound conviction of being granted an alleged "social-power" over the rest of the Ham Community. While many self-styled "*gentlemen*" ignorantly continue to trust in their kilowatts and their big antenna-systems, there are also many other "celebrities" who, instead, trust in their influence at the Radio Society level.

Some years ago, during an "*important*" DX-meeting held in Catania, Sicily, a "distinguished" finnish "*DXer*" and "*DXpeditioner*", has made all possible efforts to discredit IT9RYH's activity on 14195 kHz. After having contacted me by radio on several occasions, he knew that I never wanted to be represented by any radio society or any hypocritical "*radio-fraternity*" because I never accepted that rude individuals and their most deplorable operating practice deprive me of my ability to carry on a QSO. I never has anything against "*DX-expedition*" especially when carried out on a published frequency or frequencies for a limited time and, as I said already on many occasions, I have always conceived even a "*DX window*". If I never wanted to be represented by any radio society or any "*radio-fraternity*", it is because I strongly refuse to support any ham entity that blindly and arrogantly promotes rude activities and supports the refusal to sanction obvious violations of both National and ITU Radio Regulations and, above all, a proper operating practice.

These ideas and point of views must certainly have contributed to make me the ideal target a "*radio-bully*" looks for: a person exposed on a fixed frequency, repeatedly and over time to his cowardly attacks. Apart the deliberate interferences transmitted on a daily basis on the "*DX-window*", the ham Community has been constantly witnessing an unexampled myriad of offences arrogantly "*spotted*" and "*posted*" through the "*DX Cluster*" and "*Forums*" respectively. I refer not only to those unidentified individuals who, even today, are permitted to further slander Sicilians and Italians "*in totum*" but, primarily, to the impunity granted to a gang of arrogant and self-styled "*gentlemen*".

It must never ever be forgotten that, even today, an ignoble and sneaky horde of dastards is still permitted to divulgate any kind of vulgarities and slanders not only by radio, but also by means of ham-radio related "*forums*" and ignoble rascals' "*web-sites*". Should all this be further permitted or tolerated simply because some moderators condescend to indescribable obscenities against those Hams who legitimately use 14195 kHz, or should they be given support simply because they enhance their questionable "*Ham Spirit*"?

Is there anybody responsible for the alleged "*Ham Forums*" through which indescribable obscenities and immoral lies are wide spread against IT9RYH? How long must we wait until we hear or read of a Radio Association which has investigated about the thousands of obscene "*spots*" and "*posts*" against IT9RYH, Sicilians or Italians? Asserting that all this is a very apparent attempt to further incite hatred against me, Sicilian or Italian Hams "*in totum*", I think is not an exaggeration.

As a result of masterly and refined actions and retaliations against me, the international ham Community has recently learned of a shameless "*QSL-manager*" apparently of latin origins from the State of Oregon, USA. This unaxambled individual, with absolutely no sense of restraint, on 27th December 2007 (four years after the beginning of my activity on 14195 kHz !) has distinguished himself for staining with his immorality the whole history of "*QSL-managing*". In the recent years, but especially during the 14195 kHz issue, I have witnessed that such kind of mean "*personalities*" quite do not seem to realize the true meaning of the words *shame* and *cultural indigence*. But what I am certain of is that fortunately this is an extremely rare form of gentlemannery raving caused by the "14195 kHz-religion" and the very peculiar "Ham Spirit" we, inevitably, have to deal with.

This mean individual's mentality and his very low cultural level have induced him to shamelessly retaliate against me by means of an unmatched, unjustified, revolting and disonorable blackmail to innocent Italian Hams: "UNTIL IT9RYH AND HIS THUGS ON 14.195 ARE GONE, I WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ITALIAN QSL REQUESTS" (such an immorality appeared on this individual's QRZ Bio on 27th December 2007!!).

After almost forty years of amateur radio activity, I can go on record as saying that today's elderly operators have always proved to be the wisest participants to the International Amateur Radio Service, especially when the 14195 kHz issue began. If there is a particular group of elderly operators we all owe something it is the North American one and its leading operating practice. This petty old individual (*gentleman* ?) from the State of Oregon, instead, belongs to those very rare exceptions of USA base-comportments which confirms my statement.

Apart one or two base individuals like this guy, the leading North American ham Community has always tolerated my position since the very beginning of my decision to operate on 14195 kHz and has also shared and supported the legitimacy of my operations on this frequency. As a matter of fact, out of more than 175,000 stations I managed to enter in my log between 2003 and 2008, as noted in paragraph "11. Conflict situations" of the booklet "*Operating Practice*", a real significant percentage is represented by countless of real distinguished USA and Canadian gentlemen.

I am sure that like me, most of our ham Community is still wondering why since 2003 not a single "*radio-bully*" has ever been identified whilst abusing the 14195 kHz. Although technically possible, nobody has ever been identified or punished for the obscenities spread by the "*DX cluster*". How is it possible that no Radio Association or has ever identified a single responsible of offences and even crimes as renewed threats of physical violence against a Ham and/or his family?

What we all have been witnessing on the "*sacred*" 14195 kHz, should not be underestimated because it is by far more than "*radio-bullying*" or "*jamming*". What the Ham Fraternity has been experiencing is nothing but a worrying phenomenon of "*code of silence*" sharing a lot of similarities with the "*omerta*" imposed by mafia or a criminal organization.

Affirming that the 14195 kHz issue is "*the product of a general reduction in operating standards, perhaps driven by social changes in the population*", is a self-deception only. Such an analysis is simplistic and hypocritical if affirmed by Radio Societies, but it is a ridiculous and deliberate misleading statement if asserted at the IARU level.

What I personally have experienced, especially between 2003 and to day, is that despite the increasing number of wise Hams resulting from an increasing average-age of the Ham Community, we are witnessing a constant rise of latent behaviours among many fanatics of today's ludic and trite activities promoted (for obvious reasons and not for amateur radio's sake) by most Radio Societies. The almost total abolition of control Authorities witnessed in the recent years has caused the rise of bad behaviours and intolerable operating practices ever in the history of the Amateur Radio Service.

The international Ham Community has long witnessed that a growth of more and more meaningless activities have induced beyond a non-return point the deplorable behaviour of many fanatics. The Amateur Radio Service has never been endangered and discredited as today. If some Hams groups or Ham entities want to declare IT9RYH responsible for what is happening on 14195 kHz, it could be rather easy, but not honest and certainly not corresponding to the truth.

Every common-sense Ham would undoubtedly point his finger upon an horde of very arrogant fanatics and never on the sicilian "*Nino*". Everyone ham can certainly testify that I have been induced to an inevitable reaction and that very few hams would have reacted as openly and yet as legally as I did react. The 175,000 legal stations scattered around the world that have contacted me between the beginning of 2003 and the end of August 2008, will always be the irrefutable evidence of the above assertion.

What the whole ham Community is facing today is not "*the product of a general reduction in operating standards*", but an apparent incompatibility between the respectable activity of chasing "*new ones*" and the unexampled hubris of a selfish horde of anarchic individuals allowed and even spurred to a meaningless challenge.

After having been anonymously contrasted and ignobly attacked, but primarily, made the object of renewedly physical threats on a *de facto* criminals' frequency, I can affirm that what the International Ham Community has witnessed during the last years is, by far, worse than what someone wants to explain as a reductive and deceptive "*general reduction in operating standards*". What we regrettably and repeatedly have witnessed in the recent years, has absolutely nothing to do with this apparent self-deception, but it is the result of a mentality that can only be confined within the boundaries of mafia-phenomena only !

Today I can go on record as saying that the over 175,000 (!) Hams contacted under extreme interference conditions between the beginning of 2003 and the end of August 2008, have reacted both legally and in a most exemplary way against a "*de facto*" horde of showy thugs and self-styled gentlemen. I have never had anything against Radio Societies and IARU, but for amateur radio's sake, these alleged fraternities should have duly highlighted that my presence on 14195 kHz was the inevitable reaction to ignoble and un-ham-like attacks performed by a lot of anonymous individuals.

When I first started my operations on the "*DX window*" the least I would have expected from the "*Associazione Radioamatori Italiani*" (ARI) was a well-timed formal contact in the attempt to solve the problem my activity would have inevitably represented on the "*DX window*". A year after my operations on 14195 kHz had already become quite regular, instead of a duly and with impartial official intervention against the fraudulent and illegal attacks against IT9RYH, the italian radio association ARI intervened by a very biased and discrediting article published by the ARI's official journal "*RadioRivista*" against IT9RYH.

Written by an italian SWL, despite the confirmation of the total legality of my operations on the "*gentleman's agreement*", that first arrogant and biased article only attempted to basely insinuate on my politeness without mentioning the reasons why I in 2003 had decided to use 14195 kHz. With another article, it was the ARI Secretary General himself who, again, despite his confirmation of my legitimate operations on the "*gentleman's agreement*", he basely insinuate on my "*intelligence, politeness and respect of the customs and habits of the Ham community*".

All Hams (old-timers and "new-comers") should be reminded that in past decades IARU has been repeatedly asked to set in its "*Band Plan*" the frequency 14195 kHz as a "*DX window*". Not only to comply with the "*non priority status*", but also because common sense has never seen any technical or operational reason to set a "*10 kHz DX window*" within the 350 kHz-wide of a natural "*DX Band*" as the 14 MHz band. In order to only gain consensus, in recent years IARU Region-1 had to consider even the obstinate ignominy of an horde of arrogant gentlemen against my presence on 14195 kHz. To satisfy the needs of certain groups of interest and NEVER the common

interests of the international ham Community in large, in 2006 IARU has given birth to a "*band-plan*" which introduced a fraudulent "*DX expedition priority*" on 14195 kHz +/- 5 kHz.

If in 2006 IARU Region-1 even dared to ignore the "*enhancement of rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the ham radio-frequency spectrum*" established by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the reason is the logic of maintaining and achieving more consensus. This is the only logic that in 2006 has determined even an illegal "*bandplan*". It never rains but it pours : this very same logic and camouflaged interests in 2008 have given berth to the same "*DX expedition priority*" mentioned in the "*band plan*" of IARU Region-2 .

It never rains but it pours. As a result of the 2006 "*band plan*" the ham Community has witnessed a lot more aggressivity among an ignorant mass of fanatics who now really believe to have been given the longed priority-right on their "sacred" 14195 kHz. Despite the ignoble actions of an horde of arrogant hams and the fiasco of an hypocritical "*preferred use*" of "*14195 kHz +/- 5 kHz*", at the end of June 2008, following the acknowledgement of an incredible self-deceptioned "*perceived degradation in operating standards by a small but noisy minority, including some who exert their claim to a particular frequency and other who simply seem to be anarchists*" after an accordingly discussion, the IARU Administrative Council came to (had to?) the approval of the resolution (08-1) concerning the "*operating standards*" has resolved to implement the existing "*Operating Practice*" with the adoption of another official "*radio-bible*" (*Ethics and Operating Procedures for the Radio Amateur*) aimed to make "*new-comers*" and "*candidate hams*" but also "*old-timers*" familiar with an alleged "*code of conduct*" (?).

The need for an endorsement and recommendation of the principles set in what is pretended to be regarded as a sort of genuine "*radio-bible*" for aspiring radioamateurs and for licensees, irrefutably proves how precarious has become the credibility of our Service and how low has gone the average operating level of today's international Amateur Radio Service.

Once again, the logics of base interests of an ever increasing number of fanatics (chaste?) and some other very masterly profiteers supported by the logic of consensus of rather disputable Radio Societies and IARU, are reducing the Amateur Radio Service to mere week-end competitions which are an end in themselves. My presence on 14195 kHz is almost nothing in comparison to the actual privations and discomfort caused by the "*WRRC*" (*World Riff-Raff Contest*) we have to succumb to every week-end.

In the last years the whole international amateur radio Community has witnessed an actual "*coercion to silence*" masterly dispensed as "*tolerance*" and "*ham-spirit*" by a minority group of self-styled "*gentlemen*" who, even today, continue to show off their alleged "virtue" and "competence". As a Sicilian ham, but primarily as a person, I can go on record by saying that either the "*coercion to silence*" or the hypocritical "*ham spirit*" correspond to a sort of "*code of silence*" or "*omerta*" imposed by criminal organizations or mafias. On the contrary of what a lot of ignorant and low cultural level Hams may think, apart one or two stupid individuals, in the last years I have heard almost no Sicilian Ham interfere, call names or make any kind of intimidation either to me or my family.

This behaviour proves the Sicilian Ham Community's tolerance and its ham code of conduct but, primarily, it represents its irrefutable solidarity against an unexampled campaign of discredit, interference, provocation, infamy and, last but not least, threats of physical violence against me and even my innocent family. Conscious of this undeniable and large solidarity, some more rascals reacted with a stronger interference and insulting retaliation against Sicilian and Italian hams.

The Ham Community has recently learned of a nasty individual who, according to what appears in his QRZ Bio, is an employee of a belgian technical school. This guy's scarce cultural level and prejudices about Italians have led him to a belated retaliation against me and an hasty generalization against Italian Hams. Without any apparent reason, he recently has been

informing every Italian Ham answering his CQ-calls that unless IK1JUO and IT9RYH will disappear from the ham bands, he WILL NOT talk to any Italian Hams. Well aware that such a behaviour is not common to any Belgian Ham, I wanted to investigate about him and the outcome has been that this energumen shares the same sequence of nucleotides as the already mentioned "DX manager" in Oregon, USA.

Taking advantage of the fact that in the same area where he lives (**Maastricht**) there are several families originating from my own town, the outcome of a reliable investigation is that this alleged "gentleman" only belongs to an horde of very questionable "DXers" (DX fanatics). Some other very confidential information about him very recently have totally dispelled any doubt about this rascal. In addition to some of his previous intentional-interferences on 14195 kHz, on 29th March 2010 at 19:52 UTC (I have the recording), this DX-energumen appeared on 3796 kHz to repeatedly call me "Italian bastard". On that occasion he definitely proved his indecent cultural level and, above all, his irrefutable immorality.

The vulgar term adopted on that occasion makes me feel absolutely sure about the reason why he called me "bastard". The reason can only be explained by what psychology explains as the unconscious act of denial of a person's own identity or attributes (*psychological projection*). The unconscious act of denial of his own attributes, thoughts and emotions, which are then ascribed to the outside world, confirms that he already made his own investigation about me. He must have come to an inevitable fact: my father (born in 1918), after having lived three and a half years as an emigrant around Grote-Brogel, Reppel and Ellikom (Belgium), in 1960 decided to get back to Siciliana, Sicily.

I am sure that the results of his investigation must have left him some very strong doubts about his true paternity. I am almost sure that today's science could prove him that we share the same Sicilian father. The fact that we share the same interest about radiocommunication, makes me believe that this possibility is not quite a remote one! He has repeatedly called me "*bastard*", can you imagine? On these occasions, the Sicilian proverb about the horned ox naming a horned donkey, appears more than adequate.

Within mafia-culture breaking "*omerta*" is an act punishable even by death. In Amateur Radio I have experienced that an anonymous horde of base self-styled hams and mean individuals have first decided to "punish" IT9RYH by vile hatred, radio interferences, name calling, taunting and teasing, but later they decided to adopt physical threats and even death threats as almost extreme punishment. What next?

Let me now ask you to ponder the following questions:

- Should the majority of our Ham Community continue to tolerate further obscenities and succumb to a "*de facto*" radio-mafia?
- What we are witnessing on our bands today is really the actual result of a true "ham-spirit"?
- Must we really accept it as the entrancing "*Ham-Spirit*" preached by so many questionable gentlemen and thugs who arrogantly pretend our tolerance to cook up a fraudulent "*gentlemen's agreement*" by means of the hubris witnessed in recent years on 14195 kHz?

If during the bedlam of the recent years no Radio Society has ever managed to identify one of its member guilty of any infringement or criminal offences, it is licit to think that no Ham association has ever been interested to investigate. Therefore, again, I want to go on record as saying that the "*ham-spirit*" we frequently hear of, is simply "*fried-air*" or pure hypocrisy. In the recent years it appeared very evident that radio associations are either incapable or not interested to enhance the

**"self-regulation"** auspicated by IARU. This is especially true when we see no signs of pursuing the **"rational, equitable, efficient and economical use of the ham radio-frequency spectrum"** officially requested by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

However, the deeds recently perpetrated on 14195 kHz, should have long induced IARU and radio associations to strongly remark the need and the true reasons why this leading United Nations agency for Information and Communication Technology Issues has wisely established a **"non-priority status"** in the Amateur Radio bands. A proper look at the panoramic view of our frequency spectrum will certainly allow us to better comprehend the both the meaning and the reason of a **"non-priority status"** and the irrefutable necessity to use our spectrum **rationally, equitably, efficiently and economically**. A **"DX window"** or **"DXpedition window"** is not the result of a rational operating practice but an illegal way to apportion by lots our spectrum to exclusive "uses" disregarding ITU regulations.

More and more fanatics are induced to believe that IARU is an actual Authority which in 2006 has "accorded" a **"DXpedition window"** and, perhaps, tomorrow it will also agree on a specific **"IOTA window"**, **"QRP window"** and in a not too distant future, even a **"SRR window"** (a window for Special Riff-Raff activity).

At the beginning of the 14195 kHz issue (march 2003), the whole ham Community has been witnessing why it was necessary that an horde of self-styled **"gentlemen"** (veterans ?) and a gang of **"thugs"** be profitably reminded that if the ITU has authoritatively established a **"non-priority status"** for the Amateur Radio Service, it is because this is the only possible condition to achieve the most effective use of our radio-frequency spectrum.

I know of some Italian Hams who have been courteous enough to duly inform the already mentioned **"QSL Manager"** in Oregon (USA), about the existence of the following FCC's (Subpart B - Station Operation Standards) Section 97.101 General standards (b):

**"Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the amateur service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station"**.

As most Hams nowadays use InterNET and its facilities, I am sure that our ham Community has known a shameless but yet very keen Scotch Ham. Soon after having been miraculously granted a HF licence like many other VHF european operators, in 2004 went down in Amateur Radio history for his unexampled initiative. After having suffered by my presence on 14195 kHz for more than one year as SWL, the revenge must have been seen as the least to perpetrate against that nasty **"Sicilian"** long heard on 14195 kHz blocking his future **"DX window"**. Aware of a tacit consent granted by the RSGB but totally unaware of the illegitimacy of his action, this very small-minded individual thought to perpetrate a wretched and immoral **"International Petition against IT9RYH"**.

The ignoble Scotsman's heartfelt initiative has promptly and warmly been welcomed by two other squalid italian individuals. Confident in a **"de facto"** impunity granted them by a total lack of control and/or indifference (refined support?) of the **"Associazione Italiana Radioamatori"** (ARI), these two outrageous proselytes of an unparalleled italian **"ham spirit"** have speedily thought to spread that scotch initiative among the italian Ham Community through their through **"Web-site"**. On receipt of my due e-mail they instantly lost both their cockiness and their alleged legitimacy to their initiatives and the next day suspended their insult and sent me their formal excuse e-mails. The latter can induce me to excuse the offence arrogantly perpetrated against me by a scottish new-comer (born in 1976) and two italian ignoramuses, but certainly not the felony they have perpetrated (imprudently?) against the spirit of the International Amateur Radio Service.

Before taking in consideration a report to the Authorities and a legal action, I decided to send each of these guys an E-mail to remind them that **"legacy"** existed even in Sicily. After having realized the immorality of their initiatives and their profound ignorance about jurisprudence, these **"three**

*musketeers*" have almost instantly suspended their "*International Petition*" against the impeccably legal IT9RYH. However, I firmly remain convinced that they e-mailed me their hypocritical excuses solely to avoid getting involved in legal problems. The young Scotchman's profound rowness and the two italians' unique ignorance led me to abandon the idea of sending a report to the Authorities concerned and start a legal action against them.

There is also another interesting countryman of mine from near Pordenone (Northeastern Italy) worthy quoting for his immorality. In his QRZ.Com biography (written in *Italenglish*) Igiul writes: "*I'm a director of great commercial company. My preferred hobbies are: Hamradio(of course!) and my "Discus". I like build antennas as well test them, all computer associated ham-radio technologies. I work in the most important contests and dx expedition, preferably on CW / RTTY / PSK31. My dream is a day of being able to participate to one dx expedition*".

If translated in English, he says to be "*a director of great commercial company*" (his own words) and a ham with his own Web-Site. Just like many other fanatics of "*DX*", he declares to be a dreamer : "*My dream is a day of being able to participate to one dx expedition*" (in his fluent *Italenglish* he tells us that he dreams about participating to a "*DX expedition*" one day). For his commercial company's sake, I hope he is a bit more skilled in his job than he is in what he believes to be English language.

Igiul appeared to me as one of the smartest rascals (*gentlemen* ?) I had to tackle in the recent years. In full accordance with what I consider a profound sense of a very questionable "ham spirit", at the end of September 2007, this mean scum of italian ham had the idea to serve his Web-site visitors a dishonourable (imprudent ?) information insinuating the withdrawal of my licence. Although italian scum must also be free to dream of a revocation of my licence, I felt to wake up this italian individual by a due e-mail to remind him that his dream had not come true yet.

Maybe Igiul is a distinguished and reputable "*director of great commercial company*" (?), but the content of his reply (e-mail dated 26th of September 2007) proved him a ham of very questionable morality because regardless of the falsity of that alleged "*information*", for some unknown morality or original sense of "*ham-spirit*", he decided to spread it anyway !!

According to what he e-mailed me, he had the information from a "*DX Cluster*" he did not either name nor he gave the identity of the "*spotter*". In compliance to his questionable immorality he concluded his e-mail without even attaching any formal excuses. What I know for sure is that I never happened to come up against a mean man like this individual both in my whole ham activity and in my life.

Like many other sneaky rascals, Igiul was perfectly in bad faith and deliberately tried out his own dirty trick against me although fully aware of the total falsity of his "info". In fact, in the attempt to stay away from 14195 kHz, around the second half of september 2007 I already had been away from this frequency for already more than two months. In this period of time I was back to 14185-14190 kHz doing my best my to resist an incessant "jamming" as best as I could. At the end of September, I decided to abandon that umpteenth attempt and decided to return to 14195 kHz.

This miserable north-italian "gentleman" was in real bad faith because PRIOR, DURING and AFTER the release of his deliberate lie in his Web-site (September 2007), he certainly had read the countless "spots" appearing on the "DX cluster" with obscene words of further incitement to "*jamming*" and hatred against the "*Sicilian mafioso*",

It would have now been extremely worthy to write about an italian radioamateur who, for more than a couple of months, kept calling (anonymously) me "*animale*" (animal) on 14195 kHz. But the tragedy that struck this individual's family during the 2009 earthquake, imposes me a profound solidarity and a total abstention from writing about this poor man.

I wish I could get an answer to each of the questions I would like to pose to leading Radio Society "personalities", IARU representatives and those Hams reading this QRZ Bio, but the large number imposes me to restrain them to the following:

- How many times has our Ham Fraternity (?) read insulting names about "IT9RYH" and "Nino" in InterNET?
- How many times has our Ham Community (?) read "spots" (DX cluster) proposing even to "kill Nino" or "shoot him"?
- Is there a single "spotter" who has ever been identified, reported or punished by his/her national authority for his/her abuses, offences and criminal acts?
- What actions, if any, have national Authorities ever taken against the abusers of "DX-clusters" and amateur radio related "forums" and "blogs" ?
- What actions, if any, have ever been taken by IARU and/or Radio Societies against the abusers of the "DX cluster" ?
- What actions, if any, have Radio Societies ever taken against the abusers of ham "forums" and "blogs"?
- What role, if any, did IARU and/or Radio Societies play in the complaints submitted to the Italian Ministry of Communication?
- Have IARU and national Radio Societies ever received any reliable evidences of deliberate interference made by IT9RYH to the "DX" and "DX-pedition" traffic ?
- Has IARU ever received any reliable evidences of scurrilous or vulgar language spoken by "Nino" ?
- What has done and what will IARU Region-1 do to dampen the campaign of hatred against "Nino", and the insults to Sicilians and Italians ?
- What has done and what will IARU do to inform the international amateur radio Community about the true facts of the 14195 kHz issue?
- What will IARU and/or national Authorities do against those hams responsible for the unexampled obscenities and infamous actions against "Nino" and his family?
- What action, if any, is IARU proposing against those the daily jamming on 14195 kHz and/or repeated criminal offences against legitimate hams like "Nino"?

In recent years many members of the Italian Associazione Radioamatori Italiani (ARI) have written many letters to complain about my presence on 14195 kHz. What apparently were the most "significant" ones have periodically been answered by the Secretary General of this Italian ham Association and published by the official journal "*RadioRivista*".

Two of letters have been written by two Sicilian hams and appeared in the "*RadioRivista*" of February 2005 and May 2005. After having expressed his discomfort about the daily obscenities taking place on the "*gentleman's agreement*" frequency and the revolting names called against Italian and Sicilian Hams "*in totum*", one of these Sicilians (from Ragusa) wondered whether ARI would or could do something against the abuses brought about by my presence on the "DX

*window*". After having admitted that in virtue of my all-bands licence (Class A licence) there was nothing to do against me and my impeccably legal operations, the then ARI General Secretary, in his reply refinedly insinuated about my *"intelligence, politeness and respect of customs and traditions of Ham radio"*. In accordance with the logic of consensus, he concluded by promising a proposal to include the privileged *"HF DX-frequencies"* in the *"band plan"* at the next IARU Region-1 meeting which was to be held in September 2005.

That he masterly publicity against IT9RYH performed by malicious, devious, discrediting and even slanderous letters published by the official ARI's journal *"RadioRivista"*, has certainly and effectively contributed to increase hatred, discredit and attacks perpetrated over radio and primarily via InterNET, has always been proved by a coincident increase in disproportionate interference retaliation with each biased article published by *"RadioRivista"* (two shameful and biased articles within three months !). That showy rise of hostility has never been a coincidence, but the result (predetermined) of a masterly contribution to further discredit IT9RYH.

At the beginning of 2004, a North American *"genius"* (according to his QRZ Bio already *"DXCC honor roll"* at the age of 27!!!) could not resist to answer to my very regular *"CQ-calls"* to North America on the "sacred" 14195 kHz. This fanatic remains the first and only ham ever whose profound North American "ham-spirit" compelled him to inform me not to expect callers from his part of the world because, according to his "genius", I was long known as a very bad operator.

In September 2004, the ARRL published an article about 14195 kHz in its Official Journal "QST", written by that very same courteous *"DX-genius"* I contacted some months earlier. After having introduced an FCC's rule which stated that *"No One Owns a Frequency"* and that *"the first person who gets there may use the frequency"*, this alleged "guru" (editor of a "QST" column !!) pretended to teach the QST readers how to tackle some *"hard-heads"* and *"monopolizers"* of 14195 kHz. Having nothing else to add, he simply ended his sublime article by hoping that *"those frequency monopolizers will eventually give up or get into a snag with their local authorities !"*. What an amazing and unexampled "guru" this North American Bernie is. According to his QRZ.com Biography, this real *"DX-genius"* can be found on the air chasing new ones in the *"DXCC Challenge"*.

I honestly must admit that to better understand this "guru's" article, I had to refresh the meaning of the term *"monopolizer"*. After I consulted my English dictionary, again, I have to admit that I DO NOT understand how can an Ham be depicted as a *"monopolizer"* of a frequency if no one owns that frequency. This individual's assertions could have been those of a credible "guru" only if he would have explicated to his readers the reasons, if any, why a ham using 14195 kHz should give it up and, above all, why hams like "Nino" should ever *"get into a snag with their local authorities"* especially when operating impeccably and in full accordance with Radio Regulations issued by a supreme authority such as the ITU.

If intimidations and interferences were the reasons why a *"monopolizer"* should ever *"give up"*, then his assertion can only be a masterly way to instigate further hatred, intimidation and interference campaigns. If the reason why an alleged *"monopolizer"* should *"get into a snag"* with his Authorities is his refusal to acknowledge a *"band-plan"* (I started to openly disregard it after the telephone death threat of 2003) issued by a Federation of National Amateur Radio Societies, then this simple biased statement of someone dressed as a "journalist" or, rather, as a raving "columnist" representing an arrogant chaste of "fanatics" who have been anonymously attacking a legitimate ham on 14195 kHz.

According to his article, this biased "columnist" believes that *"the best answer"* to those Hams using the "sacred" frequency *"is to completely ignore them"*. I do not know how many hams will agree on this idea, but what he did not consider is that at the time when he wrote his article I had already been contacted by many tens of thousand of Hams. Time has irrefutably proven that his advise has not been followed because right on 14195 kHz I have been contacted by hundreds of thousand Hams who supported operations in full accordance with the International Radio

Regulations and not with a showy hypocritical "*band plan*" issued by non-authority entities such as IARU and national radio Associations.

Moreover, there is one more important detail this fellow has not considered: prior his hypocritical article, he had "enjoyed" three QSO (interviews ?) with the alleged sicilian "*monopolizer*" IT9RYH on three different occasions. But what I am sure is that this individual belongs to those "*geniuses*", "*gurus*", "*journalists*" or "*columnists*" who proved to have the same memory problems evidenced by many fanatics who have always forgotten that the majority of our ham Community knows that no ham has more rights than others !

As a free Ham, however, I can go on record as saying that, so far, neither my National Radio Association nor the IARU itself represent either me or the Ham Community as a whole. This means that, no matter how large, a part of the Ham Community is always free to elect - through whatever Federation of Radio Societies - to impose on itself whatever protocol on the use of a band or frequency. However, as long as the amateur frequency spectrum remains an open domain, no Ham can ever be compelled to support or comply with unofficial rule, especially not when certain rule do not enhance the most effective use of the frequency spectrum allocated to the the Amateur Radio Service.

Independently from my own point of view about Radio Clubs, Radio Associations (ARI included) or Federations of Societies such as IARU, I have always (since 1973) respected the so-called "*DX*" and "*DXpedition*" frequencies by being enough courteous not to use 14195 kHz. Even when I decided to use this frequency I have always abstained to use it when it was in use or when I was politely invited to do so. This can be confirmed by many international Hams, but an irrefutable testimony has also been reported in paragraph "*11. Conflict situations*" of the booklet or "*radio amateur's bible*" endorsed and recommended by many Radio Societies: "*Operating Practice*". Although I have always left the frequency (when asked politely) even during those hard "*jamming*" moments, some times, when my QSOs were essentially shut down by very massive "*jamming*", I regretably have had to say no to some honest gentlemen .

A similar courteous behaviour can not be accredited or extended to all "*DXers*" and "*DXpeditioners*". A good example could be a "distinguished" and "famous" Finnish individual who on several occasions just came on top of my QSOs and, as if I were not there, he started his "*split*" operations straight away. By such a masterly (?) trick "*DXers*" and "*DXpeditioners*" have often been served a credible evidence of my alleged interference on *their* alleged 14195 kHz. A couple of minutes later the finnish "champion" could ignore my traffic and continue his "*activity*" as if he had the same priority right given by urgency or distress traffic. These provocations have been repeatedly perpetrated in an apparent attempt to induce me to incorrect or even illegal reactions in order to gain approval to further hatred against the "*mafioso Sicilian*", "*bastardo Nino*" and "*dago Nino*".

The individual who has called me "dago" on the radio is a bold (?) ham from Virginia, USA, who recently has dared make an entry in the QRZ.com which, except his anti-Barack Obama and racist sentiments, had absolutely nothing to do with Ham Radio. Following a complaint from USA and another from Europe duly submitted to the QRZ.com by two US citizens, his shameful entry has been removed and now he appears on the QRZ.com as a candid and virtuous "*church organist*". But this is not quite an unusual comportment at all because even the Nazis used to say : "*Gott ist mit uns*" (God is with us).

Ever since I decided to operate on the "*sacred*" 14195 kHz (beginning of 2003) the *Associazione Radioamatori Italiani* (ARI) has published several articles against IT9RYH but never has thought to contact me officially. This behaviour is an irrefutable evidence of a lacking ethics and an archaic bureaucracy with no stake in how to appear to the public. Apart its lacking public relations, "*ARI*" has never tried any action against the arrogant abuses heard on the radio and read in InterNET in the last few years.

On 23rd April 2010 on the web-site of the "Associazione Radioamatori Italiani" (ARI) appeared the news about the anomalous resignation (motivation withheld) of the ARI President. After almost nine (I say 9 !!!) weeks he gave the official motivation and, at the same time, he informed that like him, some other "personalities" of the National Board and Regional Committees are being involved in serious legal problems ( [www.ari.it](http://www.ari.it)).

Normally a Radio Society is widely expected to be the watchdog and spokesman for its members, and if there is something that can never be forgiven to ARI, it is its absence (deliberate?) at the very beginning of the 14195 kHz issue and the belated and biased articles published against the non-member IT9RYH.

Almost every Ham knows that those individuals who are calling names and interfering are licenced people and not pirates. IARU and Radio Societies have had time and evidences to assert that among the responsables of infringements there always have been reputable "*gentlemen*" and "*honor roll*" beyond suspicion. This is an irrefutable fact and what makes me feel most confident and restful is the awareness of ITU and National Authorities about the true facts of 14195 kHz.

Provided they operate in accordance with an effective use of the amateur frequencies, I have always respected free Hams as well as those represented by IARU or any Radio Society and have always acknowledged them the right to propose any operating practice based, to a very large extent, on an approach of an effective and rational self-regulation in the use of our frequencies spectrum. But when I realize that an inadmissible "self-regulating" and a "*de facto*" anarchic ham group claims a "*modus operandi*" that regards the true purposes of the Amateur Radio Service as optional, then I stick to my legitimate right to comply strictly with official Radio Regulations and disregard the IARU "*Band Plan*" or whatever "*DX window*". As long as my licence is not conditioned to any guide-line and/or operating practice issued by any ham Organization, I am free to operate in strict accordance with ITU and national Radio Regulations only and even consider it a must.

If Radio Societies and Federations of Radio Clubs have been given no right to impose their "*Band-Plans*", with equal or greater certainty, no Ham or group of Hams has the right to impose the custom of "*gentleman's agreement*", ESPECIALLY NOT by coercion and violence which offend both the dignity and the right of free Hams but, primarily, the Radio Regulations. Although I have always complied with the IARU "*Band-Plan*" and even respected an alleged "*gentleman's agreement*", at the beginning of 2003 (after 30 years!!) the hubris of an horde of ignoble individuals has induced me to reluctantly operate in strict respect of the Radio Regulations only.

Although on several occasions I have suspended my operations on 14195 kHz, that same horde of self-styled "gentlemen" has arrogantly pursued its vengeance on each frequency I have used in the attempt to avoid them. Following their vile interference and discredit campaigns (see part "11. Conflict situation" of "Operating Practice") I irrevocably and definitely decided not to comply with the "*gentlemen's agreement*" anymore.

Till 2003 I had never realized or noticed that such an horde of hypocritical and arrogant individuals (*gentlemen* ?) could be ever permitted to nest among our very reputable Ham Community. Now you may be willing to ask me why I have adopted the "*zero tolerance*" if I, too, have been among those Hams who, for three decades, had always respected the "*DX-window*". It was only in 2003 that I realized the mistake custom ("*DX-window*") represented for the operating practice in the Amateur Radio Service.

Try now to imagine your adolescent daughter (14 years old !) who by chance answers a telephone-call and after having naively confirmed to a presumed Ham to be the youngest daughter, a friendly sounding gentleman with a very distinct northern Italian accent, informs her that due to her father's behaviour, soon she will never see him any more. Can you imagine?

I do not know how you would have reacted to such a crime, but after my daughter has been delivered that kind of message, at the END OF FEBRUARY 2003, I decided to take a "one-way ticket" and definitely "emigrated" from 14188 kHz over to 14195 kHz. As on other previous occasions, at the END OF AUGUST 2008 (more than 5 years later) I "abandoned" this frequency again. I do not know how many, but lots hams knew why in 2003 I DEFINITELY decided to disregard the so-called "*gentlemen's agreement*" I kept respecting since 1973 (thirty full years !!).

Ever since I moved over to 14195 kHz I had to tackle the "reactions" and, above all, the revenge of an horde of rascals and criminals which, by taking advantage of the tolerance of a very polite and tolerant Ham Community, still wants to impose 14195 kHz to the rest of the community with arrogance and prevarication. A frequency which has always been supposed to be patronized simply by respectful Hams, inevitably, is now abused by very vulgar rascals.

On 14195 kHz I also had to deal with an individual from Bremen (Germany) who really seemed to have been waiting for my arrival there. Yes, I refer to that german rascal that many Hams on 14195 kHz has repeatedly heard shouting : "*You have a very short life-time and your life-time is very short, please, believe it*" and then also : "*Kill Nino, kill him ! !*". But at last, several of his usual 80-meter friends, once witnessed with whom they had been chatting with, expressly have expelled him from their usual evening "round table" QSOs.

There is another german individual from near Frankfurt-am-Main (Germany) known to me for his frequent appearances on 14195 kHz (from Canary Island and Germany) to vomit his stealthy comments and demonstrate his cowardice by calling "*Nino mafioso*" anonymously. Apart his alleged wealth, there is no other detail worthy mentioning about such a senile individual.

The european Ham Community will certainly remember the vile guy who, asserting to be transmitting from Luxemburg, has kept interfering my communications by arrogant transmissions in German (his mother tongue) and repeating "*Listen to me Maccaroni, you and your friend Nino have destroyed the DX window, and now we will destroy you, Maccaroni*". But here again and strangely enough, no one of the gentlemen present on their "sacred" frequency has ever reported this german rascal to any Authority and/or Radio Society.

We should never forget that since 2003 a multi-national gang of cowards has been permitted to anonymously attempt to discredit the Sicilian and Italian hams. No ham entity or Radio Association has ever highlighted that my national Authority grants me Licence since 1973. Despite my decades of ham activity performed in full and constant accordance with national and international Radio Regulations, no one has ever tried to stop them from vilifying even the Italian Authorities. The latter have made me wonder quite a lot about who or what (pressures from a ham-lobby?) had managed to induce them to perform an unheard "routine inspection" of my amateur

Witnessing how arrogantly and unpunishedly the Ham Community is being discredited by an horde of base Hams is very daunting, but I still firmly believe that the Amateur Radio Service is one of the most effective way to promote recreation, self-training and, above all, emergency public-service and implementation of friendship among people of different culture, language and ethnology.

During the last thirty-seven years of my ham activity, I have always had the honour to know a significative number of Hams and meet many wonderful Operators personally who today are among my best friends. I am profoundly grateful to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for making the existence of the Amateur Radio Service possible and also my national Authorities for granting me (since 1973) my Amateur Radio Licence despite what an horde of ignoble individuals has masterly been orchestrating against me.

My ham licence is still profusely compensating for the impossibility to travel around the remotest corners of the world. Apart today's enorm facilities offered by InterNET, the "old-fashioned" short waves still permit me to communicate with amazing people around the world and share many

common interests but, above all, enjoy the extraordinary feeling of human warmth that only radiocommunication can give.

In almost forty years of ham activity, I have successfully managed to compound both devotion to ham-activity and passion for travelling. In the 70s, these two interests have been among the main reasons which have led me to begin my career as a Merchant Navy R/O (ship's Radio Officer). After some years around the remotest corner of the world and direct approaches to various cultures I can confirm that, no matter the language, race or ethnology, people think very much the same way at whatever latitude and longitude. My very modest education and a modest life-experience in various parts around the world have given me the possibility to verify how all-time and true Albert Einstein's statement is.

In regard to the disgraceful comportment of the multi-national horde of Hams on 14195 KHz, I recently have posed some questions to a high-rank IARU Representative. In answer to one of my questions he minimized the problem by asserting that "*it appears to be a product of a general reduction in operating standard, perhaps driven by social changes in the population*". The nature of our ham activity is such that his assertion cannot have anything to do with the language barriers, cultural and religious differences which especially afflict our modern society at large. In the case of the issue about 14195 kHz, instead, the problem is caused by an insane "*way of thinking*" that only afflicts a minority group of our international ham Community :  
**GENERALIZATION.**

For many centuries this ilk old mixture has been poisoning the way of human thinking. An irrefutable confirmation of this has also been given by unnumerable hams of considerable culture who, inevitably and constantly, have obscenely identified "*in totum*" Sicily and the sicilian Hams with the "*mafia*". The 14195 kHz issue is a living example of this insane way of thinking especially evidenced among the innumerable prejudiced and racist abecedarians that have been concentrating on 14195 kHz. The "*generalization*" experienced on this frequency, InterNET or in amateur radio in large, should not necessarily be seen as an ephemeral or transient problem related to the fanatics of "*DXing*" but as a good opportunity to think about a more effective enhancement of broader and better understanding among the Ham Community.

Even a famous historian specialized in the Italian history from the Renaissance onwards, the British historian Denis Mack Smith, has tried to prove, unsuccessfully, that the whole history of Sicily, since its remotest origins, can only be explained through the "*mafia*".

Despite this authoritative historian's assertion, Sicilians are very well-known for their hospitality and for being extraordinarily friendly people. Everyone who has ever visited my Home island or read about it knows this. These very profound and noble ways of approaching especially foreign people can only be explained by a Culture we Sicilians have been breathing and enjoying for thousands years.

Countless Hams (but not only them) need be reminded that, despite what the British historian Denis Mack Smith tried to demonstrate (unsuccessfully), Sicilians' respect for human life has been existing for more than a couple of thousand years. To better discuss and prove this, I need to start from 480 b.C. Yes, that takes us back to two and a half thousand years ago.

As modern Sicilians we are very proud to know that the most beautiful page of Sicily's ancient history has been written with a peace treaty made in the year 480 b.C., just after the "*Battle of Imera*", when the sicilian winners imposed the defeated Carthaginians, the renunciation of human sacrifices in their religious rites. When the historian Denis Mack Smith (born 3rd March 1920 !) tried to describe Sicilians as "*anthropofagos*" or cannibals (greek: *anthropos* = man, *fago* = I eat), he certainly must have had a temporary amnesia because an accurate and, above all, impartial historical *excursus* will irrefutably demonstrate that the social phenomenon called "*mafia*" first appeared in Lombardia (the events narrated in the first historical novel of the Italian literature "*I Promessi Sposi*" prove this), Campania and Calabria, when these italian regions were under the

Spanish domination (1523-1600). An impartial and effective analysis of all sicilian historical events will certainly evidence Sicily's contribution to common progress of our Civilization through the centuries.

The contemporary and well-known french writer, Roger Peyrefitte (1907-2000), in his book "*Du Vèsuve à l'Etna*" stated that "*no island rises on the horizon of our Civilization a most radiant face as Sicily. It points to three Continents, and summarizes their characteristics. Three times over the centuries, it was the most shining center of the Mediterranean World.*" On three occasions in its history, Sicily expressed the Mediterranean culture in a Greek, Arab and Norman-Swabian form.

During the greek period, Sicily was at the real forefront of progress with geniuses like Archimedes, whose well-known scientific contributions to Physics, Mathematics and infinitesimal calculus are valid still today and philosophers like Gorgia of Lentini (485 b.C. - 375 b.C.), the creator of human thinking who astonished even the Athenians with his dialectic.

One of the three most important cities of the Mediterranean World during the classical period was in Greece, and the other two were in Sicily. One was Athens and the other two were Agrigento and Syracuse. In the Vth century b.C, the Greek poet Pindar referred to Agrigento as "*The most beautiful city of mortals*" and Syracuse was the Homeland of Epicharmos, *Thocritus* and *Archimedes*. It was my Country that has given to our Civilization poets like Stesichorus from Himera, who the Ancients considered to be "*the Homer of lyric poetry*" and historians like *Diodorus Siculus* from Agyrium (today's Agira), who wrote the first *universal history* and *Epicarmus* from Syracuse, the first who wrote comedies. But in Sicily lived also *Archestratus* from Gela who, in the IVth century, wrote the first gastronomy treatise and *Theokritos* from Syracuse, who *Publius Vergilius Marone* openly considered his master.

During the Arab period my sicilian People astonished Europe with the production of wonderful fabrics produced by textile mills in Palermo, and made known the learned the use of paper instead of parchment. Sicilians revolutionized the taste by teaching the Arabs the use of new grocery pastes produced in Trabia (near Palermo), as confirmed by the Arab geographer *Abd Allah ibn Idrīs al-Siqillī* (the Sicilian). It were the Sicilians who introduced new citrus and rice coltures by the channelling of water, and it was *Giawar* from Palermo (Gawhar- al-Siqillī = *Gawhar the Sicilian*) who, on 9th July 969, founded the Egyptian city of Cairo (!).

With the Normans and the Swabians, Sicily became a real model for Europe. In 1936, another english historian, Herbert A. L. Fisher, in his "*History of Europe*" wrote that "*purity of race does not exist. Europe is a continent of energetic mongrels*" and testified that "*the Norman kingdom of Sicily was the best organized of any other European government of the time.*" The first Modern State with a Parliament was born in 1129 here in Sicily under Roger II (1095 - 1194). Please, let me just underline that England's first Parliament organized into three branches as in Sicily, was established in 1264 by disposition of Simon de Montfort, chancellor of King Henry III.

The island where I was born was the first burocratic State based on state Officials, and not on the organization of feudal vassals and yeomen. I am proud to be Sicilian also because Sicily had the first lay State, independent from the *Roman Curia* since 1097. Furthermore, based on the same policy adopted by the Arabs, my forefathers adopted a genuine spirit of religious tolerance and civil coexistence that make them very contemporary. If our western Culture could only adopt this spirit, maybe today we could have solved a lot of problem concerned with today's Cultural confrontation. It should never be forgotten that, four centuries later than Sicily, it was the adoption of this spirit that made the glory of France possible ("*Edict of Nantes*" made by King Henry IV in 1598 !).

Norman and Swabian Sicily had scholars like *Henricus Aristippus* from Catania, who anticipated the European intellectual movement (Humanism) towards the crucial component of the Renaissance by translating into Latin language Aristotle, Plato and Diogenes Laertius. As confirmed even by Dante Alighieri and Petrarca, the Italian Literature was born from the "*Sicilian school of poetry*" (1230-1250) founded by Frederik II of Swabia in his court in Palermo.

The Sicilian people has always shown a particular inclination and dedication to love and liberty : Sicilians gave shining examples of love and freedom on many occasions (*Sicilian Vespers* of 1282), respect for democracy (*Sicilian Constitution* of 1848, with the Parliament above the King). Evidence of authentic devotion to Humanity is *Argisto Giuffedì's* proposal to abolish death penalty, made in 1580 (two centuries before Cesare Beccaria, 1738- 1794 !).

It is with a lot of pride that I like to remind that the first feminists were two Sicilians. As early as 1735 (54 years before the French Revolution !) two women, *Genoveffa Bisso* from Palermo and *Isabella Bellini* from Catania wrote in defense of the women against an anti-feminist slander made by a poet of the time. Their writings make both Sicilians the forerunners of modern feminism. Very few people know that, two years later (1737), *Vincenzo Di Blasi* published 373 most significant pages about the "*Philosophical-historical Apology showing that the sex of women is superior to that of men*". The first ever to discuss about the therapeutic effects of music on the soul was the Turko-Persian *Al-Farabi* (872–950), with his treatise *Meanings of the Intellect* and in 1824 *Pietro Pisani* understood that "madmen" were not demons, but only mentally ill persons. He was the first in Europe (!) that treated them with *music-therapy* in the "*Real Casa dei Matti*" he founded in Palermo.

I hope some of you can better understand why, in 1787, the inventor of the concept of *World Literature*, the German Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, after a long visit to Sicily, wrote that "*Italy without Sicily leaves no image in Spirit, only here is the key to everything.*"

However, should you ever visit Turin and happen to turn your eyes towards the magnificent Basilica of Superga, note that it was built by the Sicilian architect *Filippo Juvarra* from Messina. Among other beautiful things, he also built other things in Italy and Spain, like the hunting lodge of Stupinigi and the Royal Palace in Madrid. The University of Turin was reformed in the European sense in 1719 by another Sicilian, *Count Francesco d'Aguiarre* from Salemi. The most beautiful fountain in Bologna, that of Neptune, was created in 1566 by the Sicilian architect *Tommaso Laureti* from Palermo. The Ximenesian Observatory of Florence was founded in 1700 by the scientist *Leonardo Ximenes* from Trapani; the Polyclinic of Rome was founded by the roman *Guido Baccelli* and the sicilian *Francesco Durante* from Letojanni.

Our monumental "*Enciclopedia Italiana*" was made in the 30s by Giovanni Lombardo Treccani for the financial side, and by three sicilians: *Giovanni Gentile* from Castelvetrano for the cultural part, *Calogero Tumminelli* from Caltanissetta for the editorial part, and *Pagliaro Antonino* from Mistretta for the drafting part. Here I would like to conclude this list not only because it risks to become really long, but mainly because it is not my desire to induce anybody to the suspicion that I want to make the Sicilian People as "school-class leader". It is quite NOT acceptable that the Country which gave personalities like Vincenzo Bellini, whose melody was judged as "the purest that ever flowed from human heart" by the great Wilhelm Richard Wagner; writers like Giovanni Verga, Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa or playwrights like Luigi Pirandello, Nobel Prize 1934; poets like Salvatore Quasimodo, 1959 Nobel Prize in physics Ettore Majorana and scientists such as Filippo Heredia for Meteorology and Stanislao Cannizzaro for the chemistry; industrialists like the Florios and politicians such as Francesco Crispi; figures like Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, Antonino from San Giuliano and Luigi Sturzo; economists like Angelo Majorana, educators like Giuseppe Lombardo Radice, philosophers like Giovanni Gentile and folklorist like Giuseppe Pitré, be considered as "mafia land" by an anonymous horde of ignorant selfstyled Hams recently heard on our bands, especially NOT when an historian mis-considers its people *in totum* as bloodthirsty or, according to his own wording, as "*anthropofagos*"!

However, I will NEVER tolerate that Sicilian hams be offended *in totum*, especially NOT those cowardly rascals who call on civilized and well-educated Sicilian Hams with an evergrowing recurrent and silly compliment like: "*But you do not quite seem to be a Sicilian*". What wants to be an apparent compliment is nothing else but an irrefutable evidence of total ignorance about

(19th June 2010 )

Nino - I T 9 R Y H