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***THURSDAY 21 MAY 2015***

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# I CONTI IN TASCA AI TRAFFICANTI DI ESSERI UMANI

di Redazione

21 maggio 2015, pubblicato in [Analisi Sicurezza](#)

**ANSA** – I conti in tasca ai trafficanti di esseri umani: li ha fatti la **Guardia di Finanza**, che ha esaminato tutte le rotte dei migranti, vagliato le loro testimonianze e accertato che i prezzi delle varie tratte variano da un minimo di 600 dollari fino a 6.000 euro, a seconda della provenienza.

Un business milionario per le organizzazioni criminali. Di tutto questo, e degli strumenti di contrasto, ha parlato oggi davanti al Comitato Schengen il comandante generale delle Fiamme Gialle, Saverio Capolupo (nella foto

sotto) . Ma ecco rotte e costi.

**CORNO D'AFRICA** - I migranti provenienti dal Corno d'Africa, ha detto il generale Capolupo, "viaggiano per circa 4 mesi a bordo di camion fuoristrada attraverso il Sudan e il Ciad per poi giungere in Libia".

Da qui navigano su imbarcazioni di legno, tra i 10 e i 25 metri, fino ad essere intercettati o raggiungere le coste della Sicilia. In questo caso, secondo le testimonianze degli stessi migranti, "il prezzo del viaggio oscilla tra i 600 e i 1.500 dollari Usa".

**MEDIO ORIENTE** - I migranti provenienti dal Medio Oriente, "favoriti da

organizzazioni criminali egiziane, libiche e turche", usano diversi modus operandi per raggiungere l'Italia. "Via terra, mare e aria" attraversano Libano, Giordania ed Egitto e arrivano in Libia, dove si imbarcano nella zona di Zuwarah.

Alternativamente, attraverso Libano o Giordania, raggiungono l'Egitto e qui si imbarcano su natanti condotti da egiziani, che spesso trasportano anche altri egiziani migranti, e si dirigono verso la Sicilia, la Calabria e, talvolta, la Puglia.

Infine, si imbarcano dalla Turchia per raggiungere le coste italiane, anche attraversando via terra la Grecia e utilizzando imbarcazioni che possono essere "di dimensioni rilevanti". Per queste tratte vengono chieste a ciascuno "somme variabili tra i 1.500 e i 6.000 euro"

**SIRIA** - I siriani in fuga dal loro Paese "scelgono il percorso turco, piuttosto che la rotta libica", ha detto il generale Capolupo.

Il principale 'hub' di partenza dei migranti in questo caso è la città portuale di Mersin, o le località di Ayas e Iskendur.

I trafficanti usano diversi tipi di imbarcazioni che raggiungono navi più grandi posizionate tra le coste della Turchia e della Siria. "L'intero viaggio in mare dura circa 6 giorni al prezzo di 6.000 dollari statunitensi per un adulto e di 3.000 per ogni bambino".

I PORTI ITALIANI – A questi fenomeni, ha spiegato il comandante generale della Gdf, “si aggiunge il flusso migratorio che attraversa i confini europei mediante l’ingresso nei porti nazionali.

Gli scali principalmente interessati sono quelli di Venezia, Ancona, Bari e Brindisi a causa dei collegamenti diretti con la Grecia, l’Albania e la Turchia.

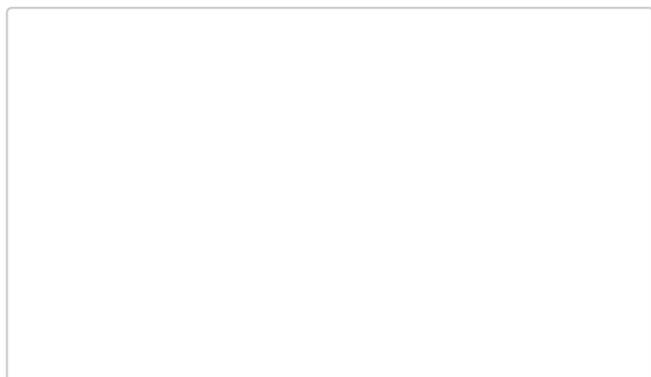
I migranti in genere si nascono all’interno di autocarri e rimorchi che giungono con i traghetti di linea”.

Nel 2014 le Fiamme gialle hanno individuato 308 persone che si sono introdotte nel territorio nazionale in questo modo e arrestato 16 trafficanti.

## I NOSTRI AMICI DELLO STATO ISLAMICO

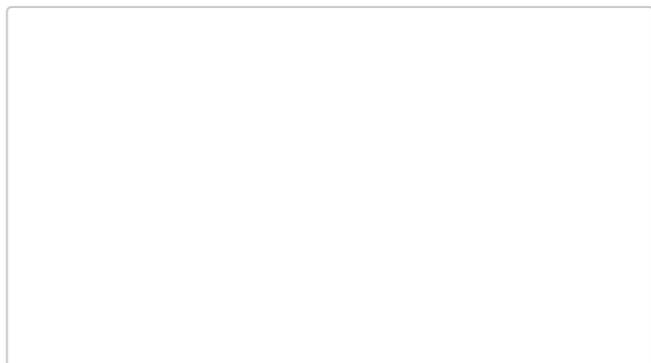
di Gianandrea Gaiani

21 maggio 2015, pubblicato in [Commenti](#)



L'avanzata delle milizie dello Stato Islamico in Iraq e Siria rappresenta la migliore conferma della finta guerra che arabi e occidentali stanno conducendo contro il Califfato. A dispetto dell'annunciato grave ferimento di Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi e dell'uccisione del numero due al-Afri e del "ministro del petrolio" Abu Sayyaf i soldati del Califfo hanno strappato alle truppe irachene il controllo di Ramadi a poche decine di chilometri da Baghdad costringendo a ripiegare in fretta e furia anche i

consiglieri militari americani che affiancavano i soldati di Baghdad.

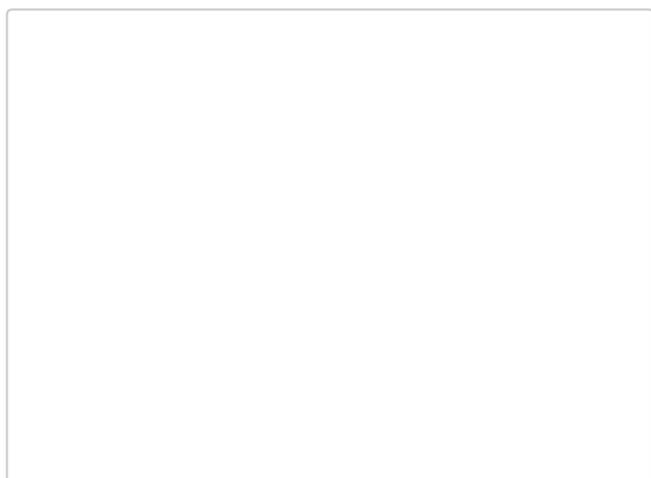


In Siria solo la determinazione delle truppe di Bashar Assad ha consentito fino a ieri di respingere i miliziani jihadisti dall'oasi di Palmira che ospita suggestive rovine romane nel deserto e un sito archeologico tra i più importanti del Medio Oriente.

Da un anno in Occidente ci si straccia le vesti per ogni vestigia dell'antichità demolita da jihadisti dello Stato Islamico ma ciò nonostante nessuno aiuta le forze regolari siriane ad abbattere un

nemico spietato che decapita i nemici come le statue romane nella furia di abbattere ciò che non risponde all'ortodossia islamica sunnita. Dove sono i bombardieri alleati, i Tornado disarmati italiani ?

Continuiamo a inorridire per le stragi di cristiani, curdi e yazidi eppure non muoviamo un dito per difendere Damasco il cui regime sarà certo poco incline alla democrazia ma ha sempre rispettato e tutelato le minoranze.

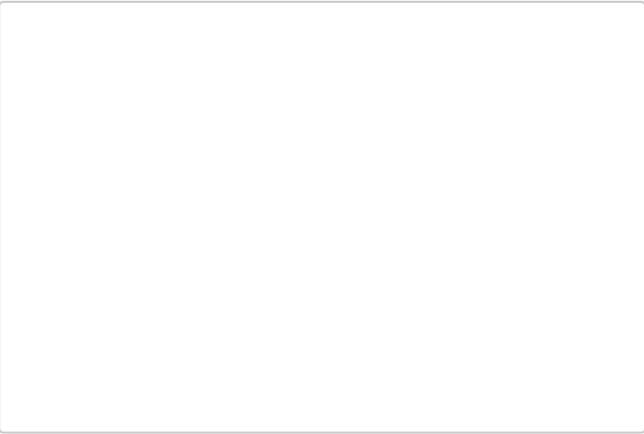


Quegli stessi italiani ed europei incapaci di difendere i propri confini dagli immigrati clandestini fanno oggi parte di una Coalizione che dice di combattere il Califfato ma sostiene gli islamisti. Una Coalizione che invece di difendere i cristiani, le altre minoranze e i siti archeologici continua ad aiutare, direttamente o indirettamente, i jihadisti sunniti.

Ieri lo Stato islamico ha sfondato le linee dell'esercito siriano a Palmira dove si combatte a pochi chilometri dalle spettacolari rovine romane patrimonio dell'Unesco. Centinaia di civili sono in

fuga, l'ospedale è stato evacuato, e si è combattuto furiosamente nei pressi dell'aeroporto. Questa mattina la città era completamente nelle mani dello Stato Islamico le cui milizie controllano ormai la metà del territorio siriano. Dopo la caduta della città Damasco ha dato il via a intensi raid aerei con l'obiettivo di frenare l'avanzata delle milizie jihadiste.

Mentre dal sito archeologico, ha annunciato il direttore del Dipartimento delle antichità siriano, sono state rimosse centinaia di statue e di preziosi reperti: il timore ovviamente è che i jihadisti le riducano in polvere, come hanno fatto a Ninive, Hatra e Nimrud, arrivando ad usare i bulldozer per radere al suolo le rovine. Tutti preoccupati in Occidente ma nessuno che intervenga anche solo per dire che le forze di Damasco vanno aiutate perché sono l'unica alternativa alla furia islamica del Califfato.



Invece 350 consiglieri militari americani hanno iniziato da pochi giorni ad addestrare in Turchia e Giordania 4 mila ribelli siriani accuratamente selezionati da turchi, sauditi e qatarini, cioè gli sponsor dello Stato Islamico oggi sostenitori della nuova alleanza islamista che a fine marzo prese il controllo di Idlib, nel nord della Siria. Si tratta dell'Esercito della Conquista (Jaish al-Fatah) composta da un ampio ventaglio di milizie islamiche; salafiti, Fratelli Musulmani e gli uomini di al-Qaeda del Fronte al-Nusra.

Non c'è lo Stato Islamico ma solo per motivi di opportunità e che si limita a combattere sul fronte occidentale senza interferire con gli altri gruppi ideologicamente a lui simili.

La nascita dell'Esercito della Conquista sembra indicare che sauditi e Qatar hanno trovato un'intesa nel nome dell'obiettivo comune di abbattere lo sciita laico Bashar Assad. Il programma prevede di addestrare 5 mila miliziani in 3 anni al costo (paga il Pentagono) di complessivi 1,5 miliardi di dollari.

Da più parti si parla di un accordo tra Turchia, Qatar e Arabia Saudita teso a far cadere Bashar Assad non certo a combattere lo Stato Islamico e ad Ankara l'opposizione denuncia da tempo le forniture di armi attuate dal governo ai miliziani islamisti in Siria.

Quanto a noi europei solo una politica acefala e suicida poteva portarci ad essere di fatto alleati di qaedisti e salafiti determinati a imporre la sharia a Damasco. A Washington ci vogliono pure convincere che i nuovi miliziani combatteranno lo Stato Islamico ma nessuno riesce a spiegare come si può combattere il Califfo indebolendo l'esercito siriano, l'unico avversario insieme ai curdi capace di tenere testa agli uomini di al-Baghdadi.

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# Europe fears jihadis among boat migrants after Italy nabs Moroccan linked to Tunisia terrorism

21 MAGGIO 2015 BY ANDREA SPADA



Italy said Wednesday it had arrested a Moroccan illegal immigrant suspected of involvement in a deadly attack on a Tunis museum, fueling a row over the threat of jihadis arriving in Europe by boat.

Authorities in Tunisia have arrested nearly two dozen suspects in connection with the March attack in which 21 tourists died, but Abdel Majid Touil, 22, was thought to be the first to be detained abroad.

Touil, who was wanted for premeditated murder, kidnapping and terrorism, according to the police, was detained on Tuesday evening on an international warrant by Italy's anti-terrorism DIGOS police in the northern town of Gaggiano.

He had arrived in Italy in February on a migrant boat and was living with his mother and two older brothers, who are legally resident in the town near Milan.

Police seized papers and USB flash drives from his house.

The attack on the Bardo National Museum on March 18 left 24 people dead: two gunmen, a Tunisian policeman and tourists from Italy, Japan, France, Spain, Colombia, Australia, Britain, Belgium, Poland and Russia.

Visitors getting off buses outside the museum were gunned down by two black-clad shooters with automatic weapons, who then took hostages inside the building.

Many people were shot in the back as they tried to escape. After rampaging through the museum for several hours, the gunmen were killed in an assault by security forces.

At the end of March, Tunisian forces killed nine suspected members of a jihadi group accused of being behind the shooting, the Okba Ibn Nafaa Brigade, including an Algerian who allegedly masterminded the attack.

Tunisia President Beji Caid Essebsi said a few days after the shooting that a third gunman was on the run, but it later emerged that he may have been referring to an accomplice who was not at the scene.

The country's interior ministry told AFP on Wednesday that it had "issued international arrest warrants for two Moroccans and an Algerian with an indirect link" to the attack, but did not specify if the man arrested in Italy was one of them.

The three men "did not take part in the terrorist operation but helped the authors" of the shooting, said ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui, who declined to give further details.

Police said Touil had been in Italy before the attack, after entering illegally in February with a boatload of 90 migrants.

DIGOS head Bruno Megale said he had been issued with an order to leave, but did not specify whether Touil had actually been expelled and, if so, where he had gone, leaving it unclear as to where he had been at the time of the attack.

Touil's brother told news agency Ansa he had not left Italy since February.

"My brother is innocent, he has not committed any crime. He arrived on a boat like many others, and from that moment he did not leave again," he said.

A neighbor insisted that "he is a good boy. You are making a mistake, he has not done anything."

The news that the suspect had snuck into Italy by boat sparked an immediate outcry among right-wing politicians, with the head of the anti-immigration Northern League party, Matteo Salvini, calling for the Schengen agreement allowing free movement between most continental European states to be suspended.

"Libyan intelligence says boats are arriving with Islamic State terrorists. Today in my Milan a North African was arrested for involvement in the Tunisian massacre. Close the borders before it's too late," Salvini told Italian media.

Hard-right politician Daniela Santanche from Silvio Berlusconi's Go Italy party also slammed the government.

It is "unbelievable that this government, instead of defending us from cutthroats, has transformed Italy into a

useful platform for terrorists,” Santanche said.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi thanked the police on Twitter for capturing the suspect, but was inundated by demands to explain the affair to parliament, while Interior Minister Angelino Alfano faced calls to resign.

Tunisia has seen an upsurge in Islamic extremism since the overthrow of longtime strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in 2011.

Authorities say as many as 3,000 Tunisians have gone to Iraq, Syria and Libya to join jihadi ranks, raising fears of returning militants plotting attacks.

# Coalition airstrikes kill 14 Al Nusrah Front members

BY THOMAS JOSCELYN | May 21, 2015 | tjoscelyn@gmail.com | @thomasjoscelyn

The Al Nusrah Front, al Qaeda's official branch in Syria, has released a series of photos purportedly showing the aftermath of coalition airstrikes in Syria. The group claims that 14 members were killed. The photos can be seen below.

It is not clear if one or two Nusrah Front locations were targeted. On one of its official Twitter feeds, Nusrah's propagandists say the coalition bombings targeted the organization's headquarters in Jabal Al Zawiya, which is in the province of Idlib.

Separately, the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights (SOHR), citing "activists," [reports](#) that 15 Nusrah Front fighters (as opposed to 14) were killed after "US-led coalition warplanes on 2 posts...in the village of al-Towamah in the western countryside of Aleppo." SOHR claims that the fighters were mainly Turks.

While the coalition has bombed Nusrah Front locations since late 2014, most of the airstrikes in Syria have targeted the Islamic State, Nusrah's jihadist rival.

The initial round of bombings on Al Nusrah Front occurred in September 2014, when the US targeted al Qaeda's so-called "Khorasan group," an [elite group of al Qaeda veterans](#) tasked with launching attacks in the West. Members of the Khorasan group also [double as insurgency leaders](#) within the upper echelon of Nusrah, which has played an instrumental role in the rebels' advances against the Assad regime this year.

In the past, the Nusrah Front has [posted photos](#) similar to the set seen below.

## Photos showing the aftermath of the airstrikes on Al Nusrah Front positions



# First Batch of Hillary Clinton Emails Captures Concerns Over Libya

By MICHAEL S. SCHMIDT MAY 21, 2015



Hillary Rodham Clinton in Chicago on Wednesday. The State Department is poised to start releasing some of the messages from a private email address that Mrs. Clinton used while secretary of state. Joshua Lott for The New York Times

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WASHINGTON — The State Department is expected to release the first batch of emails from [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#)'s private email address in the coming days.

The emails set for release, drawn from some 55,000 pages and focused on Libya, have already been turned over to the special House committee

investigating the 2012 attacks on the United States outposts in Benghazi. They capture the correspondence and concerns expressed among Mrs. Clinton, who was secretary of state at the time, and her advisers following the attacks, which claimed the lives of the American ambassador, J. Christopher Stevens, and three other Americans.

The emails also offer occasional glimpses into the private side of Mrs. Clinton's life, such as her public-radio listening habits and the fact that she was complimented for how she looked in a photo that appeared on the front page of The New York Times.

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## A Closer Look at Hillary Clinton's Emails on Benghazi

A review of some of the documents adds new dimension to the events surrounding the 2012 attacks in Benghazi, Libya.

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In response to requests from the news media and Mrs. Clinton, who has said she wants the emails to be made public, the State Department has drawn up plans to release them.

The Times obtained about a third of the 850 pages of emails. They appear to back up Mrs. Clinton's previous assertions that she did not receive classified information at her private email address.

But some of the emails contain what the government calls "sensitive" information or "SBU" — sensitive but unclassified. This includes details of the whereabouts of State Department officials in Libya when security there was deteriorating during the 2011 revolution. One email from a year and a half before the attacks that was marked sensitive but unclassified contained the whereabouts of Mr. Stevens as he considered leaving Benghazi during the uprising against the Qaddafi regime because of the deteriorating security.

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“The envoy’s delegation is currently doing a phased checkout (paying the hotel bills, moving some comms to the boat, etc.),” said the email that was forwarded to Mrs. Clinton from a close aide, Huma Abedin. “He will monitor the situation to see if it deteriorates further, but no decision has been made on departure. He will wait 2-3 more hours, then revisit the decision on departure.”

The emails also show that Mrs. Clinton was circulating information about the attacks in Benghazi that contradicted the Obama administration’s initial narrative of what occurred, and that she was concerned about how Republicans could use the incidents to undermine [President Obama](#).

The emails show that even those at the highest levels of government engage in occasional flattering of those above them. In March 2011, Mrs. Clinton received an email from Ann-Marie Slaughter, the director of policy planning for the State Department, who was leaving her position.

“Gorgeous pic on the front page of the NYT!” Ms. Slaughter said, referring to a [photo of Mrs. Clinton](#). “One for the wall...” Ms. Slaughter then moved on to more serious matters, including her opposition to arming the rebels in Libya.

It is not clear when the vast majority of Mrs. Clinton’s emails will be made public. The State Department has described the process of vetting and releasing them as time-consuming and had proposed to release them by January 2016. But a federal judge this week rejected that plan, suggesting that the department come up with a plan for a “rolling” release of the emails.

The intense interest in the emails stems in part from the revelation this year that Mrs. Clinton exclusively used a private email address to conduct her government work as secretary of state.

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# U.S. and Cuba Nearing Deal to Fully Restore Diplomatic Ties

By RANDAL C. ARCHIBOLD MAY 21, 2015



A poster of Fidel Castro in Havana. The United States and Cuban governments closed their embassies in 1961 in response to a demand from Mr. Castro that the American Embassy staff be drastically reduced.  
Desmond Boylan/Associated Press

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MEXICO CITY — The United States and [Cuba](#) are closer than ever to reaching an agreement to fully restore diplomatic relations and reopen embassies, officials in both countries say, as negotiators prepare to meet Thursday in Washington for another round of talks to iron out remaining details and discuss possible dates.

The move toward full diplomatic relations broken decades ago during the Cold War has been seen as a key step toward ending hostilities and normalizing ties with a historic opponent that once agreed to allow Soviet nuclear missiles on its soil and repelled an invasion by American-backed insurgents.

Yet progress toward full diplomatic relations has not gone as swiftly as initially hoped in December, when [President Obama](#) and President [Raúl Castro](#) of Cuba first committed to restoring ties [in a surprise announcement](#).

Now, with a number of obstacles out of the way or close to it, particularly for the Cubans, the talks have reached the most optimistic point after four rounds of conversations in Havana and Washington.

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A Cuban man on a bicycle taxi with a United States flag in Old Havana. Negotiators will meet Thursday in Washington for another round of talks to iron out remaining details to restore diplomatic ties. Eliana Aponte Tobar for The New York Times

“I’m trying not to sound too Pollyannaish,” said a senior State Department official, who was granted anonymity to speak candidly about closed-door diplomatic matters. “But I do think we’re closer than we have been in the past, and I think my counterparts are coming up here with a desire to get this done.

“But equally,” the official added, “we have certain requirements that we need met, so we just have to see whether we can get there in this round of talks. I certainly hope so.”

Gustavo Machin, a top Cuban diplomat who has been part of his country’s delegation at the talks, told reporters in Havana on Monday that “we don’t see obstacles but rather issues to resolve and discuss.”

The governments closed their embassies after President Dwight Eisenhower broke diplomatic relations on Jan. 3, 1961, in response to a demand by Cuba’s new leader, [Fidel Castro](#), that the American

Embassy staff be drastically reduced. Mr. Castro called the embassy a spy outpost, part of an American plot to topple the Communist government he installed after the 1959 revolution.

In 1977, during a period of somewhat warmer relations, the two nations agreed to open “interest sections” in their respective capitals, with no ambassadors and limited diplomatic activity, and technically run under the auspices of the Swiss government.

Officials in both Havana and Washington agree that having full-fledged embassies and exchanging ambassadors could accelerate the path to normal relations. While the overall [United States trade embargo](#), begun under Mr. Eisenhower and strengthened under Presidents John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton, remains in place, Mr. Obama has taken several steps to undercut it and increase trade with and travel to Cuba as a way to support the Cuban people and weaken the Castro government’s arguments that the nation’s forced isolation by the United States is the cause of its economic deterioration.

For Cuba, the chief impediments to re-establish normal diplomatic relations have been removed.

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**RELATED IN OPINION**



[Editorial: Cuba: A New Start](#)

DEC. 12, 2014

With the help of [Treasury](#) Department officials, Cuban diplomats have found a bank in the United States willing to handle accounts for their interests section in Washington, which it hopes to elevate to full embassy status but for now handles limited matters like visa processing.

Stonegate, a small Florida bank, has agreed to take the account, but a spokesman said that the bank's executives would not discuss it. Cuba has been without a bank since 2013, when a Buffalo bank canceled its account, Cuban officials have said, out of concerns about violating Treasury Department restrictions on financial transactions with the country.

Next week, Cuba is expected to officially come off the American government's list of nations that sponsor international terrorism, after a 45-day review period ends following Mr. Obama's notification to Congress in April that he was taking the action.

But the United States has yet to receive a commitment from Cuba that United States diplomats would be able to travel freely on the island and speak to whomever they please, something Cuba generally regards as stirring up dissent. And so far, Cuba has not guaranteed that shipments to the American compound would not be tampered with, and that people visiting the United States Embassy would not face harassment from the police guarding it.

At a Senate hearing on Wednesday, the top diplomat for Latin America, Assistant Secretary of State Roberta S. Jacobson, who is leading the talks

for the United States, said, “We have to have an embassy where diplomats can travel and see the country and talk to people.”

At some embassies around the world, she said, diplomats are asked to notify the host country a day or several days in advance of travel but they generally are not confined to one location, as is the case now. Cuban diplomats in the United States cannot travel beyond Washington or New York, and American diplomats in Cuba cannot leave Havana without permission.

Raúl Castro also recently complained to reporters about a program at the American interests section in Havana that trains independent journalists on basics of the trade, calling it “illegal” meddling in a country where the officially sanctioned news media is controlled by the state.

State Department officials defended the program, led by journalism professors from the United States, as routine and offered “around the world,” as one official put it. But the official left open the possibility it or other programs could be modified or abandoned.

“I think the thing that you have to remember is the democracy programs, in their history since I think about 1996 when they began, have changed over time,” the official said. “And they will continue to change over time to reflect a reality, whether that reality is on the ground in Cuba or in the United States.”

Mr. Obama had hoped to have the embassies open before [a historic meeting](#) with Mr. Castro at a regional summit session in Panama last month.

Yet the Cubans have approached the new relationship more warily than the United States, even as American visitors flock to the island and American companies look into the possibility of trade deals and other business activity there.

Even scheduling the current round of talks took some time, despite both presidents in Panama reiterating the resolve to have diplomatic relations.

“We were ready to get together right after that meeting with President Castro,” the State Department official said, “and our counterparts weren’t necessarily as quick to be prepared as we were.”