

## VareseNews

### Tunisian woman leading the Northern League. “My dream is to meet Bossi.”

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Not only Sandy Cane. After the black-skinned mayor of Viggiù, **the Northern League has played its strongest card, with the Muslim coordinator of the Malnate branch. Here name is Hajer Fezzani, she was born in Tunisia and she came to Italy 13 years ago.** Her husband is from Gurone, born and bred, and she is a manual worker in a company that works for the “Circolo” Hospital in Varese. **From today, she will support the commissioner Alessandro Vedani, as the branch coordinator,** as he tries to return to normality, and her selection suggests she is a future secretary; she will lead the Northern League in the election period after the chaos of the last few months.

**“I arrived 13 years ago, thanks to the Bossi-Fini law,** with a valid employment contract,” she explains. **“For two years, I’ve been a member of the Northern League,** a party with which I share political ideals and passion. My husband has always been a sympathiser, but he isn’t politically active, and isn’t a member. I joined because I’m convinced that the League’s ideals and battles can help the whole community.” Her family follow the Islamic tradition, but Hajer Fezzani says she wants to overcome these hurdles and to think for herself. “You can’t just delete your origins, but **I believe that everyone has the right to develop and to think for themselves.** I’m not a practising Muslim, but I respect everyone that believes in any religion. My husband’s a Catholic, but we certainly never had any problems over religion.” The Northern League is a movement whose founding values are identity and being from Padania, but Hajer Fezzani has never felt discriminated against, quite the opposite. “I’ve never had any problems,” she says. **“When I joined, they welcomed me warmly. I’m not prejudiced and I haven’t found anyone prejudiced against me.** There are a lot of people who preach about integration who are racist in private; anyone that has the courage to say awkward things has my respect. **The League is not racist, and neither are its members.** I accepted this job enthusiastically, for the good of the branch of the League in Malnate, which I want to see grow in members, and which I want to be successful at the next election. The values I believe in, which convinced me to join the movement are **safeguarding the area, security and traditions.”**

Hajer Fezzani is Tunisian, and she lived through the North African “revolution”, from a distance. “My parents live in Tunis,” she explains. “I speak to them every day. The situation now is calm, there was a bit of apprehension, but there weren’t any battles where they live, in the north of the capital, near the presidential palace, on the sea. There were a few peaceful marches, yes. **I think that wanting freedom is a right, every dictatorship is wrong and should be opposed.** But as I didn’t personally live through the events of the last few weeks, I can’t give an objective opinion. I can only say that there is work now, and the situation is more peaceful.” Next Saturday (12 March, at 11 am, in Via Carducci), she is going to inaugurate the new Northern League premises, and, in addition to the candidate for mayor, **Elisabetta Sofia,** there will also be the Minister of the Interior, Roberto Maroni. “I met him at the inauguration of

the Skiing Club,” says Hajer Fezzani. “**My biggest dream is to meet Umberto Bossi in person.** I’ve seen him several times in Pontida, but actually meeting him would be great.”

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