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**Libya. Fermi (Intersos): “Worried about the dangerous escalation but we continue with our work”**

**[Intersos](#) workers, an Italian NGO with various projects running in Libya, especially for children - Libyans and migrants – as well as for displaced people, are worried about the possibility of a massive inflow of heavy weaponry and the inevitable dangerous escalation of the conflict in Libya, also given the international situation. Yet they continue providing urgent humanitarian relief efforts in Tripoli, Sebha and the Benghazi area on a regular basis. “We have not yet limited our activities or activated any specific procedures, although we advise employees who left for Christmas holidays not to return to Libya”, Cesare Fermi, head of the Intersos Migration Unit, operating in Libya, Tunisia and Greece, told SIR. “We are receiving information recommending not to return to Tripoli for the time being. Some thirty of our Libyan professionals continue working, with the necessary precautions.” Among its various initiatives Intersos has set up in Tripoli, together with Unicef and in coordination with the municipality, an experimental day centre for children near the airport. So far, the centre has provided services including psychological assistance, informal education, legal protection, family reunification and recreational activities, to 600 Libyan children and youth and to some 80 migrants.**



EU, “mediation attempt.” Meanwhile, the European Union is attempting "a European mediation and initiative", as announced by the President of the European Parliament David Sassoli: "We must create our own policy after having wasted too much time dealing with quarrels between European states. Everyone must be made responsible and invest in foreign policy, supporting the steps currently being taken by the European Union." "We all hope that a political solution will be found", Fermi continued, "but...

the intervention of Erdogan's Syrian-Turkish troops only escalates the intensity of the conflict. Heavy weapons have reached the area. Forecasts are not very optimistic".

Intersos has three international professionals working on projects in Libya. They are presently in Tunisia and Italy. But about 30 Libyan employees working in the children's centre near Tripoli airport have been able to continue their activities,

with due precautions. These include making little use of social media and mobile phones to circulate videos and images of the conflict, as all communication is under constant control.

