



Crime Emergency, the Army Arrives in Reggio Emilia

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The wait is over. After weeks of alarm and concern from citizens due to the increase in criminal activities in the city, the official confirmation has arrived: **from Wednesday, April 16, the Army will be operational in Reggio Emilia.** The announcement was made in the afternoon by Prefect **Maria Rita Cocciufa**, at the end of the **Provincial Committee for Order and Public Safety**, which took place in the presence of the main civil and military authorities of the area.

"The device, which includes careful surveillance with fixed posts and dynamic modes, will be operational from Wednesday, April 16", reads the note issued by the Prefecture informing about the activation of the **Government's 'Strade Sicure' operation**, already approved less than a month ago by the Minister of the Interior, Matteo Piantedosi, for the **historic station and other sensitive areas with a high crime rate.**

Twelve Soldiers to Guard the City

The contingent assigned to Reggio Emilia will consist of **12 Army units**, who will operate in close coordination with the Law Enforcement already present in the area. The security device will include **fixed posts** in strategic points, as well as **dynamic and mobile activities** to ensure comprehensive and timely control.

During today's summit, the operational and logistical details of the military deployment were defined. In addition to the Prefect, the meeting was attended by **Mayor Marco Massari**, representatives of the Province, **Police Chief Giuseppe Maggese**, **Colonel Orlando Hiromi Narducci** (provincial commander of the carabinieri), the Commander of the Guardia di Finanza **Filippo Ivan Bixio**, and the leaders of the **Emilia-Romagna-Tuscany-Umbria-Marche Group**, responsible for coordinating the services related to the operation.

The Army's action will therefore be **supported and integrated** with that of the Police, Carabinieri, Guardia di Finanza, and Local Police, in a model of **interforce collaboration** aimed at effectively responding to the current criminal emergency.

Enhanced Security Also with the Extension of the “Red Zone”

Alongside the arrival of the military, the Prefect announced that a **measure to extend the so-called “red zone”**, already active for weeks, will be adopted. The extension will be **valid until June 30**, and will keep unchanged the boundaries of the areas subject to extraordinary restrictions and controls.

This is an additional measure to curb episodes of violence, drug dealing, thefts, and vandalism that have intensified in recent months. In particular, in recent days numerous **smash-and-grab thefts on parked cars** have been reported, a phenomenon that has caused great indignation among residents and increasingly pressing requests for intervention from the institutions.

Enhanced Surveillance with Police and Municipal Police

Not only the Army. The Prefect has also arranged **specific surveillance services** in the most affected areas, employing **additional units of the Law Enforcement and Local Police**, who will support the military in the territory control action. The goal is twofold: on one hand, to ensure a constant and deterrent presence in the most at-risk places, on the other, to offer an

immediate and coordinated response in case of crimes or emergency situations.

The Institutions' Comment

*"The Army's intervention represents a **significant strengthening of the urban security system** – declared Prefect Cocciufa – and will be implemented with great care, taking into account the needs of the community and the protection of citizens' rights".*

Mayor **Marco Massari**, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the decision: *"I thank the Government and the Ministry of the Interior for having accepted our requests. The arrival of the military is a concrete response to the need for security expressed by the citizens and local businesses. Now collaboration from everyone is needed to ensure that this intervention brings the desired results".*

Representatives of the law enforcement agencies also emphasized the importance of coordination: *"We will work side by side with the military, as has already happened in other Italian contexts, to ensure an immediate and lasting impact on crime".*

Reactions and Expectations of the Citizens

The news of the Army's arrival was met with great approval by the citizens. Many residents and shopkeepers expressed **satisfaction** with the decision, considering it a concrete sign of attention from the State towards a situation that has become unsustainable.

There is widespread **optimism** about the effectiveness of the military presence, and many citizens hope that this measure can **restore a climate of serenity** in the most affected areas. The visible presence of uniformed men is usually perceived as an immediate deterrent and as a **guarantee of greater security for all**.

Conclusions

Starting from **Wednesday, April 16**, Reggio Emilia will enter a new phase in the management of public order. With the support of the Army, Law Enforcement, and Local Police, the authorities hope to **restore a climate of legality and security**, decisively countering the criminal phenomena that are severely testing civil coexistence in the city.