

LETTERS

Further Comment on “AGU Statement Regarding the Conviction of Italian Seismologists”

PAGE 255

In the opinion of the undersigned, AGU's position statement regarding the conviction of Italian seismologists, issued following the 22 October 2012 conviction of six Italian scientists and one government official related to the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake (see *Eos*, 93(44), 444, 10.1029/2012EO440013), is absolutely right and correct. We believe that Franco Marengo's opinion disagreeing with AGU's position (*Eos*, 94(6), 63, doi:10.1002/2013EO060006) is misleading

because it is based only on biased information gathered from the media. We invite Marengo and anyone who is interested in better understanding the L'Aquila trial and related issues to retrieve and read original documents and information from <http://processoaquila.wordpress.com/>.

It is necessary to emphasize here that the defendant scientists never gave “advice to the population” as Marengo asserts. In fact, given their scientific role, they were not allowed to provide operational recommendations, which are expected from the Civil Protection

Department instead. The scientists provided scientific information at the 31 March 2009 meeting by showing the ongoing earthquake sequence data and stressing that according to the 2006 seismic hazard map of Italy, which sets the legal basis for Italian building codes, L'Aquila is located in the highest seismic hazard area, where prevention actions are required. The judge considered this statement wrong and useless; this stance has a very negative impact on the resilience of the Italian society and on its ability to start the virtuous path of long-term actions for the defense against and the mitigation of natural disasters that is needed in our country.

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