



Italy-Israel, the Ministry of the Interior clarifies: “No foreign intelligence on the field”

Published on 07/10/2025

On the morning of **October 7, 2025**, the news of an alleged presence of **Mossad** agents – the Israeli foreign intelligence service – in Udine to escort the **Israeli national football team** ahead of the match against Italy caused a stir and immediate reactions. According to some initial reports, the agents were said to have collaborated with Italian law enforcement in protecting the Israeli delegation during their stay in Friuli.

Within a few hours, however, the **Ministry of the Interior** issued a denial. In a statement released through **Agenzia Ansa**, the **Department of Public Security** declared that “there was no presence of foreign intelligence services in Udine on the occasion of the Italy-Israel football match.” The Ministry specified that the security of the event and the visiting team was ensured “entirely by Italian forces, in coordination with Israeli authorities according to standard diplomatic procedures.”

The denial aimed to quickly clarify a potentially embarrassing situation, reaffirming the principle of **full Italian sovereignty** over internal security activities. Nevertheless, the incident raised questions about the origin of the rumors and the actual role of any collaborations between services, often shrouded in secrecy.

It is confirmed, however, that the **Israeli players** are staying in a **protected facility**, the location of which has not been disclosed for security reasons. This measure is part of the practice adopted during international trips considered sensitive.

Between security and diplomacy: the necessary cooperation

The spread of the news, even if denied, reignited the debate on the **collaboration between security services** of allied countries, particularly when Israeli representatives are involved. For over fifty years, Israel has maintained an extremely rigorous security protocol for all sports delegations abroad, a practice born after the **Munich massacre of 1972**, in which eleven Israeli athletes were killed by Palestinian terrorists.

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Munich '72, the Olympics massacre. Palestinian terrorists massacre in the Olympic village

Since then, security for Israeli athletes is considered a matter of national security, with specialized personnel involved in preventive assessments and risk management. However, there is a fine line between technical cooperation and the operational presence of armed agents. It is precisely on this point that the Ministry of the Interior wanted to clarify: Israeli authorities can provide information or coordinate with their Italian counterparts, but **they cannot carry out direct activities on national territory** without authorization.

Italy, like many other European countries, has maintained **intelligence relations with Israel** for years, especially in counter-terrorism and cybersecurity. However, these collaborations develop within a framework of **diplomatic confidentiality**, and rarely come to public attention. The media echo of the alleged arrival of Mossad in Udine demonstrates how the issue of international security is today closely intertwined with public perception and information management.

In a geopolitical context marked by tensions in the Middle East and a climate of heightened vigilance throughout Europe, even a simple rumor can trigger chain reactions, amplified by social media. The timely denial by the Ministry, therefore, also served a **preventive function against disinformation**, preventing the incident from escalating into a political or diplomatic case.

The political and symbolic dimension

The Udine episode, regardless of its veracity, assumes a significance that goes beyond sports news. Football, as often happens, becomes **a lens through which to read relations between States**, international cooperation, and the delicate balance between security and freedom. The presence of the Israeli national team in Italy occurs during a period of high Middle Eastern tension and global attention to security issues.

For Israel, ensuring the safety of its representatives abroad is an absolute priority; for Italy, ensuring protection for foreign guests without giving up its institutional autonomy is a duty and a test. From this balance arises the complexity of managing events like the Udine match: **ensuring security without crossing the line of sovereignty.**

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From a symbolic point of view, the incident confirms how cooperation between Rome and Tel Aviv remains solid, yet cautious. In recent years, the two countries have intensified relations in the fields of defense, technology, and cybersecurity, while maintaining a clear mutual respect for territorial competencies.

Today, October 7, 2025, the situation appears fully under control: the Israeli national team continues its retreat safely, Italian authorities patrol the territory, and the Ministry reiterates the full competence of national forces. No foreign agents, therefore, in Udine. Just heightened attention, understandable in light of the times and global tensions.

In conclusion, the affair of the alleged Mossad intervention in Udine closes, at least for now, with a clear denial and a clear lesson: in the world of instant information, **speed cannot replace fact-checking**. And if security remains an absolute priority, so does transparency. Because, ultimately, public trust is built not only on territorial control but on the certainty of

truth.

News link: <https://www.udinetoday.it/cronaca/sicurezza-mossad-italia-israele-smentita.html>