

Mourners grieve around a memorial made from flowers and a tyre, Battipaglia, 1969

Date

1969-1969

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Battipaglia is a town and comune in the province of Salerno in the Campania region of south-western Italy, with 50,485 inhabitants. On April 9, 1969, in Battipaglia, the news spread of the decision to close two historic companies; the cigarette factory and the sugar factory. Since half the population lived on these two factories the closure of these companies meant poverty for the town. Demonstrations and marches were held, and the tension with the police escalated. The siege of the protesters started an attack, and the police opened fire on the crowd, killing two people: Carmine Citro, a typographer and Teresa Ricciardi, a teacher at a middle school in Eboli. The next day the people took to the streets angry, blocking railways, roads and highways, the city was in the hands of three thousand demonstrators, ravaging the station, setting fire to the town hall, burning two hundred cars and then besieging the police station.

Dimensions

Overall: 30.3 x 21.2 cm (11 7/8 x 8 3/8 in.)