

# VICENZA, ITALY: CITY OF PEACE, NOT OF WAR

In Vicenza, a city of 120,000 in the north of Italy approximately 40 miles from Venice, the U.S. government has plans to build a new U.S. military base. And for nearly three years, the city has been the stage of a strong mobilization against this new base.



Vicenza is famous the world over as a showcase for 16<sup>th</sup> century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, who built his most important villas in the area. Vicenza and the Palladian villas are listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites and as such are considered part of the shared heritage of not just Italy but all of humanity. The new U.S. military base at "Dal Molin" would be located just one mile from the historic center of Vicenza and the magnificent architectural treasures by Palladio, putting both at risk.

The environmental impact of a military base in the heart of a densely populated, highly urbanized area would be devastating. The site itself is one of the few remaining green areas in the city and the new base would also put the groundwater resources, which lie directly underneath, at risk.



Local residents are alarmed at not only the local impact but also the further militarization of their city, which is already home to the U.S. base Camp Ederle dating back to 1955 as well as U.S. installations Pluto and Fontega, two underground facilities where nuclear weapons have been stored in the past and now undergoing significant undisclosed maintenance work. And just recently, Vicenza was announced to be the Army Headquarters for the new U.S. Command in Africa, AFRICOM.

In response to these concerns, the citizens of Vicenza mounted a grassroots campaign the likes of which had never been seen in this conservative, hardworking city, and in just a short time what was a local movement became a national cause. Since news of the base first leaked out in May 2006, an endless succession of demonstrations and protest marches, debates and workshops, vigils and direct non-violent actions have been organized by ordinary citizens, women and men of all ages and from both sides of the political spectrum and from varying social and cultural backgrounds.

*"As citizens of Vicenza, we welcome the chance to continue and strengthen cultural ties with the United States. But what we don't want are more soldiers, planes and military hardware. We strongly believe in a future built on reciprocal cultural exchanges rather than armaments or war. **We do not want Vicenza to become a launching pad for current and future military actions by U.S. armed forces.**"*

*We thank the many U.S. citizens who have expressed their solidarity with our cause. To those we've come to know personally at our protests or during our visits in the U.S., but also to those whom we have yet to meet but are with us in spirit, we express our profound gratitude. It is also thanks to your support that we continue our struggle."*

Get in touch with the Presidio permanente No Dal Molin to find out how you can get involved in the struggle to block construction of the new base:

**THE CITIZENS OF VICENZA SAY NO TO THE NEW  
U.S. MILITARY BASE AT "DAL MOLIN"**

**[www.nodalmolin.it](http://www.nodalmolin.it)**

**NO DAL  
MOLIN**