

Brigata Sassari soldier saves elderly woman from knife-wielding robber. 18-year-old arrested

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He was on his way home after finishing his duty when he came upon a scene that could have had dramatic consequences: a young man with his face covered by a balaclava was threatening an elderly woman with a knife in an attempt to rob her.

The servicemember who intervened was **Antonio Francesco Mocci, a Graduato of the 5° Reggimento Genio Guastatori of the Brigata Meccanizzata "Sassari"**. Late on Friday, November 6, in Bosa, in the province of Oristano, he did not hesitate to step in to defend the victim.

His prompt action stopped the attempted robbery and forced the attacker to flee. But the servicemember's contribution did not end there: after assisting the elderly woman, Mocci alerted the Carabinieri, providing information that proved crucial in tracking down and arresting the alleged perpetrator, an 18-year-old man.

A news incident that quickly drew the attention of the press and institutions, including the Ministry of Defense, which publicly highlighted the value of his actions.

Thwarted robbery: elderly woman threatened with a knife

The incident took place late on November 6, when the servicemember, off duty, was returning home.

Along the way, Mocci noticed a young man whose face was concealed by a balaclava threatening an elderly woman with a knife.

It was a clearly dangerous situation, with the victim facing an armed attacker.

The Graduato of the Brigata “Sassari”, immediately realizing what was happening, came to the woman's aid, **managing to drive off the robber and prevent the crime from being carried out.**

It was a swift and decisive intervention, undertaken despite the presence of a bladed weapon, which removed the elderly woman from danger.

According to accounts published by ANSA, La Nuova Sardegna and L'Unione Sarda, the attacker was an 18-year-old who had concealed his face with a balaclava.

More than assistance: information provided to the Carabinieri proved decisive

After driving off the attacker, the servicemember attended to the woman, providing the necessary assistance before contacting the Carabinieri of the Bosa Company.

In reporting the incident, **Mocci provided the Carabinieri with details and information that made a decisive contribution to the subsequent search.**

The cooperation enabled the Carabinieri to identify and arrest the alleged perpetrator of the attempted robbery.

The young man, who had initially managed to get away, was subsequently tracked down through the investigative work carried out by the Carabinieri, also on the basis of information provided by the Army Graduato.

Antonio Francesco Mocci's intervention therefore had a twofold outcome: protecting a person in immediate danger and making a concrete contribution to identifying the alleged attacker.

An incident in which the quick thinking of a single citizen—in this case, an Italian Army servicemember—and the subsequent intervention of law enforcement officers made it possible to stop an attempted robbery and lead to the arrest of the suspect.

The Ministry of Defense praises the act: «Duty knows no hours»

The intervention by the Graduato of the Brigata “Sassari” also drew the attention of the Ministry of Defense, which devoted an official post on its social media channels to the incident.

With these words, the Ministry sought to highlight the servicemember's conduct, as he intervened while off duty.

Public safety and the protection of individuals are, in fact, values that Armed Forces personnel are called upon to uphold in their conduct, including in everyday life.

The Municipality of Bosa: official recognition for Antonio Francesco Mocci

The **Municipal Administration of Bosa also publicly expressed its appreciation for the Graduato**, a local resident who took part in the intervention.

In a statement published on November 7 on its official website, the Municipality congratulated Antonio Francesco Mocci for the courage, civic-mindedness, and sense of duty he demonstrated in intervening to defend the elderly woman.

The Administration emphasized that the servicemember's actions prevented the robbery from being carried out and helped lead to the arrest of the alleged perpetrator.

The Municipality also announced its intention to award Antonio Francesco Mocci official recognition.

Through this initiative, the Bosa community intends to express its gratitude to a fellow resident who demonstrated courage and concern for others in a particularly delicate situation.

Antonio Francesco Mocci, the Graduato of the 5° Reggimento Genio Guastatori

The central figure in the incident belongs to the 5° Reggimento Genio Guastatori, an Italian Army unit assigned to the Brigata Meccanizzata “Sassari”, one of the Army's major formations, with a strong military tradition and close ties to Sardinia.

The guastatori are a specialist component of the Arma del Genio, trained to operate in complex situations where training, judgment, discipline, and speed of action are essential.

The intervention in Bosa naturally took place in a context very different from military operations, but it highlighted personal qualities that also reflect the values of military training: composure, initiative, determination, and a sense of responsibility.

Mocci was not involved in an Italian Army operation, nor was he performing guard or security duty. He was simply a servicemember who had finished his workday and was returning home.

However, when faced with a person in danger, he chose to intervene.

A sense of duty beyond the uniform

The incident in Bosa highlights a fundamental aspect of the relationship between the Armed Forces and civil society: the value of service does not end with operational activities, missions, or institutional duties.

A sense of duty, solidarity, and a willingness to help those in difficulty are principles that can be demonstrated even far from military bases.

One does not need to be in uniform or on duty to demonstrate responsibility toward others.

The actions of Graduato Antonio Francesco Mocci provide a concrete example.

Faced with the armed assault of an elderly woman, the servicemember chose to act, managing to drive off the assailant and subsequently contributing to his arrest.

The recognition announced by the Comune di Bosa and the message from the Ministry of Defense underscore the significance attributed to an intervention that, before being that of a servicemember, was that of a citizen who chose not to look the other way.

An act of courage and civic-mindedness that prevented a robbery and demonstrates, as the Ministry of Defense noted, that a sense of duty knows no hours.

Sources:

1. ANSA – Servicemember of Brigata Sassari foils robbery of an elderly woman in Bosa – November 7, 2026.

2. La Nuova Sardegna – Servicemember of Brigata Sassari foils a robbery and drives off the assailant – November 7, 2026.

3. L'Unione Sarda – Attempted robbery in Bosa, elderly woman saved by an off-duty servicemember of Brigata Sassari – November 7, 2026.

4. Comune di Bosa – The Comune congratulates servicemember Antonio Francesco Mocci – November 7, 2026.