

# PEPPINO IMPASTATO



# BIOGRAPHY

**Giuseppe Impastato**, known as Peppino Impastato, son of Luigi Impastato and Felicia Bartolotta, was born in **Cinisi** (Palermo) on January 5, **1948** and died in the same city on May 9, **1978**.

When Peppino was still young, his father kicked him out of the house and Peppino started his **political and cultural activity against mafia**, because he didn't agree with his family's ideas.

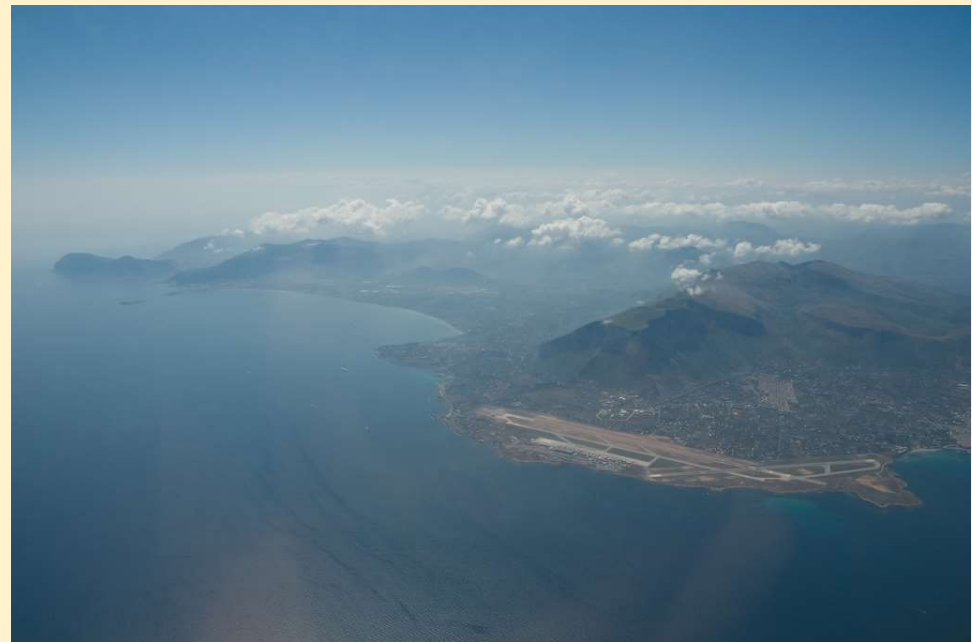
The father was also friend with **Gaetano Badalamenti**, the mafia boss of the area. Peppino was different from his family, because he considered law and justice as indispensable values.

*«Is this mafia? If this is mafia then I'll  
fight it for the rest of my life.»*

# POLITICAL ACTIVITY

In **1965** he founds the newspaper “**L’Idea socialista**” (that lasted for only a little time, because of the suspension of publication by Cinisi’s mayor) and becomes member of the Psiup (Italian Socialist Party of Proletarian Unity). In **1968** he joins, as a dirigente, the activities of Nuova Sinistra’s groups.

He leads the struggles of the displaced citizens for the construction of the third runway of **Palermo airport**.



# DEMONSTRATIONS

In **1968** he started work as a dirigent, at “**Manifesto**” (a left-sided political magazine), specifically at “**Lotta Continua**” (a communism-oriented formation)

Peppino was also involved in the **farmers struggles** for the house, anti fascism supervision, alternative markets, illegal work in building sites.

Especially, he fought not to build the **third runway of Palermo's airport**, because it would have harmed about 200 farming families, and because the official purpose of the trail was in favor of the mafia.

# MUSIC AND CULTURE

In **1975**, Peppino founds a group named "**Music and Culture**" that organises cultural activities like forum, debates, music and theatres.

## RADIO AUT

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Between **1976** and **1977** he founds "**Radio Aut**", a free self-financed radio, which reports about the mafia crimes and business in Cinisi and Terrasini, and about the mafia boss Gaetano Badalamenti, who had an important job in international drug traffic, because of the control he had on the airport.

# THE MURDER

In **1978** Peppino runs for the **communal elections**, but he was killed before knowing the result, in the night between 8 and 9 May, 1978.

His body was put on the railway tracks over a **TNT** charge, to simulate a suicide.

In **2002** the murderer Gaetano Badalamenti was sentenced to **life imprisonment**.



# THE FUNERAL

In Palermo, a **notice** appears saying : "Peppino Impastato was killed by mafia".

At the **funeral** one hundred people participated from Palermo and from the near villages.

On 9 May, **1979** the **first national demonstration** against mafia of Italian history was organised.

Every year, on 21 March Italy celebrates the **Day of Remembrance** to honour mafia victims.



# I CENTO PASSI

“**I cento passi**” is a film shot in **2000** that represents Peppino Impastato’s life and his **struggles against mafia**, especially against Gaetano **Badalamenti** who lived a hundred steps far from his house. The film is set in Cinisi, Palermo.





# PEPPINO IN GENOVA

In **Genova** there is a **graffito** in honour of Peppino: in the painting he smiles, facing a window, he looks at Genova and remembers how important it is not to let your fear win. The author is anonymous.

The weapon Peppino wanted us to use is beauty. It is what the activist did his whole life, rebelling, trying hard and facing death for the freedom of his land.

*“If beauty was taught to people, they’d  
have a weapon against resignation,  
fear and the conspiracy of silence”.*

*Vico della Rosa, Genova.*



# WHY IS HE A HERO?

- ❑ For his courage.
- ❑ because he started an anti-mafia political-cultural activity by deciding to say no to the principles he had been taught as a child.
- ❑ because he died for the ideals he believed in.
- ❑ because Peppino did everything to be heard in order to fight indifference and ignorance.