

## **Sentenza sul terremoto dell'Aquila, la posizione del nostro Giornale**

*Il Giornale dell'Ingegnere, nella persona del suo direttore responsabile, si dichiara a fianco della Comunità Scientifica internazionale nell'esprimere solidarietà a tutti i componenti della Commissione Grandi Rischi, recentemente condannati per non aver "avvertito" le popolazioni dell'Aquila dell'imminenza di un fenomeno tellurico di conseguenze disastrose. Più di ogni altra cosa valgono le parole espresse da un comunicato ufficiale della International Association for Earthquake Engineering e dai suoi componenti, che rappresentano il pensiero della Comunità Scientifica di gran parte del mondo, che qui di seguito riportiamo integralmente. (n.d.r.)*

The sentencing of six scientists and one government official to six years imprisonment for having failed to warn the public in advance of the April 6, 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila, Italy, establishes a terrible precedent.

The communication of risk to the public in a way that it can be easily understood is one of the most difficult challenges facing science and technology. The loss of life that occurred in L'Aquila was tragic and regrettable, but that is attributable to many other causes besides the mollifying statement undersigned by the defendants on March 30, 2009, that is now identified as having contributed to the deaths of some 300 people. The aftermath must not be allowed to turn into a spectacle calling for false culprits to punish in the interest of appeasing the public outrage. No responsible scientist will henceforth dare to risk his or her professional reputation (not to mention personal well-being) by interpreting premonitory activities of potentially dangerous natural events. Forces of nature usually do not lend themselves to easy forecasts, and most are inherently unpredictable. Instead, we must draw the right lessons so that there will be no victims in the future in this type of a preventable disaster.

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List of Countries whose national association has endorsed the statement:

Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Japan, Korea, Macedonia, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Chinese Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, Venezuela.

