



STATE OF KNIGHTS OF THE
SOVEREIGN ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF
FEDERATION OF THE AUTONOMOUS PRIORIES
KNIGHTS OF MALTA (KMFAP)

Magisterial House

REASONS WHY KMFAP DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE SO CALLED SMOM

INTRODUCTION

Our Sovereign Order and State - the **Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem - Knights of Malta, KMFAP** - , as the ONLY SOVEREIGN branch and LEGAL and DIRECT descendant of the Old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also known as “Knights Hospitaller” or “Knights of Malta”, by the present declares that **HAS NOTHING TO DO with the so called “Sovereign Military Order Of Malta”, also known by the acronym “SMOM”, (more recently designated as “ORDER OF MALTA”) or as the “Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta”** (*in Italian Sovrano Militare Ordine Ospedaliero di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme di Rodi e di Malta*), and KMFAP has, for too long time, been the target of repeated defamatory lies circulated directly and indirectly by the aforementioned SMOM (Order of Malta) or by its members, mainly accusing us of trying to illude our Knights by posing as if we were the SMOM (Order of Malta) and impersonating them.

Since our Sovereign Order and State of Knights is the **FULLY LEGAL** and DIRECT descendant of the old and glorious Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, recognised as such not only by the sentence of the Italian Court of 1955 and also recognised as a Sovereign State by several recent court sentences given by different European countries, but also INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNISED AS A SOVEREIGN STATE BY SEVERAL OTHER STATES with whom our Sovereign State maintains full Diplomatic Relations in accordance with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, we have no reasons whatsoever to pretend to be anyone else but whom we are, therefore, as we have continuously been accused of pretending to impersonate or to use the image of the SMOM (Order of Malta), by the present Declaration the Magisterial House of the Federation (KMFAP) has decided to start **informing its Knights and Dames and the public in general about the reasons why KMFAP does not want to be confused with the so called “SMOM” (Order of Malta).**



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NOTA BENE: The present Declaration is **only based on facts and on news published by credible media** and - as the information it contains is dispersed and published in different occasions, in different countries, by different newspapers and publications - will be interesting to gather all this in one only place such as in our web sites and pages, and for this purpose we will start publishing the main reasons why we do not want to be confused with the so called “SMOM” (Order of Malta) or with **any other branch – legal or illegal – of the said Order.**

Furthermore, the Federation (KMFAP) declares that will take all the necessary measures to defend its dignity, its good name and reputation, so, for that will take to court all of those who attempt to produce any defamatory lies about us.

REASON 1 – DECORATING FASCISTS AND NAZIS

We do not want to be confused with the “SMOM” (Order of Malta), because we did not and we would not, in any circumstances, decorate people like these:

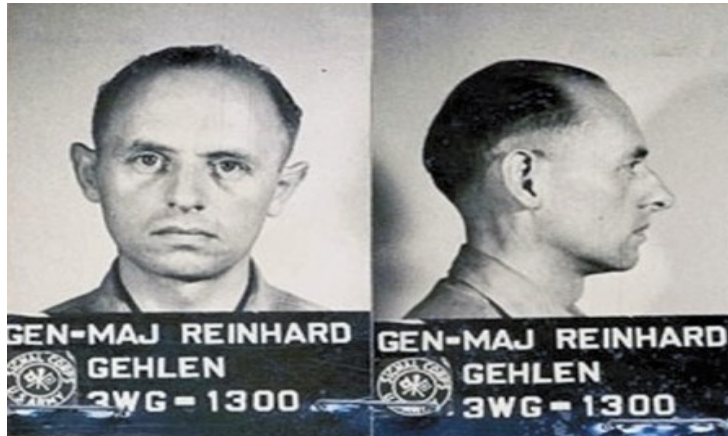


Benito Mussolini



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We also did not decorate **General Reinhard Gehlen the Chief of Hitler's Intelligence:** instead, the two past Grand Masters: HEH Prince Ligny Luxembourg and HEH Archbishop De Valitch had fought the Nazis with the French Resistance and had been decorated for heroic acts during the World War II.

REASON 2 – SCANDALS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

ITALY –

- Our Federation (KMFAP) has never had scandals published in the newspapers for NOT PAYING the legal obligations and taxes like the case of judicial inquest by Mr Fabio Trizzino - at the time General Director of the Italian INPS -, due to the SMOM's Association (ASIMOM) not paying their due taxes.
- Lucio Gelli the famous leader of the P2 lodge was said to be a member of the SMOM (Order of Malta) ...
- The Italian press published years ago the news that Andreotti, Guzzanti and Treu, among other key political persons, were under inquest for giving too much fiscal support to SMOM's Association.

LATVIA –

We also had no scandals like the SMOM (Order of Malta) had in 2008 in Latvia, where a local newspaper published photos of the General Director of SMOM in Latvia who sold all land property belonging to SMOM to a private person...

First the SMOM stopped their activities in Latvia and later their General Director sold all assets for his personal benefice.

This big scandal in Latvia was called „Selling trust” and was published in several Latvian newspapers.



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ALBANIA –

In 2007 the then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Albania told to one of our Knights that SMOM's (Order of Malta) Ambassador had just been kicked out from Albania due to some fraud!!

ANGOLA –

- In August of the year 2015 the Embassy of SMOM (Order of Malta) to Angola requested a Diplomatic ID Card for Mr. Carlos Alberto De Espiney Pinto Ferreira, as an Economic Counsellor of SMOM Embassy. However, such request was denied and Mr Ferreira was expelled from the country by the Angolan Foreign Ministry.

- The Ambassador of the SMOM (Order of Malta) to the Republic of Angola, Antonio Maria de Melo, was mentioned years ago in the Portuguese Press due to an alleged fraud of MILLIONS made to the then Minister for Defence of Angola (and now the President of the Republic). This fraud – in accordance with the Portuguese newspapers – was about the sale of systems to ensure security in mobile phones communications, was paid by the Angolan authorities but allegedly never delivered...

- The Ambassador Elisabeth Cimbrão, who was at the time the Angolan Ambassador to Brussels, complained to the authorities and to one of our Knights, that the SMOM's Ambassador Melo had made her to lose **ALL of her money** by promising to her high interest rates in applications of funds...

EAST TIMOR –

- In 2018 an insurance fraud in East Timor with the Ambassador of the SMOM (Order of Malta) to this country Egbert Collin Yap, was revealed by the news Agency NOTICIA in a Press Note in Portuguese language, that the Central Bank of East Timor presented a formal complaint to the Attorney General of Timor against the Board of Directors of the main Insurance Company of the Country, named NITL, for criminal conduct of the Directors, namely Fraud and Money Laundry, International Mismanagement, False Information and Practice of activities that have nothing to do with the statutes of the company.

The Central Bank also informed that it has imposed fines of 1,2 Million USD (a real fortune for the country) to the NITL company and to its Directors.

This NITL Company is a Timor Company owned by 2 foreigners and by a company from Singapore, and the accusations were very serious and they become public.

The Managing Director of NITL Insurance Company was no other than His Excellency Mr Collin Yap, the Ambassador of SMOM (Order of Malta) !



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PORTUGAL –

In 2011 Duarte Braganza, the Bailiff of SMOM (Order of Malta) for Portugal, declared, during a visit to Damascus that the President Bashir al-Assad, was “a man full of good intentions” ...

The Same Duarte Braganza announced publicly, when he married, that for his Honey Moon he would travel to Angola, “**to visit Hospitals being built in the South of Angola sponsored by the SMOM**”, but the truth is that NO HOSPITAL (or even a small Clinic) WAS EVER BUILT there or sponsored by SMOM (Order of Malta) and Duarte Braganza knew very well that it was not true...if he didn't know, who lied to him ???...

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The above facts are only some of the facts that we have in the files of our KMFAP Intelligence Unit.

Of course, these facts, separately, can pass unnoticed, but together they define a pattern of criminal behaviour and His Holiness Pope Leon XIV in his recent message very wisely warned the SMOM (Order of Malta) about honesty by saying:

“ ...However, to achieve a good end, the means must be good; in this area temptation can easily present itself under the guise of good, as an illusion of being able to achieve the good ends one proposes with means that might later turn out not to be in conformity with God's will. Jesus too was tempted in this, when the evil one “showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence” (Mt 4:8), and promised to give them to him, if he adored him. But then Jesus would no longer have been the suffering Servant of God, who in humility divested himself of every earthly power in order to conquer, with love, the love of man. Jesus reaffirms God's supremacy, even in this particularly insidious temptation, and does not sell himself to the power of this world. If he had given in to temptation, Jesus would have adopted illicit methods and would not have achieved the goal the Father had set for his mission.

The Order of Malta, throughout history, has adopted different means according to the contingencies, but these must be examined in their current validity to achieve the goal of tuitio fide and obsequium pauperum.”

The Pope also warns the SMOM: “...If such prerogatives were to be used by you, by allowing yourselves to be drawn into worldliness, perhaps without being aware of it, precisely because of the illusion that worldliness implies, you would run the risk of acting by losing sight of the end.”



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REASON 3 – SOVEREIGNTY OF KMFAP AND SOVEREIGNTY OF SMOM

(Order of Malta)

CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY –

“That Nation is free which is not subject to any government of any other Nation.”

A further accepted definition of Sovereignty is expressed as “the State exercising sole authority on its people; having monopoly of legislation; monopoly of constraint on its nationals; and monopoly of jurisdiction.”

Sovereignty, in simple terms essentially means that the state has the ultimate power to govern itself without external interference. In any state, sovereignty is assigned to the person, body or institution that has the ultimate authority to change existing laws.

In political theory Sovereignty is a substantive term designating supreme legitimate authority over some polity, while in International Law, sovereignty is the exercise of power by a state.

According to the principles of the **Westphalian system**, every State, no matter how large or small, has an equal right to sovereignty. The principle of non-interference was further developed in the 18th century.

SOVEREIGNTY OF THE SO CALLED SMOM (Order of Malta)

According to the Judgement’s **definitive Sentence** passed on the 24th January 1953 in the Vatican City by the Court of Cardinals presided by H.E. Cardinal Eugene Tisserant, Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church, instituted on 10 December 1951 by request of Pope Pius XII, the “**prerogatives inherent to the Order (Order of Malta) [...] as a subject of international law [...], which are proper to sovereignty, [...] do not constitute in the Order that complex of powers and prerogatives, which is proper to sovereign entities in the full sense of the word**”.

The same sentence defines that the Order of Malta is “**a religious Order, approved by the Holy See [...]. It pursues not only the sanctification of its members, but also religious, charitable and welfare purposes**”.

Moreover, this sentence makes clear that “**The two qualities of sovereign Order and religious Order [...] are intimately connected. The quality of the Institution as a sovereign Order is functional, that is, directed to ensuring the achievement of the Order’s ends and its development in the world**” (*Acta Apostolicae Sedis* 45 [1953], 765-767).

The above-mentioned sentence rules that, in spite of some States, such as the Holy See itself, have recognized Sovereignty to **the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM)** (Order of Malta), **this is NOT recognized by the Cardinals Court**, in the point 1 of the said sentence, due to the fact that the **SMOM (Order of Malta)** “**do not enjoy the complex of powers and prerogatives of a Sovereign State in the true sense**”.



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In point number 2 of this **definitive Sentence**, the **nature of the SMOM** is considered by this Cardinal's Court as being a **Religious Order** (NOTE OF THE AUTHOR: like the order of the Franciscans, the Jesuits or of the Dominicans)

In point 3 of its **definitive Sentence** the Cardinal's Court **defines this Order** (Order of Malta) **as dependent of the Holy See**, and in accordance with the **Canonic Law** this **Order must stay in the dependence of the Sacred Congregation for Religious**.

NOTA BENE: - The Cardinal's Court refers to the SMOM by the name "Sovereign Military Order of Malta" which proves that it was the ONLY official name of this Order, and only much later they have registered all the other names

- In January 2017 His Holiness Pope Francis expelled the Grand Master of the SMOM (Order of Malta) and appointed a delegate to replace him

- On the 3rd September 2022 His Holiness Pope Francis wisely took the decision of dissolving the leadership of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) and of appointing a provisional government for them, besides imposing a new Constitutional Charter on them.

Here is a transcription of the text in English of the Papal Decree as published in the [*Bulletin of the Holy See Press Office*](#), on 3 September 2022

[Francis Motu Proprio](#)

POPE FRANCIS

**DECREE FOR THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM, OF RHODES AND OF MALTA (S.M.O.M.)**

The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta has always enjoyed special protection from the Apostolic See.

The Roman Pontiffs on numerous occasions – starting with Pope Paschal II, who approved the Order with the Bull Pie postulatio voluntatis, assuring it of protection and granting it rights and privileges - have intervened to affirm its identity, to maintain its operations, to help overcome crises, and to guarantee the existence and development of the Hospitaller Order, including its sovereign prerogatives in the international sphere.

According to the Judgement of 24 January 1953, issued by the Court of Cardinals instituted on 10 December 1951 with the chirograph of my predecessor Pope Pius XII, of venerable memory, the "prerogatives inherent to the Order [...] as a subject of international law [...], which are proper to sovereignty, [...] do not constitute in the Order that complex of powers and prerogatives, which is proper to sovereign entities in the full sense of the word". Indeed, the Order is "a religious Order, approved by the Holy See [...]. It pursues not only the sanctification of its members, but also religious, charitable and welfare purposes". Moreover, "The two qualities of sovereign Order and religious Order [...] are intimately connected. The quality of the Institution as a sovereign Order is functional, that is, directed to ensuring the achievement of the Order's ends and its development in the world" (Acta Apostolicae Sedis 45 [1953], 765-767).

Therefore, being a religious Order, it depends, in its various articulations, on the Holy See.



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With paternal solicitude and concern, I have followed the progress of the Order over these years, appreciating the works carried out in various parts of the world, also thanks to the generous contribution of Members and Volunteers, and also noting the need to initiate a profound spiritual, moral and institutional renewal of the entire Order, especially and not only of the Members of the First Class, but also of those of the Second Class.

To this end, I entrusted my Special Delegate, Cardinal Silvano Maria Tomasi, C.S., with this important work of reform, as well as the revision of the Constitutional Charter and the Melitense Code, and the preparation of the Extraordinary General Chapter. Many steps have been taken, but likewise many impediments and difficulties have been encountered along the way.

After having listened to and engaged in dialogue with various representatives of the Order, the time has come to complete the renewal process initiated, in fidelity to the original charism. To safeguard the unity and greater good of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta:

I PROMULGATE

The new Constitutional Charter and the relative Melitense Code, approved by myself, ordering their immediate entry into force, and

I DECREE

- 1. The revocation of the High Offices;*
- 2. the dissolution of the present Sovereign Council;*
- 3. the constitution of a provisional Sovereign Council, consisting of the following members*
 - H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau - Grand Commander*
 - H.E. Riccardo Paternò di Montecupo - Grand Chancellor*
 - H.E. Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis - Grand Hospitaller*
 - H.E. Fabrizio Colonna - Receiver of the Common Treasure;**and by:*
 - H.E. Fra' Roberto Viazso*
 - H.E. Fra' Richard Wolff*
 - H.E. Fra' John Eidinow*
 - H.E. Fra' João Augusto Esquivel Freire de Andrade*
 - H.E. Fra' Mathieu Dupont*
 - H.E. Antonio Zanardi Landi*
 - H.E. Michael Grace*
 - H.E. Francis Joseph McCarthy*
 - H.E. Mariano Hugo Windisch-Graetz;*
- 4. the convocation of the Extraordinary General Chapter for 25 January 2023, the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, which will be held in accordance with the new Regulations approved by myself. The Extraordinary General Chapter will be prepared by my Special Delegate and the Lieutenant Grand Master, assisted by the Provisional Sovereign Council;*

I confirm all the faculties attributed in the past to my Special Delegate until the conclusion of the Extraordinary General Chapter, which will be presided over jointly by him and by the Lieutenant of the Grand Master.

This, notwithstanding any rule or provision of law to the contrary, as well as any privilege or custom, even worthy of note, that may be contrary to this decision of mine.

Finally, I decree that this Decree shall enter into force on today's date and be notified to the entire Order.

From the Vatican, 3 September 2022

FRANCIS



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It is important to see that in his Decree, His Holiness The Pope recalls how “**the prerogatives of the Order** (Order of Malta) **do not constitute the set of powers and prerogatives proper to Sovereign entities**”... “**in the full sense of the word**,” as stipulated on the 24th January 1953 in the sentence issued by the Tribunal of Cardinals which clearly states that the **SMOM** (Order of Malta) **is a religious Order**, therefore, it “**depends in its various forms on the Holy See**.”

This Decree of the His Holiness Pope Francis does not need any reasoning nor it arises any doubts about the Sovereignty of the SMOM as a State... because it is clear to all that no State can be considered Sovereign if and when the Head of a Church (in this case the Pope) and/or the Head of a State (in this case the Pope as Head of the State of the Holy See), can dictate rules about that State's Sovereignty, can dismiss the leadership of that State by a Decree, can impose a new Constitution, can impose and appoint a new leadership (Government) to that State and has the power to appoint a Cardinal as His representative to control the new Government and to co-preside to their “National Assembly”.

In face of all of these facts any pretensions of the SMOM (Order of Malta) to be called and considered as a Sovereign State are null and voided by the Pope himself and by the Cardinal's Court.

More recently, on the 24th June 2025, His Holiness Pope Leon XIV in a message addressed to SMOM made clear the mission of that Order :

*“Do not limit yourselves to meeting the needs of the poor, but announce to them God's love with the word and witness. If this were lacking, **the Order would lose its religious nature and would be reduced to being a philanthropic organization**”.*

In this message His Holiness Pope Leon XIV makes several references to the SMOM (Order of Malta) as a Religious Order and recognises that it had enjoyed “... **a very special type of sovereignty** ...”

Furthermore, in his message His Holiness Pope Leon XIV also warns the SMOM:

“If such prerogatives were to be used by you, by allowing yourselves to be drawn into worldliness, perhaps without being aware of it, precisely because of the illusion that worldliness implies, you would run the risk of acting by losing sight of the end.”



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THE STATUS OF THE KMFAP AS A SOVEREIGN ENTITY IN INTERNATIONAL LAW

The United Nations, as a supra-national body created by agreements between Sovereign States, enjoys all the privileges of Sovereignty as a Sovereign subject of International Law, but has neither territory, nor population.

Also, the European Union has acquired a similar status, without having territory or population, and has established its own Diplomatic Corps that enjoys the privileges of immunity and freedom of communication accorded to the Representatives of States.

The Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, also known as “**Knights of Malta**” or by the acronym **KMFAP**, as a Sovereign State, has also been characterized as a **Sovereign Persona** - since it does not possess any territorial “*imperium*” - and issues its own Passports, which are accepted even by States with whom KMFAP does not have diplomatic relations, since the non-existence of diplomatic relations between the KMFAP and certain States does not imply that those States do not recognize the Order’s Sovereign status and several Court sentences given by the courts of Law of different European Union States is a proof of this.

Diplomats in the service of the KMFAP are given the same privileges of freedom of communication and diplomatic immunity as the representatives of all other Sovereign States, and it concedes similar privileges to the representatives of all foreign States accredited to it. KMFAP also enjoys the right to make “international agreements” which may be characterized as “treaties”.

Furthermore, KMFAP as a subject of International Law, has neither abandoned or gave in its independence to another State, nor is it subject to the “protection” or to the intermediation of any other Sovereign State or Religious Organisation and is not dependent economically or politically on another State or religious Organisation.

The Autonomous Priories that form part of the Federation (KMFAP) have never ceased to exist, never had an interregnum during its all history.

CONCLUSION:

Among all the legal descendants of the old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, KMFAP is the ONLY ONE to enjoy full and total Sovereignty.



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REASON 4 – COURT DECISIONS

The following are the legal documents on which the legitimacy of the Federation (KMFAP) is based:

Sentence passed on the **17th December 1899, by the court of St. Petersburg**, Russia, recognizing to His Royal Highness Prince Nicholas de Ligny-Luxembourg de Lascaris Ventimille, the Hereditary rights as the Head of the House Ligny-Luxembourg and of the Commandery of Svernik-Starolessve of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

The Cardinal's Court (the Highest Legal Instance of the Catholic Church) Definitive Sentence, above-mentioned in Reason 3, forced one of the members of the Federation of Autonomous Priories to request to the Italian Courts to rule on the legitimacy of rights of His Highness Prince Ligny Luxembourg, on the rights of the Federation of Autonomous Priories (in Italian language: Priorati Autonomi Reuniti) **as legal, legitimate and direct descendant of the Old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem** and also about his legitimacy to confer knighthood upon new Knights.

The Italian Court passed a very long and detailed Sentence, later passed as **FINAL SENTENCE**, very well founded and reasoned, dated 25/06/1955, and was very clear when ruling in page 6 of the said final sentence the following:

*“ ... Evidently the Cardinal's Court had the intention of dealing **exclusively with the matter of the new papal institution and not of the old Order represented by the several Priories** ...”*

further down this final court sentence mentions the confusion made by the “papal Order” saying clearly :

*“...always erroneously **confusing the papal religious branch with the old and authentic Order**”*

IMPORTANT NOTE: THIS SHOWS WHO IS CREATING CONFUSION

In the page 10 the FINAL sentence given by this court rules and recognizes to His Highness Prince Ligny Luxembourg his rights **de Jure Sanguinis, de Jus Magestatis** and **de Jus Honorum**.

Also on page 10 of this sentence the Italian Court recognizes to His Highness Prince Ligny-Luxembourg, the rear predecessor of the actual Grand Master, his rights **de Jure Sanguinis, de Jus Magestatis e de Jus Honorum**.



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NOTES:

- The Order above referred as SMOM is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta also known among other names as the Order of Malta, Sovereign and Military Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta, or by the acronym of SMOM.
- The designation above corresponds to the Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem,
- Priorati Autonomi Reuniti as it was called then in Italian – also known by the acronym of KMFAP
- This sentence was later on followed by several other more recent sentences given by European Courts all recognizing to KMFAP its rights to Sovereignty.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The reason why the Italian Court in its Sentence refers to the SMOM as “*Evidently the Cardinal’s Court had the intention of dealing **exclusively with the matter of the new papal institution***” is probably due to the following fact:

Extract from the website of the so called “Sovereign Military Order of Malta”:

71	Fra’ Ferdinand von Hompesch zu Bolheim	1797 – 1802
1800		
72	Emperor Paul I of Russia	1799 – 1801 (de facto)
73	Fra’ Giovanni Battista Tommasi	1803 – 1805
74	Fra’ Giovanni Battista Ceschi a Santa Croce	1879 – 1905

As can be seen, the so called “ORDER OF MALTA” admits that between 1805 and 1879, for 74 years, they had no leadership and no Grand Master, **being re-created only in 1879** by His Holiness the Pope. This historical fact is more than interesting and raises questions: why did the “Sovereign Military Order of Malta” not have a Grand Master for such a remarkably long period – between 1805 and 1879? The absence of leadership for 74 years is not only unusual for any chivalric order and certainly not in any State, but particularly striking for one with such a long and illustrious tradition. The answer lies partly in the political turmoil of the era.



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After Napoleon seized Malta in 1798, the Order lost its sovereign territory. Although Grand Master Giovanni Battista Tommasi was elected in exile in 1803, his death in 1805 left the Order in a vulnerable position, without a recognized homeland and without a clear mechanism for electing a successor. As a result, the leadership passed to a series of **Lieutenants of the Grand Master**, who held only provisional authority and lacked the full Sovereign legitimacy of a Grand Master. This period of uncertainty, compounded by the shifting political landscape of 19th-century Europe, delayed the re-establishment of full leadership until 1879, when Pope Leo XIII appointed Fra' Giovanni Battista Ceschi a Santa Croce as Grand Master, restoring the Order's traditional structure, but also under a new designation as "Sovereign Military Order of Malta" being a fact that the "Order of Malta" historically has never existed and the designation for this branch was given by the Pope.

This leadership vacuum may also explain symbolic omissions - such as the absence of the Maltese Grand Collar from Emperor Franz Joseph I's official 1850 portrait commissioned by Pest City Council, painted by the Venetian Giacomo Marastoni, who lived and worked in Pest. These paintings are currently on display at the Budapest History Museum (*see the photos attached below*), as part of a huge retrospective exhibition. Without a Grand Master and with the Order's status diminished, the insignia may have been considered politically irrelevant or inappropriate at the time. **However, the Autonomous Priories have never ceased to exist and had no interregnum!**





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On the 7th January 1944, **His Royal Highness Vittorio Emanuele III, King of Italy**, by His **Royal Decree, given and signed after consulting His Ministerial Council**, in the City of Brindisi, Italy, and **ratified by His Ministers, all of them in full performance of their Governmental duties and capability**, in the **Article 1** of the said Royal Decree, **legally recognizes in Italy the Priory of the Most Holy Trinity of Villedieu, (which had remained autonomous after the split of the Old Order), as well as recognizes this Priory as a legal and direct legitimate descendant of the old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem.**

In Article n° 2 of the said Royal Decree, His Majesty the **King of Italy has given to this Priory several rights in the State of Italy**, among which there was a place of its own in the **Italian State Protocol.**

Later on, the Priory of the Most Holy Trinity of Villedieu requested officially to Join the Federation (KMFAP) as an Autonomous Priory reinforcing by this the Federation's legitimacy.

In the light of the International Law the State of Knights of the Federation (KMFAP) is also recognised by the multiple States with whom it maintains for more than 30 years full Diplomatic Relations at Ambassadorial and Consular levels in accordance with the respective Vienna Conventions.

It was not KMFAP, but the SMOM (Order of Malta) that has lost in 29/09/2011 in Florida a court case for trade mark infringements...

We recommend the reading of the following book:

Treachery and Corruption in the Order of Malta

see link: <file:///Volumes/Public/AAAA%20FEDERATION%20-%20KMFAP/INTELIGENCE/SMOM/Treachery%20Among%20the%20Knights%20of%20Malta.webarchive>



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REASON 5 – ORDER OF MALTA HAS NEVER EXISTED

In reality the so called “**Sovereign Military Order of Malta**” using the acronym **SMOM**, (Order of Malta) as well as the so called “**Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta**” (*in Italian Sovrano Militare Ordine Ospedaliero di San Giovanni di Gerusalemme di Rodi e di Malta*) in historical terms, **has NEVER existed**, because the Old Order was called “Order of Saint John of Jerusalem”, also known as “Order of Saint John”, as Knights Hospitaller or, more recently known as “Knights of Malta”.

The new designations above-mentioned starts appearing, as far as know, after the time of the preparation of the Treaty of Amiens, that would give the Archipelago of Malta back to the Knights of Saint John, which the Maltese population refused and preferred to stay under the crown of the United Kingdom until their independence...

Nevertheless, in all the old Historical books the Order is mentioned by its correct name of Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, never by any of the several names that the Catholic branch use presently.

The Federation (KMFAP) has always used the historical name of the Order, plus the designation that indicated that it is a Federation of the Autonomous Priories and makes reference to the Sovereignty of the old Order – gained at Rhodes in 1308, and later recognized by the Treaty of Amiens and has never ceased to exist with or without territory – and to its own Sovereignty internationally recognised.

CONCLUSION:

As the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) (Order of Malta) and also the “Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta” have NEVER historically existed, and - as seen above - the Sovereignty of this group does not exist, their historical and sovereign claims are null and void.

REASON 6 – TRADE MARKS, SIMILAR NAMES AND SYMBOLS

As the name indicates, Trade Marks are defined by the Oxford Languages as : “a symbol, word, or words legally registered or established by use as representing a company or product”. This is the reason why the States – **REAL STATES** – do not register the name of their countries or the respective symbols as Trade Marks, this is also the reason why KMFAP has not registered the name of its State or its symbols as Trade Marks... However, we have noticed that the Trademarks registered by the SMOM (Order of Malta) under their several names, appears to be of an Organisation, not of a State, so they are the first to abdicate of their Statehood...



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Also the registration of the so called Malta Cross (which in reality is the Cross of Amalfi) as a Trade Mark is, to say the minimum, an abuse of using historical symbols, such as this one that has no practical value as all can easily see only by a short walk through the streets of Malta...

As a legal, legitimate and DIRECT descendant of the Old Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Federation (KMFAP) has all the LEGAL AND HISTORICAL rights of using its name, historical symbols, coats of arms and colours.

The Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta, as an Order, **uses always and in all occasions and instances its full and ONLY ONE NAME** and the designation “State of the Knights” in all the official documents or, in some texts we refer to ourselves - to facilitate reading - the abbreviated designation of “Federation of the Priories” or the acronym of KMFAP, **which are both NOT confusable with any other branch, legal or illegal of the old Order of St. John .**

The name of the Federation of Priories describes – as it must and should – its **Legal and Juridical** nature (a Federation of Autonomous Priories) followed by its **historical, legitimate and direct ancestry** (Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem), as well as by its vulgar alias (Knights of Malta) but **all in one ONLY name**. Therefore, the name of the Federation is a very correct designation not a fantasy name.

The Federation of Priories can not and shall not be confused with an entity, which historically has never existed: “The Order of Malta”, since the old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem created in the Holy Land, has NEVER had the name of ORDER OF MALTA, although its knights were known first as the “Hospitaller Knights”, or the “Knights of Saint John” and only much later – after their heroic defence during the Great Siege of Malta (from the 18th May to the 8th September 1565) - as Knights of Malta (but this designation refers to the Knights and not to the historical name of the Order)

If States with similar names could not exist, that would create a true chaos in the International Right and International Policies, since several States due to historical or geographical reasons have names much more similar and bound to be confused to others than the Federation of Autonomous Priories, the State of the Knights and the acronym KMFAP with the so called Military Order of Malta or SMOM or any other name they use.

Still, no one accuses these States of trying to be confused with or to imitate other States, and nobody expects them to change their names...



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Some examples:

- Republic of Korea > Democratic Republic of Korea
- Republic of Ireland > Northern Ireland
- Republic of Congo > Democratic Republic of Congo
- Guyana > French Guyana
- Guinea Conakry > Guinea Bissau > Equatorial Guinea
- North Ossetia > South Ossetia
- Sudan > South Sudan
- Niger > Nigeria
- Slovakia > Slovenia
- Ireland > Iceland
- Macedonia > North Macedonia

Similar Flags

Chad and Romania

The differences between Chad and Romania's flags are slight, and only in colour. Both feature blue, yellow, and red stripes (in that order from left to right). But the colours are different! For example, the blue on Chad's flag is hexadecimal code #00205B while the blue on Romania's is #002B7F.

Flag of Chad



Flag of Romania





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Andorra and Moldova

Both Andorra and Moldova feature the blue, yellow, and red stripes like Chad and Romania. Though, they have their coat of arms smack dab in the middle to differentiate themselves.

Flag of Andorra



Flag of Moldova



Netherlands and Luxembourg

Flag of the Netherlands



Flag of Luxembourg



Croatia and Paraguay

Flag of Croatia



Flag of Paraguay





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Russia, Slovenia, and Slovakia

Separated by a coat of arms, their tricolour is also Netherlands and Luxembourg's reordered.

Flag of Russia



Flag of Slovenia



Flag of Slovakia



Bahrain and Qatar

Flag of Bahrain



Flag of Qatar





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Guinea and Mali

Like Chad and Romania, the flags of Guinea and Mali feature similarly coloured strips. Their shades differ slightly, but the prime difference is the order. Guinea's flag is basically Mali's flag but in reverse (and vice versa).

Senegal's flag looks a lot like Mali's too—but they have a star in the middle

Flag of Guinea



Flag of Mali



Ireland and Ivory Coast

Just like Guinea and Mali, the flags of Ireland and Ivory Coast are mirrors of each other. So similar are their flags that in March 2018, the IAAF's World Indoor Championship *forgot to put up Ivory Coast's flag*. Winning the gold medal for the women's 60 meter dash, Ivory Coast's Murielle Ahoure just picked up Ireland's flag and flipped it around.

Flag of Ireland



Flag of Ivory Coast





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Monaco, Indonesia, and Poland

Monaco and Indonesia's red and white stripes come in the same order, but slightly different shades—just like Chad and Romania. But this time we can throw in the Polish flag as a bonus! Like Guinea and Mali, it's a mirror of Monaco or Indonesia.

The symbolism behind Monaco and Indonesia's flags differ, though. Monaco references their coat of arms, while Indonesia's is tied to its association to the Majapahit empire.

Flag of Monaco



Flag of Indonesia



Flag of Poland



Kenya and South Sudan

With a similar black, white, red, and green stripe pattern, the flags of Kenya and South Sudan are differentiated by a shield and star, respectively. The stripes on both flags share the same symbolic meaning—representing Pan-Africanism.



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Flag of Kenya



Flag of South Sudan



Italy and Mexico

Flag of Italy



Flag of Mexico



Haiti and Liechtenstein

They didn't figure out how similar their flags were until the 1936 Olympics.

Flag of Haiti



Flag of Liechtenstein





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India and Niger

Flag of India



Flag of Niger



Peru and Canada

Flag of Peru



Flag of Canada



Bolivia and Ghana

Flag of Bolivia



Flag of Ghana





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Hungary and Tajikistan

Flag of Hungary



Flag of Tajikistan



Argentina, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras

Flag of Argentina



Flag of El Salvador



Flag of Nicaragua



Flag of Honduras





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Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Syria

Flag of Egypt



Flag of Iraq



Flag of Yemen



Flag of Sudan



Flag of Syria





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Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador

Flag of Columbia



Flag of Venezuela



Flag of Ecuador



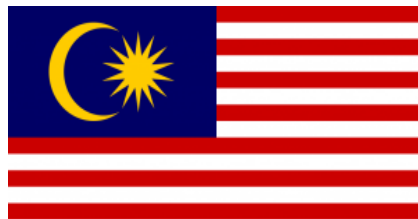
The United States of America, Malaysia, and Liberia

They each feature a different number of stripes (13, 14, and 11 respectively), but from a distance you might not be counting. The stripes also mean different things. America's stripes represent the 13 original colonies, Malaysia's represent [its member states](#), while Liberia's represent the signatories of the Liberian Declaration of Independence.

Flag of the USA



Flag of Malaysia



Flag of Liberia





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Norway and Iceland

Sharing the same design and colours (but coloured a little differently), Norway and Iceland's flags are similar thanks to their Danish origins.

Flag of Norway



Flag of Iceland



Australia and New Zealand

Their flags are similar thanks to the whole “being British colonies once” thing.

Flag of Australia



Flag of New Zealand





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REASON 7 – SMOM AND THE UNITED NATIONS

If one visits the website of the United Nations will see that the ONLY 2 States who have the Statute of Observers to the United Nations are the Holy See (Vatican State) and the State of Palestine (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/non-member-states>)

In the page dedicated to Intergovernmental-and-other-organisations (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/intergovernmental-and-other-organizations>)

after all the Intergovernmental Organizations we find the list of Other Entities who participate as Observers and among them is the so called SMOM:

Other entities having receive a standing invitation to participate as Observers in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly and maintaining Permanent Offices at Headquarters

- International Committee of the Red Cross
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Olympic Committee
- Inter-Parliamentary Union
- Sovereign Order of Malta

In conclusion, the so called SMOM (Order of Malta) are NOT Observers to the UN as A STATE, as they make people believe – but as an International Organization like the Olympic Committee!!!! Furthermore, the SMOM (Order of Malta) does not observe the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations, mainly in what concerns the Freedom of Religion of their members.

As a Sovereign State, the Federation of Priories (KMFAP) has never requested to be a member of the United Nations, because it has no political objectives, but is an inclusive and non-discriminatory State, abiding and observing the all the principles enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, namely its:

Article 1 “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. (...)”

*Article 2 “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, **religion**, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. (...)”*

*Article 18 “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and **religion**; (...)”.*



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FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The Federation of Autonomous Priories of the Sovereign Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knights of Malta (KMFAP) and the State of Knights, **as direct, legal and Sovereign descendant of the old order of St John**, has its own Government appointed by the Grand Master and Head of State, who is freely elected by its citizens - its Knights and Dames -, has its own Constitutional Charter and **is totally free** from all sorts of dependences, either economic, political or religious, so it **does not accept and does not want to be confused** with any other institution or Order which is – or pretends to be – legitimate descendant of the Old Order of Saint John of Jerusalem or with any other claiming the same rights, **because such confusion - having in consideration the very active and valuable self-supported Humanitarian work of KMFAP in many countries - only would result in a demerit for the Federation and a merit for others**, which, of course, KMFAP refuses.

KMFAP MAGISTERIAL HOUSE
25th July 2025