

May 19

'On the plane there was a stolen child **"The complaint of a mother in the House**

Adopted with the agency Aibi [Amici dei Bambini] in Congo. It was the famous flight of 2014 with minister Boschi. Families tell: threats and beatings of the children before leaving for Italy. The version of Gentiloni on commissioning the wife of the Milan prosecutor who is investigating child trafficking.



The children on the plane flying from Kinshasa State in Rome in 2014 (photo Ansa)

Even on the plane of the then Minister of State Maria Elena Boschi, the Aibi association would have been able to put a child taken away from his natural parents. The flight is the famous one of 28 May 2014, from Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, in Rome. It is the day of the thirty-one children adopted in Italy and accompanied by the current Undersecretary to the Prime Minister, unaware of the origins of the little one as were all other authorities. He tells about it in a room in the Parliament, in front of an awestruck audience, Paola Zignone, adoptive mother was for months unaware of the scams and a former voluntary at the agency in San Giuliano Milanese, the NGO for international adoptions now under investigation for not reporting promptly a paedophile gang which produced pornographic films in Bulgaria and for failing to report an organisation of traffickers in Africa. Now they have a name, a face, a voice. In addition to Paola, Giambattista De Mattia, Giovanni Conte, Giulia Fasano and Eva Mannelli, speak, adoptive fathers and mothers. It is ten o'clock in the morning Thursday, May 18 when they show up because, along with another fifty families, they denounced Aibi and

its responsible president Marco Griffini, 69 years. They explain why now an appeal was launched with another 50 adoptive couples out into the open. And they remember why they claimed that the institutions are on their side. In listening, there is only one parliamentary, Stefano Fassina, of the Italian Left.

TEARS ON THE PILLOW

They are right: so far the state has proven not to deal with what their young children have suffered, threats and beatings in Goma, Congo, to force them to silence, wet pillows with tears when they wake up in the morning in their new homes in Italy to have been torn from their real parents, brothers, sisters.



Parents denounce trafficking involving their children

"We knew Aibi some time," says Paola Zignone, "we had worked with them for many years, we liked the way they work, their mission, we participated in the meetings that were held in Torino and we even have become volunteers to give information sessions for couples who wanted to adopt children. The collaboration brought us the natural choice of Aibi, as agency to do international adoption. They were dramatic months but later on May 28, 2014 with the state airplane which flew minister Maria Elena Boschi and the magistrate Silvia Della Monica, the children arrived in Italy. It was a great party. But in the first few months that our son had arrived in Italy, instead of seeing a child happy of his new life, we had a child who was suffering, a child crying at night. I found the pillow the morning wet with tears. And he told me: Mom, I have a secret but I cannot tell you. And she could see he was scared. We understood that his sadness was a sign that there was something else. At this point we discover his true story. Our son has a family in Congo, a mother, father and a lot of brothers and sisters in Goma. We are shocked, we never imagined such a thing. We would not have adopted a child from his family, taking him away from his country. We who have put their faces for years for

this agency saying that never, ever this agency would adopt a child who was not abandoned. He lived in the family, at home, in Goma, up to a year before being adopted and suddenly improvisatory found himself in the institute Fed in Goma and inserted in the circuit of adoptions. But he escaped the institute. On the day of departure to Kinshasa he ran away and went home. To be sure to come back, they sent his best friend to pick him up with the photo of his adoptive parents in hand, begging him to leave because otherwise they would not let him leave either. And this is the story our son slowly slowly told us. "



Maria Elena Boschi in flight with adopted children in Congo

"At this point," continues Paola Zignone, "we thought we were alone and decided to go to Milan office of Aibi, to the people who knew for many years, to tell what our son had told us. And for help, advice. We meet at a day in April of 2015. We were welcomed by the president and the head of Africa and a psychologist. We listen. They tell the story that our son told us is all false. These are children's fantasies. It is normal that you build a story to live well. We do not believe that, our son is not a small child, he is ten years old, is very pragmatic. They insist that it is a fabricated story. What fantasies? Here we are informing you that there is trafficking of children. They continue on their turn that they were all fantasies. We saluted them and we return to our home. We feel alone, abandoned, because it seems impossible that there are other families in a situation of this kind. And for a lot 'of time we are working in the family to be able to move forward with this on our weight and our son who probably thought we knew, but it was not true. In July of 2016, after all the other children arrived from the Congo, finally comes out the Espresso article "Thieves of children". And there in front of you opens a world. We discover that we are not alone. We find out that, unfortunately, the situation

of many families is like ours. We recognise ourselves one hundred percent in what is described in this article. And as a result we understand that it is time to make a complaint. We talk with our son, we present the situation and decide that justice must be done. Therefore we decided to go to Cai, the Commission for international adoptions. And when we get there, we find that there are many others in this situation. "

"MY PARENTS ARE DEAD"

That Julia Fasano was told is the story of her child. "One day at the end of April 2014 we received a call from headquarters of AiBi who told us that some rebels had entered the institute where was our daughter and the children were gone. However, they communicated that our daughter was fine because she was at school at the time of the raid. The agency said there was an urgent need to move the children because the situation was dangerous. We asked the institution to be received in the central office for more information. They agreed to receive us, however, saying that they would have give us maximum thirty minutes. We asked also to immediately report the incident to the International Adoptions Commission, but were told that it was better to wait because the president (the magistrate Della Monica) was new and incompetent. We returned home worried because the fact of not informing the Cai left us perplexed, I seriously believed. So we decided to inform ourselves the commission. From that moment on, "reveals Julia Fasano," began the psychological terrorism strategy with acts of intimidation against our and other adoptive families. Finally in 2016 our daughter arrives. An immense happiness. At first she was shy and afraid. She told us that her parents were dead along a road because of the war and she had been found by a lady who had brought her in an institution. We looked at each other surprised because her account did not match the matching card given to us by Aibi. "



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The President of Aibi, Marco Griffini, poses as Minister

"Then one day, suddenly," adds Julia Fasano, "Our daughter told us, they are not dead. We asked who she was referring to and she replied that she was referring to her parents. She began to tell her true story, saying she had besides the parents still alive in Congo, also brothers in Italy from which she had been separated, and that had been given to other families. We asked a few days later as never kept this secret in her heart and she told us that the institute maman had threatened her not to tell her story, and that if she did, she would be sent back to Congo. Freed of this burden, now our daughter is much more serene. Nevertheless she continues to be very concerned about her brothers. Ironically we had chosen this institution because of the guarantees it gave on the investigations carried out in order to verify the actual state of children's adoptability. With regard to what we had been told about the raid of the armed gang, she told us that often the parents came to take their children from the institute. She tells us that also her mother came to take her, but that determined people took her back and carried her back to the institution. Our daughter was threatened and beaten as her

brothers and his friends. We are horrified by all this and we are even more horrified by the behaviour of the institutions. We hear about made-up stories, visions, journalistic hoaxes and that's why we are here: to bear witness to the reality of these stories and ask the institutions, the President of the Republic and all those who cherish the honour of protecting institutions our families, our children, we are here to demand justice and we demand the reappointment of Dr. Silvia Della Monica loudly, because it is the only guarantee that this work is completed. "

'HAVE YOUR CHILD KIDNAPPED "

His son, who Giovanni Conte has never embraced. "At Christmas 2013 we received news that he had gone forth when even in Congo Our son had taken our name, so it was our son, in fact, legally. They spend seven months, on 23 April we receive a phone call from the Milan office (of Aibi) and we are urgently summoned for the next day in Rome to receive an urgent message that concerned our son. The next day we go and do, it's incredible, a video conference in which we are made aware that a kidnapping had happened to our son, in the center where he lived, the SPD of Goma. This kidnapping was done by an armed gang. And they told us that the event had occurred at the end of March, so twenty-four days had passed and we have learned after twenty-four days. They justified this delay because the local authorities had asked for some time to do the investigation and were in need of discretion, because speculated a kidnapping for ransom. They have been given assurances on the efforts of operators and local institutions, to look for our son and five other children. "



Madame Bénédicte, director of the center of the fake kidnapping

"The amazing thing," says Giovanni Conte, "is this communication is not easy to imagine, however, who has a child may think that is communicated to you via videoconference from a box of ten centimeters that your son was kidnapped by an armed gang. .. My wife burst into tears, I did not have the voice to answer. From Milan had reached the demand: are there any questions? And I remember that I asked in a whisper to the psychologist to say that we did not have the strength to answer, that we have had to suffer. At that time there was once proposed a new match (that is, the immediate replacement of the child). We take four days to put together ideas. We started to ask all those who potentially could have contact with the institution and outside the institution in Congo, nuns, missionaries. On April 28, we call the Rome office to ask for an urgent appointment with the psychologist. The appointment is set for 8 May. So two weeks to go before knowing something about the kidnapping of our son. On May 5, realizing that the situation was absurd, we send an email to Rome and Milan, where we ask an interview via videoconference but not in person. It arrives on May 8 and the psychologist claims not to have heard. The meeting is focused on pain management. Leaving this session of little value, we see that we received from the Cai an email with a protocol, which invites families to go to Cai if they know of something wrong. We call at that same time the Cai and the next day we are received. The next day was May 9. This was the first moment we were welcomed into our suffering of families in disarray. So much was the confidence we have presented on that occasion a complaint about what had happened. After seventy-five days and other vicissitudes, Cai has called us and we knew that was not true at all, the kidnapping had never been there and it was all a lie. I wish to close by making an appeal. I want to make an invitation to those families who feel isolated, still living these pressures, to come forward to show that they are not alone. "

SEIZED FOR A YEAR AND A HALF

The two sons of Eva Marinelli were held for half a year with another sixteen children against their parents' wishes and orders of the authorities, in an orphanage in Goma which is among the network of centers of Aibi.



Children with one of the drivers who have them brought to Italy

"Our children were the last to arrive in Italy," says the mother, "in June 2016, two beautiful children, Solar. At first everything went well. One fine day in September is off the first flaw in Aibi system. The children speak of a brother that we knew absolutely nothing about. We asked if the child was left in the orphanage. No, no, they tell me, the brother is here in Italy, he arrived with us. At that point we were shocked by this. Promptly we called Cai to see if there was any of this. Unfortunately, no one knew anything because our children and brother's personal details have been changed. Full name and so on. So it was almost impossible to go back to this union. When we came to Rome at the arrival of the children, his brother was in a room next door with the older children. We came out with our children. The older brother saw us, but did not have the opportunity to greet them nor our children have said anything because they were obliged to say nothing. When they were in Goma, the Fed center, he was told several times that they should not talk like we were, in our family, otherwise the soldiers came and took them away. This is what they have endured, two creatures of six and seven years. After providing the Cai this shocking news of this additional brother in Italy, we managed after a while 'time to find it, we've made them review with an immense joy. We then found in the middle of a situation where the card was totally, totally want to stress, distorted. Completely. There was not one iota of truth. Although this has further devastated us psychologically. In the period in Congo, "adds Eva Mannelli," having mandated the Cai that children were moved from the Fed center, because it is in a very dangerous Goma area, a structure in the most protected capital, our children were seized from 'institution for eighteen months and they remained at the Fed. So for eighteen months we have not had the shred of news. "

POSTING TO THE WIFE OF ATTORNEY

These are the facts. Then there are the institutions. Beginning with the highest authority receiving numerous complaints, the prime minister Paolo Gentiloni, president of Cai, which for now does not want to renew the post of vice president at Della Monica magistrate who uncovered the scandal and made it known Espresso: "the children's story is one thing, the story of the appointment is a bit more complex." And there is the judicial authority, with the wife of the Milan prosecutor, Laura Laera, president of the Juvenile Court of Florence on the verge of retirement, waiting Gentiloni give her the place of Della Monica according to a plan already drawn 2016: Laera vice president and president of Cai undersecretary Boschi, the Commission on international adoptions, which is a small Foreign Ministry in the Presidency of the Council and also the supervisory authority on an authorized organization for international adoptions. Seen from a certain angle it is as if the government wanted to give at all costs an assignment to the wife of Francesco Greco, the Milan prosecutor who is also owner of surveys on Aibi adoptions in Congo and the relations of Aibi within the institutions. Greco is a great fan of the appointment of Laura Laera, both judges from irreproachable curriculum: "There is a commission and this commission has to work," says the prosecutor of Milan in a conversation with "L'Espresso", after Griffini on 22 February announced first of all, and welcomed the candidacy of Laera and Boschi at the top of Cai: "This commission is not working. It is gone, it is clandestine. But it seems possible that a state body is not in session and no one knows why? "Asks Greco, severely criticizing the work of Mrs Silvia Della Monica, who according to him uses "some kind of Mafiosi methods in attacking my wife ... to attack Boschi. "



The investigation of elected Congo cover the year 2016

It really is not the Vice President of the Cai Della Monica to criticize the government. They are families who have denounced the authority of Marco Griffini to protest with complaints and appeals because, they argue, the silence and the choices of Paolo Gentiloni strengthen Aibi. Griffini meanwhile announced millions in legal consequences for parents who accused him. While some anonymous Twitter users have turned to threats such as the capacity to use "tools" and on monthly training at the polygon for an adoptive father who had publicly accused the Milan organization.

AWARD WHO HAS NEVER FILED

The prosecutor who is investigating Aibi should know why the Commission for international adoptions is not convened. But apparently it escapes: Aibi, an organization under investigation for alleged serious omissions, sits nominees in the same control commission that should control. And that would make illegal any decision, as certain agencies have already denounced to the prosecutor of Rome. An irregularity in late March that Maria Elena Boschi reiterated rather than solve: with signing powers conferred by Gentiloni, she has appointed in Cai the representative of an association in which participated in their management also Aibi. The undersecretary, extractor committee chairman, has so violated in one fell swoop two decrees prohibiting incompatible positions, one of President of the Republic, the other of his predecessor Graziano Delrio. And even the best interests of children, entering into a major authority of the Prime agency that, according to the testimony of the victims, in front of paedophiles and traffickers did not do what any association or person would have to do. Incompatibilities that the current Vice President Cai, Silvia Della Monica, whose mandate expired in February but can be renewed, has repeatedly pointed out in institutional settings. And that no other Italian magistrate, juvenile or investigating, has dared to denounce. So, unlike the Gentiloni suggestion, the story of the children and the case of the appointment appear rather as the same thing.

THE CALL OF 24 March

On 24 March a mutual acquaintance between the prime minister and the writer, calls: "It happened a few days ago to meet both Gentiloni and Boschi", he reveals: "And with soft tones, talking about something else , they told me: look what the two events, that is the story of children is one thing, the story of the appointment is a bit more complicated ...

and they explained to me a bit 'of internal things about this magistrate (Della Monica) some issues that have occurred, some behaviours occurred abroad, some diplomatic issues that have arisen. This connection is not so. And the government does not want to pull out of these things, in the sense of saying what are the overarching motivations. It is a decision which was taken independently from each other, in a sort of natural end and we (the government) will now see you as a given political will of defense of an association ... They made me understand that it is not really so connected. I repeat, with very soft tones they have told me it is not so. It is not a removal. It's a deadline on which action was taken for a number of general reasons ... The appointment is not linked to this fact. It holds you in a number of various kinds of questions. These are questions I believe occurred on some behaviour held abroad on her part, in contravention of international legal systems. And then the complaints that would come from some situations in which she is moved by using powers that are not attributable to its figure. There have been objections to the Foreign ministry level of some importance about which Gentiloni obviously knows since he was foreign minister before. To think Gentiloni's would do a removal for this reason here, knowing him, I find difficult to sustain. "

THE INFINIT POWERS

At the prime minister and his undersecretary may have withheld some details. But from what appears to be a letter from Marco Griffini of 9 January 2015, and by a subsequent email of January 14, to the Italian ambassador in Kinshasa, Massimiliano D'Antuono, is just Aibi dictating the line to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on children held in the agency's orphanages in Congo. The apparent attempt to obstruct the transfers of the little ones to safer places arranged by Silvia Della Monica and the Congolese authorities at the request of Italian parents. It's the desire of Aibi, already under investigation, are made by its Foreign Ministry, then headed by Gentiloni, obviously kept in the dark. This demonstrates the urgent communication is not classified branched immediately after, always on January 14, the Italian embassy to the General Directorate Italians abroad, the Directorate General globalization and global issues at the Cabinet Office, to the Prime Minister, the Ministry of ' Internal and other recipients that certifies the version peddled by the president of Aibi: communication from the Foreign Ministry, will spend a year and a half before the children are released, as confirmed by the testimony of Eva Mannelli in the Parliament.



Palazzo Chigi, seat of government

Four days after the call of the mutual acquaintance, on March 28 this year, Maria Elena Boschi, with powers of delegation of the Prime Minister, appointed in the Commission for Intercountry Adoptions the representative of the "Forum of Family Associations" in which board sit two representatives of Aibi. A new short circuit that calls into play the body of Marco Griffini and its infinite powers.