



Espionage in Favor of Russia: Two Arrests in Rome Shake Italian Intelligence

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Today, July 7, 2026, a new and delicate operation by the Carabinieri of the ROS (Raggruppamento Operativo Speciale) struck at the heart of national security. Two people were arrested in Rome on the very serious charges of **espionage and unauthorized access to computer systems**.

The Details of Today's Operation

At the center of the investigation is a 59-year-old man, a former member of the Italian intelligence sector and a former non-commissioned officer of the Carabinieri. According to investigators, the man acted as a terminal for a network aimed at collecting sensitive information, sold in exchange for money to a suspected Russian intelligence agent operating in Italy under diplomatic cover.

The scope of the investigation appears extensive: the 59-year-old allegedly used a network of as many as **six sources** to obtain the confidential material. Among these are **four active-duty military personnel**, all currently registered in the list of suspects, who allegedly provided the main suspect with access to protected data.

An Alarming Precedent: The Walter Biot Case

Today's episode inevitably brings to mind the most significant judicial case of recent years concerning espionage in favor of Moscow: that of Frigate Captain **Walter Biot**.

- **The Arrest:** On March 30, 2021, Biot was caught in the act by the Carabinieri of the ROS in a parking lot on the outskirts of Rome, while handing over classified military documents to a Russian diplomat in exchange for money.
- **The Role:** Biot served in the III Department of the Defense General Staff. Thanks to this extremely sensitive position, he had access to classified documents and strategic NATO information.
- **The Modus Operandi:** The officer systematically photographed the documents on his office computer, transferring the images to an SD card ready to be handed over to Russian contacts.
- **The Judicial Outcome:** The case concluded with heavy sentences. Biot was definitively sentenced to **29 years of imprisonment** in the military proceedings and **20 years** by the Court of Cassation, underscoring the extreme gravity of the actions committed against state security.

Towards a New Investigation

Authorities are now analyzing the volume of data seized in today's operation to understand the extent of the stolen information and the depth of infiltration into military structures. The investigation focuses particularly on the nature of the stolen documents and any compromise of national or allied strategic assets.

This new case raises pressing questions about the security of computer systems within the defense and intelligence sectors, confirming that, in an extremely tense global geopolitical context, the risk of espionage activities within national borders remains a constant and priority threat.