

Press Release

## **HEROES OF PEACE: MEMORIAL FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED TO COMMEMORATE ITALY'S FALLEN**

**Founding Partners Il Sole 24 ORE and Wind Telecomunicazioni,  
Gianni Letta President, Giuliano Amato Co-President**  
*An international competition to erect the Monument*

Rome, 4 March 2011 – To honour the memory of all those who have fallen for our Country in international peacekeeping missions, today, Friday March 4, the day of the anniversary of the death of Nicola Calipari, marks the birth of “**Fondazione Memoriale caduti di pace**”. The announcement was made by the two founding partners **Il Sole 24 ORE**, in the person of Editor-in-Chief Gianni Riotta, and **Wind Telecomunicazioni**, in the person of CEO Luigi Gubitosi, together with the President of the Foundation **Gianni Letta** and the Co-President **Giuliano Amato**.

Among the founding partners, representing the relatives of the victims, **Gen. Alberto Ficuciello**, former commander of Italy's international peacekeeping missions and father of Capt. Massimo Ficuciello, who perished in the suicide attack at Nassiriya on November 12, 2003, and **Francesco Gianni** from Studio Gianni, Origoni, Grippo & Partners, who prepared the charter and established the organizational setup of the Foundation.

The initiative follows on the project conceived by Sole 24 ORE and promptly welcomed by Wind in the aftermath of the Kabul attack on 17 September 2009, which resulted in the death of six members of the Folgore Parachute Brigade. That tragic event sparked the idea of erecting a monument to honour all those who have fallen for peace. The newspaper then launched an informal architectural competition, drawing the response from thirty famed national and international architects.

The main purpose of the Foundation is to **erect a Memorial dedicated to all those who have fallen for our Country in the name of peace**: a monument in their honour, which enhances, through their memory, the ultimate sacrifice of all those who have served our Country. A monument which is also a place of reflection and remembrance of the work and lives of the Italian military and civilians serving in peacekeeping missions.

The Memorial project will be selected through an **international art and architecture competition** promoted by the Foundation, with the aim of arousing a public debate, stimulated also by the work of a technical-scientific committee formed by eminent personalities from the fields of art, architecture and town planning.

The board of directors of the Foundation, in concert with the institutions involved, will decide on the Memorial's site. In this frame, last November, Mayor of Rome **Gianni Alemanno** had already expressed his willingness to identify the appropriate location, and Defence Minister **Ignazio La Russa** to set the schedule of the works.

**Gianfranco Fini**, **Enrico Letta** and **Pierferdinando Casini** had voiced their participation in December 2009 during the presentation of the 30 projects gathered by Sole 24 ORE at the Chamber of Deputies.

The Foundation will also **sustain, promote and enhance humanitarian, cultural, artistic and scientific initiatives of national and international relevance**, in synergy with cultural institutions, research organizations, universities, large and medium enterprises, banks and public bodies, spreading awareness and promoting the discussion on our presence in peacekeeping missions.

*For further information:*

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