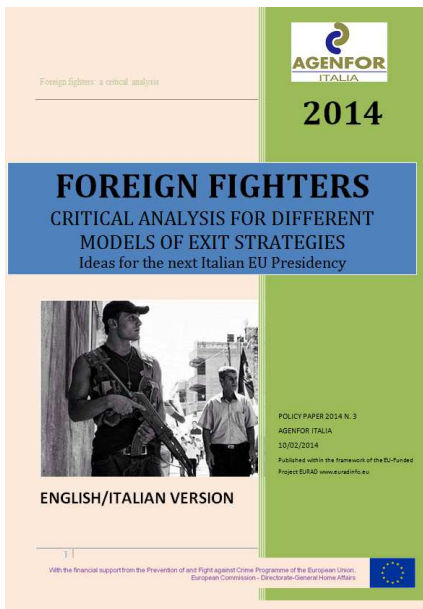


ITALIAN RIGHT WING EXTREMISTS AS FOREIGN FIGHTERS IN UKRAINE



Europe and the Western Countries are rightly concerned by the phenomenon of European fighters in Syria¹.

However the present stereotype on the media is the one that according to which the foreign fighter would always be synonym of jihadist or terrorist.

In some instances this can be true, even if the two words are not synonyms. In this short summary we show how 'foreign fighters' is a global phenomenon that cannot be associated with 'Islamism' only. The global nature of this old radical tendency has very different roots and the association with Islam may be counterproductive for de-rad policies.

Actually many young men go on war theatres with the most disparate drives and purposes. Some also following the glamour raised in the Western countries by international media regarding the violence, true or presumed at the same time, of a number of regimes. Among the Syrian foreign fighters there are football players², former rappers³, adventurers⁴ and legionnaires, criminals, all mixed with idealists

¹ For a detailed account of the phenomenon please see our research <http://www.agenformedia.com/assets/files/Policy%20Paper%20Foreign%20Fighters%20GB%20IT%205.pdf>

² An example is available in <http://www.euradinfo.eu/index.php?id=81> For the relation sport and jihadism please see also <http://www.euradinfo.eu/assets/files/POLICY%20PAPER%202013%20SPORT%20AND%20RADICALISATION.pdf>

³ Please see the Interview with Deso Dogg in <http://www.euradinfo.eu/index.php?id=80>

⁴ Two LA gang members are shown in a video distributed by MEMBRI, <http://www.memritv.org/clip/en/4170.htm>
Credibility of this video is an open question...

and freedom fighters⁵. The 'Islamic' narratives are a limited part of this whole phenomenon

Furthermore it's also clear that in the history we have a tradition of religious-inspired freedom fighters from Europe to the Middle East, no matter what religion they profess. We have Jewish examples (such as the Russian Europeans recruited in the Irgun) but also Muslim and Christians (a good example are the Sutoro recruits or the East Timorese insurgents). Moreover we have foreign fighters with a secularist and nationalist background. This phenomenon has a global dimension and is not limited to Middle East theaters or EU-Muslim minorities.

Within this framework at the beginning of March, 2014 we have assessed the presence of Serb foreign Volunteers in Ukraine as supporters of the Crimean and pro Russian aspirations of those regions.



"the Crimean brothers will help us to free Kosovo".

Now we have information concerning Italian volunteers fighting along Pravy Sektor against the pro-Russian independentists.

The name emerged from a report issued by the online magazine POPOFF (http://popoff.globalist.it/Detail_News_Display?ID=102928&typeb=0&Fontana-il-mercenario-italiano-che-combatte-per-Pravy-Sektor) is that of Francesco Saverio Fontana, an aged activist of the Italian movement 'Casa Pound' based in Torino. Casa Pound is a national Italian movement belonging to the extreme right scene.

⁵ Good example of this tendency are Manuar Ali and the Sutoro forces, as described in our report.

It gained space in the press for its violent initiatives against leftist movements, street battles, violent demonstrations in Rome as well as for its positions against the EU.



Fontana taken in Odessa. He wears a Casa Pound 'T-shirt'

In his Facebook page Fontana wrote:

“«Sono ad Odessa da ieri dove ho recuperato Ivan di SNA su richiesta di Kiev quando ci sparavano. Adesso lo accompagno su richiesta di Svaraslog”

Because all information concerning the relations between Fontana, Aka 'Stan', Casa Pound and Pravy Sektor have been deleted by Italian institutions (including his Facebook page and the official communiqués issued by Casa Pound) you can find the original report published by NoReporter on the 24th of March, with original interviews in this link saved in the cash memory of one leftist activist <http://ugomariatassinari.it/mercenari-ucraina-cosi-marzo-il-volontario-fontana-raccontava-pravy-sektor-ai-lettori-di-noreporter.html>

It is noticeable that the interview is aimed at promoting the International activities of the Italian Casa Pound in Ukraine.

The name of the French mercenary Gaston Besson as well as other references indicates a clear intent of recruitment that need to be further analyzed .



In the picture below you can find Fontana's comment describing his activities in Ukraine:



Fontana scrive:

7 maggio 2014 alle 13:32

Mercenario è chi percepisce una paga, io sostengo la rivoluzione nazionale in Ucraina, viaggio a mie spese anche se mi in verità mi danno molte zuppe e anche "salo" (lardo) a volontà .

Almeno lì la rivoluzione la fanno invece di passare le giornate su internet a fare i commissari politici antifascisti credendosi per questo rivoluzionari.

Non son militante di Casa Pound, quindi vi prego di non chiamarla in causa se siete onesti.

Quella maglietta ha molti anni ed era un regalo destinato ad un ucraino a Zaparozhya.

L'ho indossata su richiesta del destinatario del regalo per esprimere la mia italianità in occasione di una bella e commovente celebrazione religiosa precristiana in una foresta a sole 11 ore di bus da Odessa ove sono arrivato solo il 2.

In quanto ad Adinolfi e Delle Chiaie non hanno bisogno di qualcuno che parli al posto loro.

Adinolfi poi mi sembra che abbia capito perfettamente come stanno le cose e chi è contro chi; cosa che ai rivoluzionari da tastiera pare molto difficile. Mi sembra anche che tenga una posizione molto equilibrata e costruttiva.

In quanto ai servizi è vero; li abbiamo incontrati spesso, contro le nostre organizzazioni degli anni settanta si sono mossi e parecchio, ci hanno calunniati, hanno provato a costruire prove e ci hanno anche sparato addosso.

Sì i servizi li conosciamo, noi; come conosciamo la guerra qui.

Non deliriamo, questo lo lasciamo ad altri.

Francesco in Pravyi Sektor

Stan quasi una vita fa ...

Signs of the presence of Italian right wing extremists were also collected by the Italian Journalist Fausto Biloslavo in Kiev.



In this picture taken by Biloslavo at the beginning of March we see the graffiti 'Me Ne Frego', a typical slogan of the Italian neo-fascists.

In a other web portal of the extreme left, Aurora, you may find an interesting video reporting an interview with a supposed Italian fighter who is combating there for the National Guard



<http://aurorasito.wordpress.com/2014/05/06/gladio-e-la-strage-di-odessa/>

However the two journalists have specified⁶ then that the fighter is not an Italian but an Ukrainian who emigrated to Italy and lived there for a long period.

⁶ <http://www.infoaut.org/index.php/blog/varie/item/11797-fascista-a-mia-insaputa>

It's important to notice that the Ukrainian community in Italy is numerous and therefore also the number of Ukrainians who returned back as volunteers to their home country after the Maidan coup is quite high. Many of them speak perfectly Italian and still have part of their families in Italy. This phenomenon is important because it seems to be similar and parallel to the trend of young Arab immigrants from Europe that became foreign fighters in their homeland. The relation between immigration and foreign fighters is a future research track.

All these documents highlight important connections between one wing of the European right radical movement and the Ukrainian right oriented movements such as Pravi Sektor and Svoboda (today both political parties).

Following to internal information gathered in the area, the European volunteers coming from different EU countries have a very specific link through Svoboda (Andriy Parubly) thanks to the support of a rich business man.

It seems that since 2006 training activities in Estonia were carried out where also Italian right wing volunteers were trained.