

To whom this may concern

24 November 2007

As members of the Royal House of Savoy we consider it most important to state that we in no way adhere to the demand for damages put forward against Italy by our brother and his son Emanuele Filiberto. Our father, King Umberto II, died after an interminable Exile, always holding in his heart the image of his distant Homeland. More than anything else Italy was the reference point of his every thought.

Vittorio and Son, who by now represent nobody else but themselves, can no longer think of anyone else to serve with a summons to appear in court: they have done so with us, his sisters, they have done it with our mother, they are doing it now with our cousins Amedeo and Aimone, and with about another 50 people if what they say themselves is true. Now all that is left to them is to produce a summons against the Italian nation, which our ancestors served.

The determination of Vittorio and Son to be eternally the focus of attention in the national and international press is a constant source of distress and mortification for us all. Their promises to use the funds they hope to come by for works of charity, as happened with the dynastic Orders, are no longer believable, nor can those justify the unpolitical and quite extraneous enterprises they have adopted.

As close relations we would like to consider – though for the last time – that these initiatives were manipulated by unscrupulous, grasping operators and enemies of the House of Savoy, who forced them adrift in a sea of cockeyed pretensions.

On the other hand, we cannot be anything but bitter when we notice the position the government has taken in response to the polemics, and who now speak in terms of striking back at us for the “well known facts of the Dynasty”. Here one needs to be aware of historical epochs, and to understand that, in this regard, one might have got it wrong. Anyone would think this if they look back, but certainly none of the kings of Italy could be accused of subordinating the interests of the Nation to their own personal interests.

Maria Gabriella di Savoia
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