



Giulia Schiff Case, No Bullying. Eight Soldiers Acquitted: “The Fact Does Not Exist”

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The single judge of the Latina Court, **Mario La Rosa**, fully acquitted (“**because the fact does not exist**”) the eight soldiers accused of alleged violence against then-trainee pilot **Giulia Schiff** during the so-called **flight baptism** on April 4, 2018.

The charge of **injury** was **reclassified as assault** and declared **not prosecutable due to the lateness of the complaint**. The **reasons** will be filed within **90 days**.

Reactions in the Courtroom

Satisfaction from the defense and the State Attorney's Office. State attorney **Maurizio Greco** spoke of “**acquittal in the name of the Air Force, especially in these days of sorrow.**”

The Contested Rite and the Accusations

At the center of the proceedings, the **flight baptism**, a traditionally playful moment following the first solo exam: the trainee is lifted and made to “spin” on the ground — symbolically from “penguin” to “eagle” — with **pats** and sometimes **blows with twigs**.

For the **public prosecutor** (Prosecutor **Antonio Sgarrella**), what happened to Schiff went beyond playfulness: in the video on file, **pushes**, **open-handed pats**, the **throwing into a fountain**, and the use of **branches** can be seen. On September 12, the prosecutor had requested one year of imprisonment for each defendant.

The **defense**, in the arguments on September 22, argued the absence of elements for a conviction “**beyond a reasonable doubt**”, reiterating the **playful** nature of the rite and the **lack of dissent** expressed by the trainee in the documented instance.

The Defendants and the Parties

On trial were the **eight former course mates** of Giulia Schiff at the flight school of the 70° Stormo in Latina: **Matteo Pagliari**, **Ida Picone**, **Andrea Angelelli**, **Leonardo Facchetti**, **Joseph Garzisi**, **Luca Mignanti**, **Andrea Farulli**, and **Gabriele Onori**.

The civil party was represented by lawyer **Massimiliano Strampelli**. **Civilly liable**: the **Ministry of Defense**, assisted by the State Attorney's Office. The defense team includes, among others, lawyers **Scafetta**, **Siracusano**, **Guida**, **Dulvi**, **Siciliano**, **Floccher**, **Chiabotto**.

The verdict comes while the **Comani Airport in Latina** is still shaken by the **tragedy in the Circeo National Park** (October 1), in which the **commander colonel of the 70° Stormo** lost his life following the fall of a two-seater.

The Stages of the Case

- **April 4, 2018** — “Flight baptism” episode at the 70° Stormo, Latina.
- **November 2021** — Start of the trial.
- **September 12, 2025** — Prosecutor Sgarrella's closing argument.
- **September 22, 2025** — Defense arguments.
- **October 6, 2025** — **Acquittal** verdict.

What Happens Now

- **First-degree acquittal** for all defendants.
- **Reasons** for the verdict: expected within **90 days**.
- The **Prosecutor's Office** may consider a possible **appeal**.

News link: <https://www.rainews.it/tgr/veneto/articoli/2025/10/tribunale-latina-assolti-gli-otto-commilitoni-aeronautica-della-veneziana-di-mira-giulia-schiff-il-fatto-non-sussiste-9fa3613f-3550-461c-ab01-d0e9bdfc78c5.html>