

## **“PARCO LIBERO” - FROM MAFIA TO CITIZENS**

The "Parco Libero Grassi" project has as its specific purpose that of delivering an area rich in landscape and natural resources, to the full enjoyment of the citizens, who have been systematically kept away from them in the past.

This was due to the oppressive presence of mafia criminals who exercised a despotic and parasitic control over that territory for years - as, more generally, over the entire city of - Palermo.

The area on which the Park is located, in particular, has long been used by the mafia as an ideal place to carry out illicit trafficking and carry out violent actions, thanks to its close location, but isolated from the urban context and, in the same weather easily accessible from the sea.

And, among the most devastating traffics for the community, there was that of allocating it to a site for the collection and illegal disposal of waste of all kinds, especially the most harmful.

It was therefore the specific interest of the mafia to keep it in its constant and exclusive availability, effectively precluding access to the inhabitants of the neighborhood, thanks to the constant and undisputed dominance exercised over the territory, in the form of a real sovereignty capable of imposing its laws and its economic claims, as if they were real taxation.

Faced with this reality, the history of the fight against the mafia in the last thirty years has had as a recurring theme that of eradicating the mafia power, which has spread over the whole of Sicily and in particular - for what it reveals - the city of Palermo.

This battle was able to be conducted through the action, finally determined, of the institutions of the State, guided by the commitment of some of its heroic representatives, which was accompanied by the awakening of the consciences of the citizens, to make them react to inertia and resignation. with which the mafia oppression was suffered. This work of moral rebirth has known some courageous protagonists who, in a condition of isolation, if not of distrust within their own environment, have opposed, without compromise, the mafia impositions, suffering the economic consequences and, in some chance, even paying the price of his own life.

So it was for Libero Grassi, whose sacrifice has acquired a very strong symbolic value in the very hard - and never ended - struggle for the eradication of mafia power, which today also develops through the return to full usability by the community of territories. which the mafia had taken over.

For these reasons, the Free Park project means reconquest and affirmation of legality, in the name of those who sacrificed their existence for this ideal.

*Dott. Leonardo Agueci  
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