

## **Hands down from the band!**

Dear companions, dear friends,  
we are sending you this news from Milano.

We ask you to please subscribe to our appeal and to be with the Band.  
You can email your support to [ottoni@inventati.org](mailto:ottoni@inventati.org)

In the next days we will publish the appeal with the list of signatories.

With Love

**Banda degli Ottoni a Scoppio**

## **APPEAL**

The Banda degli Ottoni a Scoppio has been playing on the streets of the world for over thirty years, next to the neglected, giving a voice to those who need it the most: struggling for a home, for a job, for health and for an environmentally friendly world, fighting for social rights and against injustice.

Today two bandmates are accused for having replaced violence with music, avoiding that the protest in the square turned into a battlefield.

We all know the Band, its actions, its commitment.

The Band still embodies today a desire for justice that does not die, which pushes us to fight and to claim for a better world.

Solidarity with the Banda degli Ottoni a Scoppio!

## **THE HISTORY**

Two of our bandmates musicians were reported for events that occurred on the day of the premiere of La Scala on December 7, 2014.

In a Milan which was preparing for Expo, as every year there were promises of protests against government policies at the Premiere of La Scala. In a climate deliberately held at high levels of tension, the Banda degli Ottoni a Scoppio, street band with a long musical and social commitment history recognized by the Municipality of Milan itself with the awarding of the Civic Merit in 2012, played a decisive role so that the viability of the square was guaranteed by those who wanted to express their dissent, simply using music as an instrument of action and interposition against those who, in that square, were trying to find a fight at all costs to criminalize the protest.

Exactly three years after that December 7, during the same event Spinash and Juancarlos are approached by the Police agency DIGOS and receive a verbal notification: "Come to collect the complaint".

Charges: aggravated resistance to a public official, personal aiding and abetting.

What happened is beyond belief. One can not believe that wearing a bass drum and with a saxophone one can "use violence" and risk several years sentence.

But it really happened!

The street is our home, with no borders.

The Banda degli Ottoni a Scoppio has been around for over thirty years to give voice to those who do not have it, together with all those categories that have the scream of the band as their sole means of claim, in support of the weakest, of those struggling for an home, for a work, for health and ecology, fighting for social rights and against injustice.

After thirty years of the band playing in support of others, this time we have to play to our own defence so we are asking for solidarity to everyone with whom we fought, sang and marched.

See you on the street!

