



Swine flu - nothing is scared

€0.90



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## 'Arrest me' – Italian ambassador to police

Trabalza embarks Sicilian trawler and fends off police from seizing vessel

Karl Stagno-Navarra

THE Italian ambassador Paolo Andrea Trabalza planted himself physically aboard an impounded fishing trawler this week, to prevent police from seizing the vessel and towing it to Haywharf.

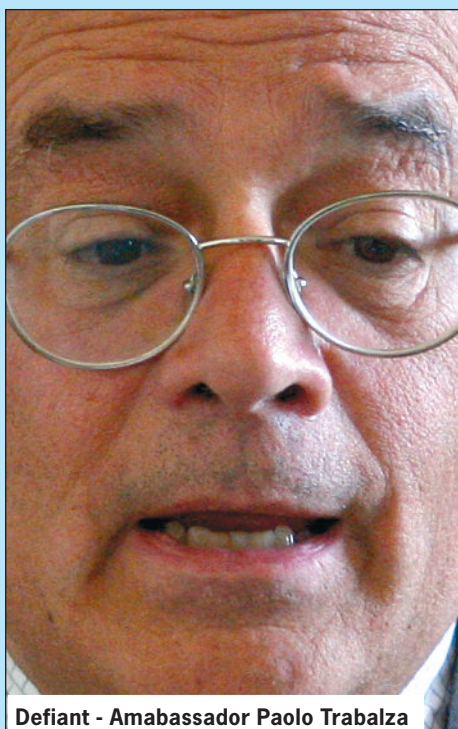
The incident was provoked by the arrest of Sicilian fisherman Rosolino Paternostro, who is facing charges of illegally fishing in Maltese territorial waters.

Paternostro, 48 from Porto Palo, was denied bail and remanded in custody by Magistrate Lawrence Quintano, and now faces a staggering €116,000 fine for just some €350 worth of fish that was discovered aboard his boat, the Maria Salvatrice.

The boat was intercepted on Hurd's Bank last Monday, some 19 miles southeast of Malta.

News of the seizure triggered an immediate reaction by the Italian authorities, which instructed Trabalza to take a firm stand in Paternostro's and his crew's defence.

MaltaToday can confirm that two hours



Defiant - Ambassador Paolo Trabalza

after the Court ordered the police to escort the fisherman to prison, a police officer informed the ambassador that the remaining three members of the crew on board the Maria Salvatrice, berthed under police escort at Ta' Liesse in Valletta, had to disembark immediately to find alternative accommodation as the boat was going to be seized and taken to Haywharf.

Trabalza immediately left his office in Floriana and boarded the Maria Salvatrice to protect the crew and insisted with the police that he will not move.

"Arrest me," he defiantly told police who arrived shortly after. When Trabalza informed them that he was the Italian ambassador, the police had to back off.

The police and a patrol boat that went to tow the trawler withdrew from the area, and Justice and Home Affairs minister Carm Mifsud Bonnici personally called the ambassador to inform him that the issue was a "misunderstanding" and that the crew could stay aboard the Maria Salvatrice.

Paternostro is being defended in court by Labour MP José Herrera.

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## And the Italians retaliate...

A Maltese trawler and 12 Maltese nationals have been denied permission to leave the port of Pozzallo in Sicily, in what appears to be a retaliation move by the Italian authorities over the arrest of Sicilian fisherman Rosolino Paternostro, for allegedly fishing illegally in Maltese waters.

The Gozo registered *luzzu* Betania, steered by Peppi Xuerieb, was denied permission to leave Pozzallo by the Guardia di Finanza after an onboard inspection.

Sources said every Maltese boat visiting Sicilian ports are being subjected to thorough searches by police and when found to be irregular, the boat is denied permission to leave. They said the Betania was prohibited from leaving because it did not have its safety gear in order.

National Fishing Cooperative secretary Ray Bugeja told MaltaToday a local exporter who arrived in Sicily yesterday morning with a truckload of fish was told not to return, as they were not interested in buying anymore from Malta after Paternostro's arrest.

## Austin Gatt – Enemalta chairman's conflict of interest is no breach

Matthew Vella

MINISTER Austin Gatt declared there is no breach of the ministry's code of ethics by Enemalta chairman Alex Tranter, who has

commercial ties with the company that will construct a 100MW extension of the Delimara power station.

The award of the €200 million contract to BWSC, which has sub-contracted Vassallo Build-

ers, has attracted a judicial protest from rival bidder Ido Huttney/Bateman, which submitted a cheaper bid. Tranter admitted to a "potential conflict of interest" last week but said he had declared it to the Enemalta board

of directors in June 2008, when he learned that Vassallo Builders had been asked to submit a quote for their works.

Gatt said Tranter had verbally informed his head of secretariat of the conflict.

Tranter is a co-shareholder in Makeezi Ltd along with Vassallo Builders, and the director of the Caremalta group, owned by Vassallo Builders chairman Nazzeno Vassallo.

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**Next Wednesday**

Piano's designs have been welcomed by professionals, but controversy simmers regardless. MaltaToday takes a closer look at the re-dimensioning of Valletta's entrance



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Austrian Sausages  
Spanish Sausages  
English Sausages  
Maltese Sausages  
Halal Beef Sausages  
Hot Dogs  
Chicken Franks

Pork Chops  
Pork Spare Ribs  
Pork Loin Ribs  
Pork Collar Steaks  
Beef Ribeye Steaks  
Beef Burgers

Chicken Drumsticks  
Chicken Legs  
Chicken Breast  
Turkey Drumsticks  
Tuna Loin Steaks  
Swordfish Loin Steaks  
Salmon Steaks

King Prawns (Various Sizes)  
Corn on the Cob  
Various Wines  
Ice Cubes

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