

## Italians and French join in crackdown on terrorists

by Paul Goldstein

A significant new development emerged in the European antiterrorist fight last week with unprecedented cooperation across national borders involving the French, Spanish and Italian police in a massive roundup of top-flight terrorists.

On April 7 of last year, the Italian magistracy and military police (carabinieri) jointly initiated antiterrorist operations at a level previously unknown when they temporarily shut down part of the University of Padua with the arrest of some of its most prestigious professors charged with masterminding terrorist operations, including the 1978 kidnapping and assassination of Christian Democratic Party President Aldo Moro. Those and subsequent arrests placed evidence in the hands of the Italian magistracy leading to two previously unaccepted conclusions: first, that terrorism is organized as a unified international phenomenon with a unified international control apparatus; second, that the "above-ground" New Left radicals—which in the case of Italy includes the so-called Autonomi and organizations such as Lotta Continua that were created in conjunction with the American Weathermen and others—are an intrinsic part of the terrorist networks. Evidence was in fact produced to show that in essence the membership of the "above-ground" organizations was generally interchangeable with the acknowledged terrorists.

While Italian magistrates such as Judge Calogero, the individual behind the Padua arrests, said repeatedly that France in particular was a crucial center of international terrorist deployment, it was not until last week that direct action was taken in France. Now the French

newspaper *Le Figaro* is speaking of the creation of a "Euro-police" in effective operation against terrorism.

As Italian paramilitary police units moved in on a terrorist safehouse in Genoa, killing four leading members of the notorious Red Brigades in a shootout last week, French police and special anti-terror units were scooping up 30 terrorists in three French cities and capturing 1,000 kilograms of explosives and hundreds of submachine guns.

Four days prior to the French and Italian actions, Spanish officials arrested 20 members of the Jesuit-controlled Basque terrorist group, the ETA. In addition, Italian authorities carried out a series of well-coordinated arrests of over 50 terrorists in six cities across Italy, bringing the total count of terrorists slain and captured to approximately 110 over the last week in March.

### Anniversary of Negri Arrest

The raids were carried out exactly a year after the arrest of Red Brigades controller Professor Toni Negri of Padua University, charged with masterminding the kidnap-murder of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro. The Negri case, laying open the connection between certain "noble families" of Europe, "respectable citizens above suspicion" including leading Italian Socialist politicians, the terrorist legal support networks, and the terrorists themselves, provided the first big break in the battle against international terrorism.

Since the Negri arrest, European intelligence experts have informed *EIR* that anti-terror units have made two



important advances. First, in recognition that the terrorists operate as part of one integrated international network, police have upgraded their own cooperation and coordination across national boundaries. Second, they say, the authorities have recognized the connection between terrorism and the international organized crime entity known as Dope, Inc., which provides financing for the terrorists through the sale of illegal narcotics—and have broadened their investigations as a result.

According to *Le Figaro*, members of the arrested group Direct Action in Toulon are known drug pushers with links to organized crime, and “even though they operate on different levels, they are part of the same thing.”

The arrested members of Direct Action have been tied to the assassination attempt against the French Minister of Cooperation and in the attempted assassination of French Labor Minister Boulin nearly six months ago. Subsequently, Boulin “committed suicide”—a story French authorities privately disbelieve.

The crackdown in France is most significant, according to European press accounts. The 30 arrested terrorists are connected to the Red Brigade organization in Italy. Using parts of southern France and Paris as their key coordinating centers, the terrorists carried out their recent wave of assassinations in Italy and France. *Le Figaro* reports that Franco Pinna, Enrico Bianco, and Orsina Marchionni, arrested in Toulon, France, were all members of Italy’s Red Brigades with ties into “Spanish clandestine groups.” Moreover, each of them was wanted in connection with the assassination of former Prime

Minister Aldo Moro. Police are saying that these terrorist cells are a “free floating operation” that maneuvers from area to area.

The breaking open of the French side of the terrorist international enabled Italian authorities to move in on the Italian Red Brigades units. Led by Carabinieri General Carlo Dalla Chiesa, 150 police were involved in carrying out the Italian end of the crackdown. Before the four members of the Red Brigades were killed in Genoa, Dalla Chiesa rounded up two prominent leaders in Turin and Genoa, Patricia Peci and Rocco Micaletto. Following their arrest, officials issued a communiqué stating that these arrests are “only the beginning.” Officials were quick to point out that their crackdown was part of a 19-month-long planning program concentrating on the Genoa and Piedmont areas.

In Bologna, another major break developed when Italian police arrested three British subjects along with members of the Revolutionary Action group. The three British subjects, Kenneth McBrugen, Mark Holten, and the daughter of a leading British oligarchic family named Helen Jean Weir, were integral to the terrorist operations. Through a cooperative effort between the Interior Ministry’s special anti-terrorist unit and the DIGOS, the national police, the Revolutionary Action organization has been knocked out of commission. The former leader of the group, Gianfranco Faina, who was arrested last July, had links to a mysterious figure named Ronald Stark. According to the newspaper *La Repubblica*, Stark has been identified as a “CIA agent” who worked closely with Faina and supplied the terrorists not only with drugs, but with the financial support derived from drug sales. Faina, a former professor from the University of Genoa, had been involved with Toni Negri in the “new left” group Potere Operaio, the forerunner of the Red Brigades.

The counterterror action was not limited to northern Italy. Dalla Chiesa’s forces carried out another far-ranging operation, arresting 14 members of the Red Brigades group. One leading member of this terrorist cell, Giovanni Tilocca, is the son of the Commander of the prison guards for the prison, Badé Carros. This jail is the maximum security prison where many of the leading terrorists are kept and where there has been a series of breakout attempts. Italian authorities are keeping quiet as to the full implications of the arrest.

The least publicized, important side of the counterterror operations is the full vindication of Italian Judge Vitalone’s charges that members of the Italian magistracy who belong to a group called the Democratic Magistracy have enabled terrorists to continue with their actions as a result of their judicial decisions. About 20 percent of Italian magistrates belong to the group, which has now been officially charged with obstructing justice.