



Association
ONLUS "CERCHIAMO DENISE"

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INTRODUCING THE ONLUS ASSOCIATION "CERCHIAMO DENISE"

We have not joined other associations as our Association is an operative group that has put forward an uncommon bill for our country. Thus, in order to avoid confusion between other bills and ours, we have decided to be independent.

- A) Denise's case is unique in Italy because of the dynamic of the kidnapping and the people involved. First of all, the child was kidnapped – did not just go missing –, besides, the kind of search carried out by the Onlus Association "Cerchiamo Denise" in collaboration with Farnesina is peculiar. Farnesina has been an excellent collaborator and we count on them to go on with the search in Italy and abroad.
- B) The association "Cerchiamo Denise" deals predominantly with missing children.

1. **INTRODUCING THE ASSOCIATION:** I represent the Onlus Association "Cerchiamo Denise", of which I am president, and I am the missing child's mother. The association was born with the aim of compensating to the Italian system's defects in the field of missing, abused or kidnapped children. In fact, among the various activities held by the association, one that is particularly important has to do with Italian laws.
2. **OUR PRIMARY ACTIVITY:** We have found a gap in the Italian normative system that deals with kidnapped minors. In particular – as in Denise's case – the law does not protect the underage when they are kidnapped but there is no extortion (no money is asked for). There is no punishment for this particular crime, it seems to be considered less serious than stealing an apple. In order to shed light on this aspect of the law, on October 26th 2007 – the day of my daughter's seventh birthday – I have chained myself in front of the President's palace (il Quirinale).
3. **DENISE IS ALIVE:** as it has not yet been demonstrated that she isn't. I wish to say this not as a mother, but as the president of an association of many people who firmly believe that Denise can come back home. Despite some

people have tried to set us on the wrong track, and others were just acting in bad faith, we still pursue this direction. There is no proof that she is not alive, and we will find her.

4. **CHILDREN AND MEDIA COMMITTEE** (www.childrenandmedia.it): as an Association, we are working on some projects about the protection of information when minors are involved. Some news could damage the minor instead of helping her/him. Some journalists have tried to find an alternative route – a more and better controlled broadcasting. A journalist's job is to inform, but if this information does not help the child, the journalist's duty is at least to very attentively estimate the content of the news and the broadcasting characteristics.
5. **DENISE'S BLOG** (on www.cerchiamodenise.it): we would like to remind every reader that through Denise's blog I can, as a mother, directly communicate thoughts and news to all those who love Denise and are waiting for her return. It is a source of up-to-date and safe information.

Pietra Maggio

Mother of Denise Pipitone and
President
Ass. "Cerchiamo Denise" Onlus