



USITF Newsletter #14, Week of 2nd – 8th April, 2016
Written by [Tommaso De Zan](#), edited by Bhimsupa Kulthanan

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.

Girone back in few weeks: After a UN court [ruled](#) that India should allow Salvatore Girone, the Italian marine detained in India for more than four years, to return home, New Delhi [said](#) that Italy has wrongly interpreted the ruling by the court. India [believes](#) that the court in The Hague had "recognized coherent positions and key arguments expressed by the (Indian) government." The UN court added that Girone [remains](#) under the authority of the Supreme Court of India. Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti [said](#) on Tuesday, Girone will be back in a few weeks, but also added that the verdict of the probe is not expected before 2018.

Italy-Austria border controls a “political catastrophe”: Germany and Italy [agree](#) on how to tackle the migrant crisis and oppose the creation of any barrier between countries, said German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on Thursday. The two leaders share the belief that the EU should do more to help African countries stem the flow of refugees, but disagree on how to finance the effort. On Saturday, young protesters [clashed](#) with Italian police on the country’s border with Austria to protest against Vienna’s decisions to create a fence at the border. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker [said](#) on Saturday that control checks on the Brenner would be a “political catastrophe” for Europe.

EU leaders gather in Rome to discuss migration: Juncker, European Council President Donald Tusk, and European Parliament Chief Martin Schulz, together with Angela Merkel, [arrived](#) in Rome on Thursday to discuss next steps in Europe’s migrant crisis. After the EU-Turkey deal, Italy became the preferred route via the Mediterranean for migrants seeking to reach European shores by boat. Juncker [said](#) the “migration compact” proposed by Italy goes in the “right direction.” The Italian Navy said on Thursday that the total number of refugees and migrants that landed in Italy since the beginning of 2016 soared to above 30,000, slightly more than last year.

Moutaharrik wanted to help children, not join ISIS: Abderrahim Moutaharrik, the Moroccan-Italian arrested last week who allegedly received orders from ISIS to carry out an attack in Italy, [told](#) a magistrate he wanted to travel to Syria to help children, not to join ISIS. His wife, who was also apprehended last week, defended herself with the same arguments. Renzi strongly [rebuked](#) politicians who berated that fact that terror suspects were being arrested. Europol director Rob Wainwright [told](#) the Italian Parliament's Schengen Committee on Wednesday, the terror threat was "still very high, the most serious since the time of September 11 and I fear that another attack in Europe is probable in the future," adding however that "we don't have any information about specific threats to Italy."