



USITF Newsletter #7, Week of 14th - 20th March, 2016

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Welcome to another edition of the weekly USITF newsletter, “**Italian Politics This Week**,” a snapshot on past week’s major events, complete with news and analyses from national and international sources.

El-Sisi commits to “get to the truth”: Italian chief prosecutor Giuseppe Pignatone [arrived](#) on Monday in Cairo to continue efforts related to the investigation of Giulio Regeni’s murder, the Italian PhD student found dead in Cairo on 3 February. The day before, Pignatone and Egyptian Chief Prosecutor Nabil Sadeq "exchanged important information" and agreed to "boost mutual cooperation to define the reality of events and succeed in identifying those [responsible](#)." On Wednesday, Pignatone said that signs of torture found on Regeni’s body were worse than the Egyptian autopsy [showed](#). In an interview to La Repubblica, Egyptian President el-Sisi [vowed](#) that “we will shed light and get to the truth,” but also argued that the homicide intended to strain relations between Italy and Egypt. Citing the Regeni case as an example of human rights violations in Egypt, the [Washington Post](#) urged Obama to not hand a “blank check” in military aid to Egypt.

Renzi satisfied by EU-Turkey deal on migration: "It respects the parameters we – and not only we – had set: there is an explicit reference to human rights, freedom of the press, and the founding values of Europe," Renzi [said](#). The accord, openly lambasted by organizations such as the UNHCR, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam and Save the Children, foresees that migrants who have reached Greece illegally will be sent back. Turkey will also receive three billion euros from the EU. The agreement was reached while more than 3,000 migrants have been rescued off the coast of Italy in the [last week](#). In the meantime, while Interior Minister Angelino Alfano [argued](#) that there is no evidence migrants are trying to reach Italy via Albania, his counterpart in Albania, Saimir Tahiri, [stated](#) that the two countries are working, among other measures, on setting up joint patrols.

No Italian intervention in Libya: Egyptian President el-Sisi [has warned](#) Italy of risking another “Somalia” or “Afghanistan,” if Rome is going to intervene militarily in the North African country. Reiterating previous governments’ statements on the matter, Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti [ruled out](#) a possible Italian intervention in the absence of a formal request by the Libyan government.

National politics heats up: People have been complaining a lot this week in Italy. Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, the Head of Italian Bishops' Conference (CEI), [rebuked](#) the civil union bill, which had recently been approved by the Parliament. Gianni Cuperlo, leader of a minority group within the ruling Democratic Party (PD), [slammed](#) Prime Minister Matteo Renzi for not devoting enough time to his position as the party’s national secretary. Later in the week, Renzi [reproached](#) the national public transportation strike, which has been called to protest the government’s policies, including a possible intervention in Libya. Did all this help anyone in the weekly poll? Renzi’s PD party rose

from 34.3% to 34.5% and the 5-Star Movement (M5S) from 24.5% to 24.8%. The Northern League fell from 14.7% to 14.3%, while Forza Italia dropped from 10.6% to 10.5%.

That's all for this week, see you next Monday!