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<http://affaritaliani.libero.it/cronache/il-pm-del-caso-meredith260912.html>

Giuliano Mignini, the prosecutor in the Meredith case, speaks: "No bargaining with Sollecito"

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It has been written that he had seemingly bargained with Raffaele Sollecito in order that he would accuse Amanda Knox in exchange for a lighter sentence. But now the prosecutor in the Meredith case, Giuliano Mignini, has chosen Affaritaliani.it as the forum to break his silence: "No bargaining. It suffices to read the book attentively to understand that I have nothing to do with it. I am disconcerted by this distortion of the facts." And further: doubts about Amanda's guilt? "If I had them [doubts], I would ask for absolution. I have always believed in the responsibility of both of them." The pressure while awaiting the sentence was enormous: "I believe that trials should take place in the halls of justice, not outside". Both Amanda and Sollecito have written books about the murder: "These are choices that each person makes, and for which they are responsible".

THE INTERVIEW

by Lorenzo Lamperti

In the past few days, Prosecutor Mignini, it has been written that you apparently bargained with the family of Raffaele Sollecito, offering a lighter sentence in return for testimony against Amanda Knox.

"I must say at this point that I am disconcerted [dismayed] by this distortion of the facts. It suffices to read what Sollecito has written in his book in order to understand that I have absolutely nothing to do with it. Furthermore, Raffaele's father has denied the existence of any bargaining. However, I continue to see newspapers which publish these things. Let's forget about the American newspapers, over which it would be best to draw a pitying veil, however it surprises me that even here in Italy facts are talked about which have never been checked. Sollecito's father denied this live on television, and yet there weren't even any starting points to support something [claims] of this sort.

Thus there was an exploitation of Sollecito's account?

"That seems clear to me. And yet the event of the Kercher process was preceded by that of the Monster of Florence [the Cassation Court will deliver its verdict on 22 November, editor's note]. That was what started everything: I never said anything, but I'm fed up, sick and tired at this point. There has been too much superficiality on the Meredith story."

Raffaele Sollecito speaks of a lawyer who apparently bargained/negotiated with his

family...

"These are merely conjectures on conjectures. And yet, I don't understand how Sollecito's account can have been interpreted as referring to me. Looking carefully at things, it could almost be said that it is me who is the person offended by a boast."

Are you considering legal action?

"I have 90 days. I will consider it. Certainly, I must take note of Dr Sollecito's denial. What his son wrote, or at least, what the newspapers report, has not been libelous with regard to me. The problem lies in the interpretation of his text that has been made. It would suffice to read [the book] correctly in order to understand that we are talking of simple impressions, not of facts. The only concrete references are made to a few persons who are not me."

Therefore you rule out the existence of a secret bargain?

"Indeed! in the most absolute manner possible. What?, after the conviction and the appeal request for life sentencing, I seemingly started to negotiate?! What would I negotiate about?"

Thus you have never had any doubts about Amanda's guilt?

These doubts don't exist. If I had doubts, I would have asked for absolution. I have always believed in the responsibility of both these two."

The Cassation appeal is also based on Amanda's conviction for calunnia.

"This is one of the fundamental aspects of the appeal, which is moreover based on numerous other reasons. The appeal has been made very well. We'll see what the Cassation decides on 25th March next year."

The fact remains that a striking situation has been created, in which Rudy Guede has been convicted for contributing to a murder, but according to the courts there are no [other] contributors, or at any rate, Amanda and Raffaele are not contributors...

"Yes, yes. Indeed. Rudy Guede is convicted as having participated. Sollecito and Knox were acquitted. Furthermore, Rudy Guede, as we have seen, was not even convicted of having carried out the simulated break-in... These are problems that arise with the fast-track trial system, when one part of the case is separated from the other part. This case, on the contrary, is a unitary whole [a single case].

There was very considerable pressure brought to bear on the trial process. Do you believe that it might in any way have had an influence on the sentence?

"I don't know if it influenced it. I know that the Court had that idea, that conviction, which I don't share. Certainly the pressure brought to bear was extreme. I believe that trials should take place

in the halls of justice, not outside."

You rashly spoke of an "almost predicted" sentence.

"Those who followed the appeal process can make their own assessments. According to us, the first instance sentence was correct and complete. We'll see what Cassation decides, but, over and above the process I cannot accept certain insinuations. I was exclusively made the butt of attacks. I remain dismayed, for example, when reference is still made to comments I denied having made years ago, in which I reportedly linked Meredith's murder to satanic rites. This is something I never said, but which is still continuously written."

Is it a case of errors, superficiality, or of something more?

It is no longer possible to talk of errors, because it has been years since I disclaimed those comments. At this point, the thing intrigues me."

Many people, faced with Sollecito's book and the one by Amanda which will come out shortly, turn up their noses and consider it wrong to profit from a tragedy such as the murder of Meredith. What do you think?

"These are choices that each person makes, and for which they are responsible. I will limit myself to saying that the process is still under way, and we must await Cassation."