

Open Letter to the Mayor of Ventimiglia For the Protection of the Memorial at Ponte San Ludovico



We, local and international associations engaged in the defense of human rights and in preserving the memory of those who have died at borders, express our deepest concern regarding the large-scale project to rebuild the square at Ponte San Ludovico, on the border between Italy and France, with construction work expected to begin next autumn.

The project approved by the Municipality includes the destruction of the Memorial dedicated to migrants in transit who were victims of the border -a space of collective memory born from the initiative of citizens and associations active in the area. The Memorial has, for years, been a point of reference for many citizens and numerous organizations who stand against indifference to the human tragedies at this border.

We remind you that many people have lost their lives attempting to cross this border or due to the inhumane living conditions they were subjected to. Erasing this Memorial also means inflicting a further form of violence on these broken lives, and destroying a space of memory, humanity, and awareness.

The Memorial was built at the heart of the *Terzo Paradiso* installation by internationally renowned artist Michelangelo Pistoletto -an artwork that itself conveys a message of reconciliation, coexistence, and collective responsibility. Over time, the intertwining of art and memory has created a unique place, rich in human, social, and cultural significance, where citizens can pause, reflect, and pay tribute to lost lives. Numerous transnational collective initiatives often take place around these works. Their planned removal will substantially alter the forms and the context in which they exist.

The destruction of the Memorial would represent not only the serious and senseless loss of an important and meaningful international work, and a precious, irreplaceable representation of historical memory, but also, for the territory itself, the loss of a space of humanity, artistic expression, and collective conscience.

We therefore call on the Municipality of Ventimiglia to cancel any action that would involve the destruction of the Memorial, and to open a constructive dialogue with civil, cultural, and associative groups who have been working on these issues for years.

We are available for an urgent meeting to find a suitable solution that respects both the memory of the victims and the human and symbolic value of that place.

Ventimiglia, July 28, 2025

SEE PAGE 2 FOR SIGNATORIES AND CONTACT DETAILS

SIGNATURES

AIFO Imperia (Associazione Amici di Raoul Follereau)
Amnesty International Alpes Maritimes
Amnesty International Circostrizione Liguria
Amnesty International Gruppo Sanremo
ANPI Comitato provinciale
ARCI provinciale
Arcigay Imperia
ASGI (Associazione per gli Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione)
ASSEFA Sanremo
Associazione culturale intemelia XXV Aprile
ATTAC provincia di Imperia
AUSER Territoriale Imperiese
Baobab Experience
Casa Africa Sanremo
Carovane migranti
Chiesa Valdese del Ponente
Cimade Sud-Est
Club per l'UNESCO di Sanremo
Ecovillaggio Torri Superiore
Emmaüs Roya
Fondazione Martina Rossi
Genova città fraterna
GISTI (Groupe d'Information et de Soutien des Immigrés)
Habitat et Citoyenneté Nice
IL PONTE Associazione culturale di Vallecrosia
Imperia Solidale
Ligue des Droits de l'Homme Arles
Ligue des Droits de l'Homme Nice
Mappamondo Sanremo
M.I.A. (Movimento Imperiese Arcobaleno)
MRAP Nice-Grasse (Mouvement contre le Racisme et pour l'Amitié entre les Peuples)
Non Una Di Meno Ponente Ligure
Organizzazione di Volontariato Caritas Intemelia
Ortinsieme Ventimiglia
P.E.N.E.L.O.P.E. Ventimiglia
Popoli in Arte
RESF 06 (réseau éducation sans frontières)
Riprendiamoci il Comune Ponente Ligure
Roya Citoyenne
Scuola di Pace Ventimiglia
SPES Ventimiglia
Tous citoyens Nice
Tous migrants Briançon
Ventimiglia città fraterna
WeWorld Onlus

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