

The arrest of the ferocious Mafia boss Leoluca Bagarella. (L'arresto del feroce boss mafioso Leoluca Bagarella), Palermo, 1979.

A middle-aged man, Leoluca, is in the centre of this black and white photograph in landscape format, brightly lit by the camera's flash. His head points downward, his chin pressed into his chest, but he's looking up ahead under his eyebrows, as if scouring the surroundings for a way out. His wrists are tightly cuffed and his fists are balled, muscles tense. He wears a light-coloured knitted jumper that echoes the pouchy skin of his face – giving him a rather soft, domestic look, belied by the force of the intention in his eyes to rush forward or break away. His arms are restrained by the black-gloved hands of two policemen – on the right, the policeman's head is out of shot, and all that's visible is the bulk of his uniformed arm, left elbow jutting out towards the camera, and the gleam of polished buttons, a chunky metal wristwatch and a white diagonal belt. The other policeman is standing behind Leoluca, and his young face is upturned, looking ahead, a wary expression on his face. The torso of a third man, a civilian in a tweed jacket, is just visible at the left-hand edge of the picture.

Leoluca Bagarella was born in 1942 and has been imprisoned, for life, since 1995 – convicted of multiple murders.