



Science, Right and Communication of Risk in L'Aquila trial

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CIMA Research Foundation has had access to all the information of the criminal trial held in l'Aquila intended against some of the members of the Commissione Nazionale Grandi Rischi (National Commission for Forecasting and Preventing Major Risks) and some directors of the Italian Civil Protection Department.

These information constitute the base of a study that has examined:

- the initiation of investigations by the families of the victims;
- the public prosecutor's indictment;
- the testimonies;
- the liaison between experts in seismology social scientists and communication;
- the statement of the defence;
- the first instance decision of condemnation.

The study reveals the paramount importance of communication of risk as element of prevention. Taken into particular account is the method of the Judicial Authority ex-post control on the evaluations and decisions of persons with a role of decision maker within the Civil Protection system.

In the judgment just published by the Court of l'Aquila, the reassuring information from scientists and operators of Civil Protection appears to be considered as a negative value.