

FROM ITALY

War reporter on a 'peace' mission

CYNTHIA CHANDRAN

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Fausto Biloslavo, an Italian war correspondent who has reported from war-torn areas like Afghanistan, the Balkan, Africa and the Middle East, is on a 'peace' mission to Kerala, as he put it, and what brought him here is the Enrica Lexie firing incident.

Incidentally, 50-year-old Biloslavo from Trieste, north eastern Italy, does not have to don camouflages or bullet-proof vests while he moves around here, reporting first-hand on the 'Enrica Lexie' episode and also on the Neyyattinkara bypoll for *il Giornale*, the second most popular Italian newspaper which belongs to former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's media empire.

"I am here to cover the case relating to the (Italian) marines (now jailed for the killing of two fishermen). While going around the city, I came to know of the (Neyyattinkara) by-election and decided to cover the campaigning there. For, *il Giornale's* readers, many of them senior citizens, would love to read about the political parties here, especially the CPM, as Communists had a strong base in Italy until the fall of the Berlin wall," said Biloslavo.

Biloslavo said that when the additional solicitor general told the Supreme Court that Kerala had no jurisdiction to detain 'Enrica



Fausto Biloslavo in front of Poojappura central prison in Thiruvananthapuram.

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Latore Massimiliano and Salvatore Girone, but also for the 60 million citizens of Italy.

"If it's true, it will be very good," was how the Italians back home responded to this. Italians believe that the Italian government under Mario Monti had not done enough for the release of the marines, he said.

According to Biloslavo, another Italian veteran marine named Castro has been meeting the marines daily as a volunteer for the last four weeks to raise their morale.

"The marines have got good company in the form of prisoner Mani, who is serving life imprisonment in the cell adjoining the marines'. Mani translates news he listens from the FM radio to the Italian marines and Mani gets Italian espresso coffee in return", said a smiling Biloslavo.

Since Biloslavo is one of the most prolific modern Italian writers on conflicts, there is a fairly good chance he will come up with a book on the Italian