



Italian Navy: decisive operation, Al WASEEMI freed and pirates on the run

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There are moments when the operational activity of a military ship surpasses the ordinary dimension of surveillance to transform into a concrete, immediate, and decisive action to protect human life and maritime security. It is within this framework that the intervention of the frigate Emilio Bianchi (F 599) is placed, protagonist of the liberation of the Iranian fishing vessel Al WASEEMI, seized on March 24 by a group of Somali pirates.

The operation, conducted about 400 nautical miles east of Mogadishu, clearly demonstrates the **operational readiness of the Italian Navy**, capable of responding promptly to a concrete threat in one of the most unstable quadrants of the international maritime landscape. From the very first phases, the unit demonstrated a **rapid decision-making capability** and a perfect integration between command, crew, and onboard systems.

The fishing vessel Al WASEEMI, transformed into a potential offensive platform by the pirates, represented a **direct danger to international merchant traffic**. In this context, the

intervention of the Italian ship was not just a technical response, but an **act of responsibility** that reflects the deep sense of duty of the Italian Armed Forces, always committed to safeguarding international security.

The speed with which the situation was analyzed and addressed highlights a **constant preparation**, the result of continuous training and an operational culture based on discipline, cohesion, and dedication to service.

INTERNATIONAL SYNERGY AND TACTICAL CONDUCT

The success of the operation was also made possible thanks to the synergy with the Spanish unit ESPS Canarias, with which the Italian frigate operated in **perfect operational coordination** within Task Force 465. This cooperation allowed for the development of a structured and incisive response, capable of neutralizing the threat without compromising the safety of the hostages.

The maneuver of the so-called “concertina effect” represented an example of **tactical excellence**. Through a calibrated and progressive action, the units involved narrowed the operational space of the pirates, exerting a **constant and controlled pressure** until forcing them to flee. A conduct that requires not only technical skills but also clarity, composure, and a full awareness of the operational context.

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Moments of the operation. Source Italian Navy.

The most delicate moment occurred on April 5, with the intervention of the San Marco Marine Brigade teams. The boarding, carried out with fast means and air support, highlighted the **very high level of preparation of the Italian personnel**. Every movement, every procedure was executed with precision, in full compliance with the rules of engagement and with the primary objective of safeguarding human life.

In this phase, the human value of the Italian military emerges strongly: professionals trained to operate in complex conditions, but also men and women guided by a **strong ethical sense** and a deep responsibility towards those in danger.

THE STRATEGIC VALUE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OPERATION

Once the liberation was achieved, the crew of the ship immediately provided assistance to the 20 Iranian sailors, offering them material and human support after weeks of captivity. This gesture concretely represents the **operational humanity of the Italian Armed Forces**, capable of combining military effectiveness with attention to the individual.

In the role of flagship of the mission, the frigate Emilio Bianchi provided **continuous and highly qualified support** to the operational command, confirming itself as an advanced platform from a technological and managerial point of view. Under the guidance of Rear Admiral Daniele Paolo Maria Martinuzzi, the entire operation benefited from clear direction and effective coordination among the different components.

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Moments of the operation. Source Italian Navy.

The intervention stands as a test successfully passed, but above all as a concrete demonstration of the **operational credibility of the Italian Navy**. In an increasingly complex international context, the ability to project presence, security, and stability represents an essential element for the protection of national interests.

The liberation of Al WASEEMI thus assumes a value that goes beyond the single episode: it is the tangible testimony of the **daily commitment of the Italian Armed Forces**, of their readiness to intervene, and of the dedication with which they operate, often away from the spotlight, to ensure security and legality.

With this operation, the ship Emilio Bianchi not only completes a mission successfully but strongly reaffirms the founding values of military service: **discipline, honor, and sense of duty**, elements that continue to distinguish Italian operations in international theaters.

News link: <https://www.marina.difesa.it/media-cultura/Notiziario-online/Pagine/20260409-Nave-Emilio-Bianchi-libera-il-peschereccio-Al-WASEEMI.aspx>