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Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

### NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and, following the Letter AL ITA 3/2025 dated 26 March 2025 by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls has the honour to transmit herewith Italy's reply.

This Permanent Mission would be grateful for kindly confirming receipt of this Note Verbale and of the attached document.

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 MAI 2025



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Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights  
GENEVA



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

**COMITATO INTERMINISTERIALE PER I DIRITTI UMANI**

***Italy's reply to UN Joint Communication AL ITA 3/2025***

***May 2025***

## Italy's Reply to UN Joint Communication AL ITA 3/2025

Further to UN Joint Communication AL ITA 3/2025 by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, the Government of Italy hereby submits the following information:

On the morning of 13 January 2025, a group of activists affiliated with the movements “Extinction Rebellion”, “Last Generation” and “Free Palestine” held a demonstration at the premises of Leonardo SpA – Defense Systems Division, located at Via Lunga 2 (Brescia).

With reference to the facts, it is to be noted that, upon arrival at the area in front of the plant entrance, the demonstrators staged a sit-in aimed at symbolically disrupt production activities, arranging themselves in a human chain and chaining themselves together.

During the protest, signs and banners bearing various messages were displayed; and writings were drawn on the walls, in the square and on the road bollards. In this context, some individuals removed and lowered the company flag and then laid it on the ground and defaced it, replacing it with a Palestinian flag. Additionally, one protester climbed up the flagpole, remaining in position for several hours, until the intervention of the Fire Brigade enabled the safe termination of the action.

The initiative was conducted without giving notice to the Public Security Authorities.

The Police promptly intervened, enabling the identification of those present and their transfer to the *Brescia* Police Headquarters (*Questura*), to carry out the relevant activities, as per practice, and draw up the reports concerning the identification and domicile declaration. Upon completion of these procedures, all individuals were released. It should be noted that none of the participants was either arrested or subjected to any personal precautionary measure.

The Public Prosecutor further reports that the proceedings registered against the activists are currently pending in the preliminary investigation phase; and a proceeding has also been registered in order to ascertain any degrading treatment towards the activists<sup>1</sup>.

Specifically, twenty-two participants in the initiative were accompanied to the Police Headquarters for the drafting of the relevant judicial police documentation, for photo-signaling and for the notification of the administrative measures by the *Brescia* Police Chief (*Questore*), consisting of a mandatory leave warrant (*foglio di via*). Overall, seventeen measures were adopted, of which six for a term of 18 months, four for a term of 12 months, and seven for a 6-month term, due to the conduct held and the specific prior police records).

As for the law enforcement training, it is to be emphasized that: all Police personnel are trained to adopt the most appropriate operational behaviors in response to the complex and heterogenous scenarios that may arise during the performance of service: the techniques employed are in all cases designed to safeguard both officer's safety and that of the individuals involved; and public initiatives are always managed with great balance, through the full protection of the right to demonstrate (of peaceful assembly), in compliance with the Constitution<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: The Public Prosecutor at the Tribunal of *Brescia*, with a note dated May 6, 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Ministry of the Interior, Central Directorate of the Police for Prevention.

## **Conclusion**

Italy reaffirms its commitment to continued engagement with the United Nations Special Procedures.