



*The Permanent Representative of Italy  
to the International Organizations  
Geneva*

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Geneva, 17 May 2021

Nr. 818

Dear Ms. Balbin,

Following UN letter (AL/ITA 1/2021), dated March 19, 2021, I have the honor to submit Italy's reply to Joint Communication by four UN Special Procedures that have requested Italian Authorities to provide them with information about the search and seizure at home of migrant rights defenders.

By this reply, we take the opportunity to reiterate our firm willingness to continue full and extensive cooperation with all UN Special Procedures Mandate-Holders.

Should additional information be made available, allow me to ensure you that we will promptly share it with you.

Please accept, Ms. Balbin, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely yours,

  
Ambassador  
Gian Lorenzo Cornado

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To the attention of *UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.*

**ITALY**



***MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION***  
***Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights***

**ITALY'S REMARKS -**  
**JOINT COMMUNICATION**  
**No. 1/2021**

***May 17, 2021***

# ITALY

## Italy's Remarks

Following Letter of 4 Special Procedures, dated 19 March 2021 (No. 1/2021), we are in a position to provide the following information.

On 23 February 2021, the Police (DIGOS) of the Trieste Police Headquarters carried out the execution of a Decree of the Judicial Authority, of **personal and home search against Mr. G.A.F.**, investigated within the framework of a criminal proceeding of the Trieste Public Prosecutor's Office for the following crimes: crime p. and p. by Articles 110 of the Criminal Code and 12, paragraphs 1, 3, lett. d), 3 bis, 3 ter, lett. b) of Legislative Decree 286/98 and subsequent modifications, in relation to an episode of **aiding and abetting illegal immigration** emerged during the preliminary investigations.

The judicial activity under reference is part of a wide investigative context on a trans-national association that is investigated for having favoured, for profit, the entrance and transit, in the national territory, of numerous irregular foreign citizens.

In the course of the activity under reference, it is to be stressed that a search was not carried out at the Headquarters of the "Shadow Line" NGO - as alleged in the Joint Communication - but upon decision of the competent Judicial Authority, a Decree of personal and domiciliary search was executed against Mr. G.A.F..

The fact that 'Shadow Line' NGO has its Headquarters in the home of Mr and Mrs F/F. is merely a logistic coincidence; in fact, no other members/associates/collaborators of the above NGO, nor any place in the possible availability of the above NGO were searched.

Moreover, during the search, only telephone and computer equipment owned and used exclusively by Mr. G.A.F. and relevant paper documents were seized.

Ms. L.F., F.'s wife, who is not under investigation, was not seized any computer equipment, owned by or attributable to her.

### Conclusion

Italian Authorities take this opportunity to reiterate their firm willingness to continue cooperation with UN Special Procedures. Once additional information is made available, we will share it.