Conferences Museums and Human Rights conference
FIHRM- INTERCOM 2016: The ethical museum

18: it is the article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on which the Institute Historical Studies Tommaso Crudeli and Museum Affaire Crudeli & Human Rights have the focus of their activities.

By Kathy Burton Jones Director of Museum IHSTC and Raoul C. Tommasi Crudeli CEO of IHSTC

IHSTC: strange acronym

Seven generations, today actually 8, have inherited that ancient condemnation that Tommaso Crudeli suffered as he thought, said and wrote his thinking that was opposed to the mono dominant thought and absolute of that time

In a setting certainly more and more free, in 1988-89 some descendants, thanks to the advent of the information technology, began to collect some papers with documentation sometimes contradictory, sometimes reductive, of the martyr, Tommaso Crudeli. This group returned to rebuild the entire affair Crudeli where, in addition to the absolute lack of tolerance and compassion during the unjust imprisonment, there were several negationist manipulations designed to suppress and make people forget what it was rather the point-of-no-return of the Inquisition tribunals scattered everywhere in three continents.

The descendants, including Raoul Tommasi Crudeli, have formed an Institute of Historical Studies and began to re-explore all the documentary evidence, discarding those deliberately tampered with, or incorrectly reported. In the end, even with holographic documents found in various parts of Europe and in Boston MA, have reconstructed the whole history with the help of university researchers, anatomopathologists, archivists and a good part of volunteering.

Article 18 linked to the events that involved TC; history of the affair

Article 18 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that man has the right to change his thought, opinion, creeds, conscience, and, according with the following articles (19 and 20), he can express himself by communicating his thinking to others in different forms. Furthermore, Article 18 which is part of the "constitutional freedom", relates directly with Article 1, and, unlike the intermediate items, it does not refer to deprivations material but immaterial essence of man, to his thinking which is Intrinsic, Inalienable, Insuppressible.

The two articles (1 and 18) contain the main topic of the entire Universal Declaration: thought, conscience, religion. They are the triangle of values of greatest ethical intensity, which qualifies the original legal subjectivity of the human being whose conscience is the true last instance of the rights. You can kill the man but will not change his thinking!
The beginning of the affair Tommaso Crudeli starts from the denial of free thought by religious authority.

The setting is in the 1730s in Florence, in the post Renaissance bustle, and the launch of positivism. Tommaso born to a wealthy family in the eponymous palace, graduated from the University of Pisa in Law in 1726. He was influenced by a liberal family and those who were innovative at the university. Crudeli was a young man opposed to mono religious thought and did not spare public criticism of clerocracy. He found in the Protestant British colony in Florence the useful forum to continue his challenge and joined the English Lodge (Masonic) Florence. In 1738 Pope Clement XII issued a Bull of excommunication followed by Edict Firrao with which it reinforced the severity of the measure with the death penalty for the Masons, the housing demolition of those meetings and soil sequestration where stood.

This was not enough; a public demonstration was needed. In May 1739 Crudeli was imprisoned, without stated reasons, in the very narrow prison of the Inquisition in which he could not even stand up, with straw on the floor and without pot. Later he was put in a completely dark cell with no air and with a horrible stench. After three months of such torture, with no human contact and understanding of imputation, Crudeli was subjected to the first interrogation. The Inquisitor hoping for a mental and physical collapse of the prisoner, had already prepared the minutes of a confession that the Crudeli refused for two days to sign. The insistent interrogations in which they asked for the names of members to the English Lodge were fruitless. The Inquisitors not having a spontaneous confession, were now in trouble for the unjustifiable arrest. Nevertheless, they sought to wrest a confession by segregating Crudeli for another three months in the dark. Tommaso’s father begged the religious authorities for the release of his son but he was denied. He died of a broken heart. After additional interrogations, hoping that he would die in prison, the Inquisitors set him in sadistic confinement for a total of 13 months in antihuman conditions. This imprisonment devastated him due to lack of air and light. His determination, however, helped him, holding him in life. Afterward he was transferred, dying, to a less harsh cell where he was held for two months. The Inquisition, failed to object, condemned him with vague religious charges. He was convicted but pardoned by a custodial sentence commuted to house arrest in his palace in Poppi, where he remained - decubitus - until death.

Lorraine Francesco (the Grand Duke of Lorraine) asked to Crudeli for a detailed report on his captivity, and on the basis of the report he closed the Inquisition. It was the first time Inquisitorial Tribunal was closed. The year was 1742 and Tommaso Crudeli was still alive: his Martyrdom was therefore not in vain. Later the enlightened policy of Lorraine came to demolish the Court physically in 1756, leading to abolishment of - for the first time in the world - the death penalty.

This is a brief troubled history that lasted about 10 years and is one of hundreds of thousands of cases that began early of the second millennium or even earlier at the hands of the Inquisition.

But what is the peculiarity of the affair Crudeli: it was the point-of-no-return where the secular power imposing itself permanently on the ecclesiastical power, began to protect the freedom of conscience of man, to protect the right to liberty of conscience of the citizen.

In short, the Grand Duke of Lorraine indirectly ruled the right to freedom of thought and freedom to communicate by any means stopping absolutism wanted by the Inquisition.

The Duke of Lorraine is the true forerunner of Article 18 of HR!
While for the same reason and force with which Tommaso resisted the Inquisition in defense of his free thought, we now identify him like "the" champion of art. 18
Institute aim: the distinction between memory and record, objectivity and interferences.

Between us and Tommaso there are about 280 years. People involved in the affair would be the real witnesses: only survivors would have the priority right to speak. Undoubtedly their testimony would become personal, filtered from their minds, their passion and would become partisan. The generation of immediate contact with that generation witnessed the events is detected by neurologists as "post-memory" and perhaps are even less reliable. Over time the memory becomes a past historiographical processed, that is transformed...It becomes at greater reason, if there are any interference aimed to change or mitigate or mutate the color of the events. The Institute has identified a number of interferences that they wanted to switch or at least mitigate the sign of the atrocities committed on Tommaso Crudeli. We have identified, rectified and we finally have the reconstruction of historical facts in the most objective form.

This was our first objective which is followed by another: to spread as much as possible the fact, the attempt to tell in different ways, the evolution of the results obtained and on the other hand, not least, to educate living generations with documentation and reflection.

NOT our purpose
Far from making revanchism or asking for justification or penalties now for events occurring and frozen for three centuries. In other words we do not work to take revenge but then we do not want the successors of the jailers and torturers are justified or penalized; much, much less Tommaso is elevated to the altars as martyr of their inhuman methods.

What they have made is frozen history, it is not corrigible! Point, new line.

Preliminary activities and beginning spreading the message
In almost 30 years the track of the Institute's work has evolved more and achieving wide banner of opposing to forget and be forgotten as contrariwise happened with philological manipulations that occurred in the XVII and XIX centuries.

IHSTC coldly rebuilt thanks to innovative technologies, facts in the slightest detail and it has the ability to analyze every action, coherence or contradiction of Inquisition Tribunal and of the victim.

After detailed reanalysis archival, comparisons, comparisons with various documentary sources, the Institute:

- Rebuilt all the literary and poetic works of Tommaso, who had dispersed, plagiarized and put in Church Index as erotic literature (absolutely devoid of erotic passages)
- Rebuilt the whole process of the Inquisition with authentic texts identifying individual counterfeiters, even Tommaso's bloody saliva was identified.
- 5 national and an international conference entitled "Individual liberty, collective liberties"
- 9 Annual Memorial concert for Tommaso Crudeli,
- 4 philological and historical essays along with Italian Universities,
- 58 Honorary appointments including 3 Honorary Presidents and 3 Ambassadors,
- 4 university specialized courses at the University of Udine,
- Many dozens of articles on newspaper and magazines,
- Gift of 7 busts for Museums in Italy and the USA, 6 on the waiting list in the US and 1 in the UK;

And finally now the Museum Affair Crudeli & Article 18 Human Rights in his home town: Poppi in Tuscany!
Preliminary research and focus on emotion to offer the visitor

The Museum, newly created, wants to take the visitor's attention, argue with him, get to the bottom on the Case Study Crudeli to understand that fanaticism, or the possession of absolute truth is the death of our mind for the absence of doubt, the end of evolution of thought, the end of the progress of research, of science and of the studies.

Unfortunately, we know that visitors enter a museum, explore the exhibitions, and come out to resume their lives unless the museum experience allows the visitor to break away from everyday life by engaging him in the subject matter at hand. In our case, through the use of original artifacts including Tommaso’s bed, his writings, and the details of his story, we will ensure permanent recall by the visitors. His story led to the closure of the Inquisition by the Grand Duke of Lorraine and does not leave a trace in the mind if not in the general education construction of our cultural back-ground. Instead, we know that if a museum (ideal to break away from everyday life) offers the visitor a strong emotion this can score in his memory a greater and permanent recall.

And what we want to offer it is the bed on which Tommaso laid and dictated the relationship that allowed Lorena to STOP the Holy Inquisition and the start a new path for Humanity where tolerance and respect enable peaceful coexistence of thoughts, beliefs and religions.

We think this represents one point-of-no-return of the Enlightenment, or in other words a conscious break with the past; it is in fact the cancellation of all the medieval heritage.

The real Museum and over-municipality.

The Museum, currently only a basement of the castle the XIII, will consist of four points inside the walled town with a maximum of 400 meters path in the middle of the old city.

But don’t rule out the “diffuse” Museum expanding it to Florence in the building where the English Loggia met, on the spot where Tommaso was arrested, the place where he was imprisoned.

We would like to connect with overseas museums for art and literary contests similar to those the IHSTC has already launched in some schools in eastern Tuscany.

The virtual Museum international / intercontinental network

In the design of the museum expansion the Virtual Museum it is inspired by our the Museum Studies Program at Harvard. We have already performed the detailed survey of the Palace Crudeli where we want to trace the historical process for human right related to Article 18; in the virtual museum it will miss the emotional moment given the seeing and touching the mortal bed from which Tommaso brought about one of the points-of-no-return for Humanity.

The Virtual Museum is still a dimension that our Institute considers especially towards a large part of the audience that cannot physically reach Poppi because of political circumstances: it is this audience that we want to convey our message at zero cost bypassing any kind of border, limiting the knowledge, religious or ideological censorship.

We consider it ethically correct knowing that the realization of the Virtual Museum will produce costs without revenues but will accomplish our mission. In fact, if we had taken care of the cost / benefit value we would not be here with you.
Museum: Additional activities for visitors
The visitor to the museum will leave with a memento in his hand that can recall the experience of what he has seen. These objects will be given away for free but will retain the memory of the visit.

In short, we are inspired to make a living museum in progress, interactive and aims on direct and indirect distribution, visual or simulated, and leading to understanding the importance of tolerance and respect for others' ideas and invoking the Article 18 of UD of HR.

We do not hide that the asset can give trouble to who bears the heavy burden of torture inflicted on Tommaso Crudeli and hundreds of thousands of men who are not aligned to the fees imposed by religion or political ideologies; at greater reason we hope that our museum activities can be the way for their reflection of a growing doubt: “am I deeply convinced that I'm right and I could impose my truth to others?”

If we succeed in this we would have obtained the most gratifying fulfillment of our mission.

We count on your support and suggestions, thanks...