



Defacement at Col Moschin, Free Palestine Sticker on Arditi Monument

Published on 14/07/2026

Solagna (Vicenza) – An act that has sparked a wave of indignation and heated political debates. At the summit of Col Moschin, a symbolic site of Italian historical memory, someone affixed a sticker with the Palestinian flag and the words “Free Palestine” directly on the commemorative monument that celebrates the heroism of the Arditi during World War I.

The monument and the memory

Col Moschin is not just any peak. It is a sacred place for national memory, the scene of one of the most significant episodes of the “Battle of the Solstice”. Between June 15 and 16, 1918, the IX Assault Unit, led by Major Giovanni Messe, accomplished a feat that changed the course of the conflict in that sector: after the Austro-Hungarian troops managed to conquer the Italian strongholds, the Arditi launched a swift counteroffensive.

At dawn on June 16, with a decisive assault, the assault units recaptured the position at an altitude of 1,279 meters, halting the enemy advance that threatened to outflank the Italian lines

on the Piave. The column that stands today on the summit bears a sober yet solemn inscription: *“Austrian offensive halted and Col Moschin recaptured 1918”*.

The denunciation by Paola Chiesa

The case was raised by the Fratelli d'Italia deputy **Paola Chiesa**, head of the Defense Commission, who expressed her outrage over the incident through an official statement.

“An unworthy act – declared the deputy –. On Col Moschin, some vile anti-Italian thought it appropriate to attach a sticker with the words ‘Free Palestine’ on the monument that commemorates the conquest by the Arditi of the IX Assault Unit of this hill sacred to the Fatherland on June 16, 1918. I feel pity and contempt for the material author of the act”.

A heated debate

The episode reignites the debate on the use of war memorials as a battleground for political and ideological conflict. On one hand, the act is labeled as a “vile outrage” to historical memory, while on the other, questions are raised about the protection of memorial sites located in remote and less monitored areas.

The forced juxtaposition of a contemporary geopolitical issue with the sacrifice of World War I soldiers has been perceived by many as gratuitous desecration. At present, no information has been released about the identity of the person who committed the act, but indignation is spreading rapidly on social media and in local communities, united in demanding greater respect for the places that recount the most painful pages of Italy's history.