

Youth Council for Religious and Cultural Pluralism.

APPEAL FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE ITALIAN JOURNALIST DANIELE  
MASTROGIACOMO

We, the Italian young people and the youth living in Italy, belonging to different faiths and cultures, are calling upon you, the Afghani kidnappers of the Italian journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo.

We do not know who you are, we do not know about your lives or what you intend to claim with your deed.

Nevertheless, we know that you have been young as we are now. You too have had, and still have dreams, plans for your life, for your family and your children. For your Country as well.

Daniele Mastrogiacomo has had and still has dreams and plans, first of all the dream of performing his job of a journalist with passion and honesty. Journalism becomes a calling when – as in the case of Daniele Mastrogiacomo – it means to write about the sufferings and hopes of people, wherever they live, no matter where they live, no matter what people they are or the faith they have.

Today, we wish to express the sentiment of many young Italians who, although they belong to different revelations, know that no one can ever trample on the freedom and dignity of another human being in the name of God.

You claim to have faith in God and you belong to one of the greatest religions in history, a faith that for centuries has been teaching and professing respect and tolerance of every culture, especially of every individual.

The God of monotheistic religions is beneficent and frees every man with His mercy. He is a God of Love and He is faithful. He hears the cry of the oppressed and, eventually, comes to their help.

Therefore, it is in the name of your faith that we beg you to free the Italian journalist Daniele Mastrogiacomo, immediately and with no conditions.

No one who offends or tramples on the freedom of another human being can honestly be considered God's servant. Instead, anyone who frees that man follows God's will.

So, free Daniele Mastrogiacomo, send him back to his family, to Italy, and give him back his freedom.

Rome, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2007.

The Youth Council for Religious and Cultural Pluralism  
and  
the Youth of the Muslim Communities in Italy