



**Speech of Paolo Pettinaroli, President of
Comitato 8 ottobre per non dimenticare committee,
in St. Ambrose Basilica in Milan on October 8, 2014
after the Mass in suffrage for the 118 victims of
Milan-Linate air disaster**

"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves". (Mt 10,16)

My working life was carried out around the world: Europe, Asia, Australia, United States of America, and in my journey I met a vast array of mankind. I also met corrupted and colluded people, unfortunately. But I never would have imagined that - due to people used to such behavior - my son and his other 117 fellow travelers would lose their lives. The air disaster happened on the ground in Linate Airport, where according to the experts such a tragedy was highly predictable due to lack of technology and other negligence, easily solvable however.

I fell in despair, I hit rock bottom. I asked myself what are the responsibilities and duties of those who work to ensure the safety of aviation in the sky, but also in the handling of the aircrafts at the airports, especially those with intensive traffic such as Linate. To answer this question, the constitution of the *Comitato 8 ottobre 2001* committee - later turned into a foundation - was started with the participation of all of us, in order to join the families of the 118 victims in a commitment to the safety of air transport, and to mitigate an indelible pain that however we will always carry within us, not to forget.

A very lucky moment was the meeting with captain Radini who carried out the technical *task force* of the *Fondazione 8 ottobre* foundation, bringing together other free spirits, educated, trained and vaccinated against the disease of corruption. This foundation is appreciated, taken into consideration and required around the world that deals with aviation safety. It seems to us that in Italy we persevere to be deaf on this subject.

We are extremely disappointed by the profiteers and careerists who continue to have the responsibility of our Country in their hands. We are disappointed by the removal of the people who carried out their duties with skill and experience. We are disappointed by the offhand inclusion of new staff coming from a completely different field of work. In short, we are disappointed by a policy that defines itself as new and different, but that still does not choose according to skills, doing badly to one sector such as air transport which - before profit - must take care of the safety of passengers. The inability of selecting the ruling class is what we consider to be intolerable for our *modus vivendi*.

As President of *Fondazione 8 ottobre* foundation I ask that they clarify the positions and rules with an *iter* that does not stop at every breath of wind. I ask the *stop* said by that person or by another to be ignored, those persons who only care about their power or

profit. I quote professor Giulio Giorello: *"Enfranchisement, that is the patient and unceasing fight that every responsible woman and man undertake, in order for their own freedom to be the instrument of even more freedom"*. I would add: freedom to fly safely, directed by people responsible and aware of what they decide. Italy is a country that deserves respect!

I'm aware that from this moment I will be even more unpopular in certain national quarters, but this will not change my mind about what I just denounced. According to my opinion, life is a great gift of God, or it is a great mystery to other thinkers, and so much I owe to my son and his companions.

source: <http://www.comitato8ottobre.com/news.asp?language=it&id=574>