

International Organization for Animal Protection



Organisation Internationale pour la Protection des Animaux

Internationale Organisation für Tierschutz

Organizzazione Internazionale per la Protezione degli Animali - Onlus



NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC)
the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and accredited at UN Environment Assembly (UNEA)

Registration in the Register of Representatives of Interest of the European Commission
Headquarters: Via Sant'Ambrogio 12, I-20816 Ceriano Laghetto MB (Italy) - Fiscal Code: 97310380155
Tel +39 02 6427882 - Fax +39 1782206601

www.oipa.org

To the kind Attention of
Honourable Member of the
European Parliament

Milan, 04 February 2021

Dear Honourable Member of the European Parliament

Subject: State of bear-management in Trentino, Italy

OIPA (International Organization for Animal Protection) is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (DGC), the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), accredited at the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the UN Environment Program (UNEP), and embraces more than 200 animal rights associations all over the world.

We are writing to bring the European Parliament's attention to the failing situation of the wildlife management promoted by the Autonomous Province of Trento, in Northern Italy.

It is by now known in the daily news that in the area of Casteller in Trento, three brown bears are imprisoned in deplorable and uncivil conditions and, as evidence of what stated we enclose at the bottom of this document some useful links for your better understanding.

The story of the three animals is different and it can be summarized briefly here below:

- **Bear DJ3:** a female brown bear confined for almost ten years and captured at that time because she was living with her cubs in an area intended for ski lifts extension in Western Trentino. She was the only bear detained at the Casteller wildlife centre until a few months ago, before the detention of M49 and M57, so she had at least the opportunity to roam inside the park located just outside the current cages
- **Bear M49:** a bear that has NEVER attacked any human being and he cannot even be classified as a so-called confident / problematic bear. He broke into uninhabited and semi-abandoned lodges, and he predated some head cattle left unattended at high altitude by shepherds;
- **Bear M57:** a bear cub about two years old. He frequently approached some organic waste bins as locals were used to leaving waste unattended in containers not suitable for places where a bear's presence was confident. In one of the approaching activity, a man disturbed the bear, provoking him and trying to get the animal away, instead of leaving him alone and walking away. The bear reacted for defence by slightly injuring the man.

The three bears are currently held in concrete cages of about twelve square meters each and they are allowed to come out for an hour a day of fresh air, one at a time, in the forecourt in front of the cages.

During the first period of detention, bears were treated with psychotropic drugs (see attached CITES State Forestry Corp inspection bulletin, inspection requested by the Italian Environment Minister Sergio Costa) and, concerning the issue, several complaints about alleged mistreatment of animals were filed on which the Italian Judiciary is still investigating.

The state of health of those bears is not known now, as the province of Trento does not allow any contact with or within the structure.

Those bears could be released, and their movements monitored adequately with appropriate technologies. Still, the province of Trento persists in keeping them caged in a real lager in truly pitiful and brutal conditions, as deduced from the ministerial inspection.

We are here to ask your direct action, not just to protect those animals that must be safeguarded as endangered species, but also because, in our opinion, many European and national regulations in the field of protection of endangered species and civil management of wild animals have been violated.

Explanatory and technical documents of the event linked here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pDgi7SxOSy0Qb3IXm4vuOP_zlTSyGrOx?usp=sharing

We trust that you will give this matter your urgent attention considering that those animals are held captive and in great suffering.

Yours Sincerely,

Massimo Pradella

 

OIPA Chairman