

## LIBYA, WAR FLOWS

### Italian soldiers, migrants, "national interests"

In Libya, the Italian army is present with special forces, trains the military linked to one of the parties in conflict, sends 300 Paratroopers of the Folgore Brigade to protect the military hospital set up to assist the injured militia of Misrata, maintains the air cover through the Garibaldi aircraft carriers and Air Force fighters deployed in the bases of Trapani, Gioia del Colle and Sigonella in addition to the Air Force drones. Monitors the southern borders where it intends to set up its own military base, and is present with its own ships from 2015 to oversee Eni installations off of Mellitah.

Without clamor, which is to say without information being given, the Sassari Brigade (previously and currently operating in Afghanistan and Iraq) has now landed in Libya with the 3rd Bersaglieri<sup>1</sup>.

Italy has co-directed, together with France and Ethiopia, the mission in support of the G5 Sahel forces<sup>2</sup> (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) that started the "anti-terrorism" operations at the end of October 2017<sup>3</sup> and is financed by the United States with 60 million dollars<sup>4</sup>. Signed a military cooperation agreement with Niger (agreement of which, as reported in the Defense Analysis on 27 September, details were not disclosed)<sup>5</sup>.

#### ANOTHER HUMANITARIAN MISSION?

Against migrants, Italy deploys its military strength in the rear, behind the first line of the autochthonous auxiliaries of the empire. Let them be the ones barring the land and sea routes to the north coast of the Mediterranean! We'll put funding, instructors and military assets, intelligence services and strategic management...

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<sup>1</sup> see: <https://www.facebook.com/ConlaBrigataSassari/videos/1576638079071613/>.

<sup>2</sup> «The G5 Sahel Joint Force is formed by Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad, with the support of the African Union, the United Nations and some countries such as France and the USA. It was founded in February 2014 and aims to improve the coordination of countries at regional level for the development of defense policies and activities» (*Washington finanzia la G5 Sahel Joint Force* – 31 ottobre 2017 – <http://www.analisdifesa.it/2017/10/washington-finanzia-la-lotta-al-terrorismo-islamico-nel-sahel/>)

<sup>3</sup> See: *Security Council Ambassadors brief on Sahel mission, lend support to G5 Sahel Force* – 26 ottobre 2017 – [http://www.onuitalia.com/2017/10/27/g5-sahel-council-ambassadors-brief-sahel-mission-lend-support-g5-sahel-force/](http://www.onuitalia.com/2017/10/27/g5-sahel-council-ambassadors-brief-sahel-mission-lend-support-g5-sahel-force/http://www.onuitalia.com/2017/10/27/g5-sahel-council-ambassadors-brief-sahel-mission-lend-support-g5-sahel-force/); e *Esclusivo: la forza "G5 Sahel" a cinque nazioni avvia le operazioni in Mali* – 4 novembre 2017 – <http://www.france24.com/en/20171104-exclusive-five-nation-g5-sahel-force-launches-operations-mali;> <http://www.onuitalia.com/2017/12/09/migrants-iom-niger-welcome-first-charter-tripoli-new-italy-libya-joint-operation-room/>

<sup>4</sup> See: *Washington finanzia la G5 Sahel Joint Force* see- 31 October 2017 - <http://www.analisdifesa.it/2017/10/washington-finanzia-la-lotta-al-terrorismo-islamico-nel-sahel/>

<sup>5</sup> See: *Firmato l'accordo di cooperazione militare tra Italia e Niger* – 27 settembre 2017 – [http://www.analisdifesa.it/2017/09/firmato-laccordo-di-cooperazione-militare-tra-italia-e-niger/](http://www.analisdifesa.it/2017/09/firmato-laccordo-di-cooperazione-militare-tra-italia-e-niger/http://www.analisdifesa.it/2017/09/firmato-laccordo-di-cooperazione-militare-tra-italia-e-niger/)

To counter the migratory flows towards our coasts, at the end of last July , the Council of Ministers approved the mission that involves sending other ships, airplanes, a submarine and some drones. But .. Italian soldiers do not fight, and neither make war! So what are they doing?

### A DIPLOMATIC MISSION?

After getting rid of uncomfortable witnesses - effectively preventing NGOs (who for months have been practicing the rescue of migrants at sea) to sail in international waters in front of Libya - the Italian government signs agreements with one of the parties in a de facto State-absent country . Makes agreements and remunerates the Islamist militias that yesterday embarked the migrants and today kidnaps and impounds them in inhumane detention camps on the Libyan territory. All this to manage forced repatriation and to prevent landings on the national territory. Diplomacy, not war.

### HELP THEM AT THEIR HOME

European and Italian special troops are positioned along the southern borders of Libya waiting for this puppet government or the next to ask them to intervene to expel ISIS from the portions of territories won thanks to the market of Africans transformed into migrants by capitalist countries investments and from the IMF and World Bank programs. Thanks, in other words, to that process of "globalization", that is an economic restructuring in favor of the interests of Western investors, and unloads, on the African populations, the costs of mining and consequential environmental damage. That process that Pride Mkono, national coordinator of *FES Southern Region Alumni Association Zimbabwe*, defines as: «a sort of socio-economic genocide».

### THEIR HOME: OR HOME OF OUR "NATIONAL INTERESTS"...

«We very well know that, the opening of legal channels [of immigration, *ed*] is a political battle in Europe. In every country of it. Personally I believe that Europe needs regular immigration. For various reasons: because we have made a commitment, because it is a way to fight the illegal one, but also because we need it from an economic and demographic point of view »<sup>6</sup>.

The words of Mogherini, reported by the *Press* of 29 November 2017, frame the question of of migratory flows control towards our shores in the context of what our ruling class means by "national interest". Not only the competition with other states to win energy sources or, in general, raw materials. Not only the promotion of cross-border business activities and the profits deriving from them as well as those deriving from interest on loans, but a model of development that projects social conflict outward.

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<sup>6</sup> (<http://www.lastampa.it/2017/11/29/esteri/summit-ueafrica-mogherini-i-paesii-africani-facciano-la-loro-parte-riprendendosi-i-migranti-QFifnZX3DQzQcR64Fu5daL/pagina.html>)

Treating human being as raw material – with the inevitable rejects – simply eliminates the person holding rights (rights won over centuries of class struggle) and makes the "inclusion-exclusion" contraposition the only negotiable factor. They call it a policy of integration: what is integrated here it's that part of labor that finds space in the production cycle contributing to a tendential compression of wages and deregulation. Reduction of public costs for the welfare system (services to the person and the elderly), suitably downloaded to private, down to the selection of a low qualification offer that supports the parasitic mini-enterprises of the economic system. The surplus must remain dying in the gold mines (Chad), coltan and cobalt (Congo), uranium (Mali). In their countries of origin to support technological development in the West.

As Mogherini explains well, «At that point we could put in place a real virtuous model: we'll finance *IOM* (*International Organization for Migration*<sup>7</sup>, ed) and *UNHCR* (*United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*) to organize voluntary repatriation and we support projects to allow these people to start rebuilding their lives in their countries of origin. But they must be ready to welcome them back». That is, to bend at right angles to the directives of the International Monetary Fund and its structural adjustment plans.

"We" (which is to say, our governments, with economic resources taken from taxpayers) will provide though loans that part of wealth already stolen from them through previous interests applied on foreign debt and that could have been used in the making of infrastructures and social development. In education, health and social security. Aggravating the debt and the economic and political dependence of African nations that we are about to split up with inter-European wars fought by proxy through local militias, including Islamist ones.

How many deaths will cost the operation "let's help them at home" is not predictable and it is not expected to be a matter of public interest.

## AND AT OUR HOME?

Within the European "democracies", what integrates is a new way of leading the attack on social and labor rights: through security policies, denial of political and union mediation spaces and the advance of populist right wings that aggregate conflicting interests and social subjects in the name of "the national interest" priority. To be exempted from the dirty, dangerous, de-skilled, domestic-welfare work (delegated to migrants) will be, for young indigenous people, the compensation for their precarious, de-contracted, deferred work.

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<sup>7</sup> The *International Organization for Migration* (*IOM / IOM*) was founded in 1951 in Geneva. It is the main intergovernmental organization in the migratory field and has 166 member states. From September 2016 it became an agency connected to the United Nations. Rome is the headquarters of the liaison office for the Mediterranean. The OIM is intensifying the program of humanitarian voluntary returns from Libya, which from the beginning of 2017 has allowed more than 14,007 migrants to go back to their countries of origin. A large-scale repatriation plan is already underway, through which the organization plans to help 15,000 migrants return home from Libya by the end of the year. Swing quotes: «It is our duty as an absolute priority, to bring migrants out of detention centers'». (<http://www.italy.iom.int/>)

A new internal frontier separates young Europeans from those other young immigrants sharing a similar social hardship and paying the price for a "crisis" imposed by capitalistic restructuring and war policies to them. Those young immigrants who could have shared along the movement for social redemption and emancipation and that, instead, more and more often find identity revolt as the only alternative to the wall-less ghetto that the organization of production reflects in the cohabitation on the territory. It is a frontier that closes the horizon to a perspective of social progress and paves the way to civil war.

An answer has already been prepared for this failure, of which the organizations of the former institutional left and great part of the anti war movements are co-responsible. Counter-insurgency techniques experimented in war theaters (Somalia, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, as far as Italian interventions are concerned) find application in the national territory. Surveillance always associates with the limitation of individual rights and spaces for political confrontation, a more invasive control of urban areas, interference in web communications, increasing use of the armed forces to protect public order, reorganization and extension of parts of occupied territories by means of installations and military bases. In two words, the security policies launched in 2008 with the operation "*Safe Roads*".

In our homeland the reality of war begins to take shape. From the European Commission's website we learn that: «The joint resolution adopted today identifies the steps to be taken to overcome the obstacles hindering the movements of personnel and military equipment in the EU in order to facilitate and accelerate their mobility to react quickly and effectively to internal and external crises. (...) There is a growing demand for coordination and collaboration in the field of defense between Member States. That is why, together with the ongoing progresses for a permanent, structured cooperation, capable of rendering our defense more effective, we have decided to further reinforce military mobility among Member States aligned with NATO»<sup>8</sup>.

## WHO OWNS OUR NATIONAL INTEREST?

«ENI is the engine of the strategic interests of Italy in the world: a model of economic, energetic and geopolitical development combined with social responsibility», Gentiloni's words<sup>9</sup>.

Currently, Libya accounts for about 20 percent of Eni's total hydrocarbons production and ENI is the only multinational active in both the East and West of the country. Libyan crude oil, valued because light and low in sulfur, represented the 25% of our imports in 2010; the gas is, almost entirely, exported to Italy through the Greenstream submarine pipeline. ENI, which has participations in various mining concessions, resumed offshore exploration activities off the coast of Tripolitania in 2012. Finmeccanica was awarded contracts of great importance for the supply of aircraft, Ansaldo in the telecommunications sector and Selex in that of radar systems.

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<sup>8</sup> *Nuove iniziative dell'UE per migliorare la mobilità militare* – 10 novembre 2017 – [https://ec.europa.eu/italy/news/20171110\\_nuove\\_iniziative\\_UE\\_mobilita\\_militare\\_it](https://ec.europa.eu/italy/news/20171110_nuove_iniziative_UE_mobilita_militare_it)

<sup>9</sup> Reported by *Il Giorno* of 11 may 2017 (<http://www.ilgiorno.it/sud-milano/economia/gentiloni-eni-1.3105981>)

Small and medium-sized Italian companies still have significant placements in Libya, but current Libyan investments in Italy are also very important. First of all the investments in UniCredit, but also in Fiat, ENI and Finmeccanica.

But the "national interest" of ENI and its salesman, Gentiloni, does not stop at the borders of Libya: «The Premier, in fact, alongside with ENI's top management, has held several "gas safaris" in various African countries. "In addition to reiterating the powerful presence of Eni in Tunisia - where the Transmed pipeline conveys Algeria's gas (second Italian supplier after Russia), in Angola, the Italian entourage has signed agreements that will lead to Eni almost 50% of the rights on Cabinda North, a sort of energetic Eldorado. In Ivory Coast, Eni acquired 30% of the offshore exploration block CI-100, and in Ghana put into production the Offshore Cape Three Points Block (Octp). In these projects, considered priority by the World Bank itself, there are deposits for 41 billion cubic meters of gas and 500 million barrels of oil»<sup>10</sup>. And ENI, through its subsidiary LEOC, holds a 60% stake in the concessions for the exploitation of the Zohr field in the Egyptian waters, in partnership with the Russian ROSNEFT and the British BP.

In short, Italy, with its diplomatic and military apparatus, is in the running for the partition of Africa and its resources. The oil war, started in 2011 with the French airstrike, has not ended. The Macron government, following the French tradition of timely interventionist protagonism, has already moved hundreds of soldiers still in the Sahel region as part of *Opération Barkhane*, to which it provides logistical and air support, since the beginning of November<sup>11</sup>.

The French interests in Libya are objectively in competition with the Italian ones: not only TOTAL aims to subtract the supremacy over oil contracts from ENI, but France was competing with Italy on the weapons market too. While the United Kingdom foresaw in 2009 to invest 20 billion dollars in Libyan oil production in the next 20 years.

## NATIONAL INTEREST OR WAR FOR EGEMONY ?

But the best way to wage war is to fight it through others. So the French president has committed to collaborate the joint force of the Sahel G5: 5000 soldiers from Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso who will have to counteract the action of terrorist groups in the area from the end of September 2017<sup>12</sup>. While the United States has deployed drones and soldiers in Niger since 2013 to "fight terrorism"<sup>13</sup>.

A clash of national interests that puts Libya's resources and wealth on the market (including

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<sup>10</sup> Francesco Luise, *Gentiloni viaggia ENI. Neocolonialismo in agguato, ma il Piano Marshall per l'Africa può essere un'opportunità* - 1 dicembre 2017 - <http://www.farodiroma.it/gentiloni-viaggia-eni-neocolonialismo-agguato-piano-marshall-continente-africano-puo-unopportunita-f-luise/>.

<sup>11</sup> see: *Esclusivo: la forza "G5 Sahel" a cinque nazioni avvia le operazioni in Mali* - 4 novembre 2017 - <http://www.france24.com/en/20171104-exclusive-five-nation-g5-sahel-force-launches-operations-mali>

<sup>12</sup> see: *Difesa: Mali, inaugurato quartier generale forza congiunta del G5 Sahel* - 11 settembre 2017 - <https://www.agenzianova.com/primopiano/428/difesa-mali-inaugurato-quartier-generale-forza-congiunta-del-g5-sahel>

<sup>13</sup> .see: Faith Karimi (CNN), *US has drones and hundreds of troops in Niger. Here's why* - 18 ottobre 2017 - <http://edition.cnn.com/2017/10/18/politics/niger-american-troops-drones/index.html>

the reserves of the Central Bank and the Libyan Sovereign Fund in London). For the control of this market, the powers involved are fighting and will fight their war through subordinated African militias until they will have to employ mercenaries and contractors and, not excluded, their own armies. To reach a possible division of the zones of influence. Sahel and the Fezzan to France, Cyrenaica to Great Britain and Tripolitania to Italy. The United States plays a strategic role to keep Europe divided and involved in a more general war concept to split the whole of Africa; furthermore Washington want fight the advance of Chinese imperialism on the continent and to oppose the ambitions of Russia, Qatar and Turkey also engaged in the competition.

## THE PRICE OF NATIONAL INTEREST

Even without counting in billions of euros abstracted from social security, health and public education for the sake of military founding, and, apart from the obvious consideration that a "national interest" that is in conflict with the general needs of human beings and the planet does not represent but the partial interest of oligarchies who hold economic and political power, it is legit to ask how preserving ENI's oil supplies responds at least to the immediate interest of Italian citizens...

Is there a collective demand in which the needs of various social components are attained or balanced? Or, rather, is there a hierarchy of interests that involves social strata from top to bottom differently?

Apparently the greatest wealth of multinationals in the Western world affects the well-being of its citizens. The systematic exploitation of the resources of the so-called Third World has allowed the industrial development of imperialistic nations as much as the unequal development that has ensued, depriving the populations of the periphery of the world of their own possibility of development. The dividends of this robbery, unequally redistributed, also has a cost for the rich and developed West societies.

The war for hegemony within the capitalistic world, the war in which we are taking part, has brought unemployment and widespread poverty to our cities thanks to the relocation of productive work in low-wage areas. Has canceled the potential for union's bargain and has shifted social conflicts from the level of class struggle to that of competition between workers and among included and excluded. Between Italian and immigrant proletarians. The war in which we are taking part in the defense of " The national interest " by our multinationals produces increasingly undemocratic political systems because political mediation is halted in favor of repression thanks to " the security campaign". The war in which the whole society is enlisted watches our universities joining the war industry towards which research is increasingly directed.

The distribution and sale of energy certainly enriches a colluded ruling class, enrolled at the service of multinationals. Rewards, to a lesser extent, that chain of service companies that, by not producing goods, does not employ labor but exploits the proletariat of the tertiary sector, shrinking the profits of the traditional bourgeoisie economy and leaves to our young people the choice between perpetual precariousness and emigration.

Our war against the aspirations of political self-determination and sovereignty over resources by people coming out of colonization, and which now suffer an unprecedented military and terrorist attack, has already produced that civil setback that favors the Islamic right wings. By opposing ethnicity and sectarianism to the conquests of the progressive movements of the past and to the claims of the Arab Spring of 2011, these islamist organizations – which are perfectly compatible with the capitalist current system – have made terrorism a weapon for the abolition of rights in the Arab countries by fighting their own war for hegemony in and on the Arab world.

On the horizon there is the devastation of the environment and atomic proliferation: is this our interest?

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