



**Wirt Ghawdex**  
(founded 1981)

## Press Release

### Qolla l-Bajda Battery Vandalized

*Wirt Ghawdex* regrets that, once again, it needs to indicate its concern and condemnation of another vandal act on a historical site, this time, the Qolla l-Bajda coastal battery in Qbajjar (Marsalforn), Gozo. This already dilapidated site has been further degraded by the spraying of large graffiti all over its façade.

*Wirt Ghawdex* has been monitoring the deterioration of this site over the years and has brought the bad state of the site to the attention of various authorities. Throughout the summer, this site is a popular BBQ site for large groups of people who light, large open fires around and against the walls of the battery, possibly causing further damage. In going forward, this will also need to be addressed.

This battery, which dates back to 1716, needs immediate attention and this could be the right opportunity for the authorities to take on its total rehabilitation.

We urge the Ministry for Gozo to do its utmost to get this site restored and rehabilitated. *Wirt Ghawdex* is ready to assist with this task so that the battery can be saved from total destruction.

PRO

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*Photo by Wirt Ghawdex*



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## Vandalizmu fuq il-Batterija tal-Qolla l-Bajda

L-organizzazzjoni volontarja *Wirt Ghawdex* b'dispjaċir tixtieq turi t-ħassib tagħha u tikkundanna l-vandalizmu li sar fuq il-Batterija tal-Qolla l-Bajda, fil-kosta tal-Qbajjar, limiti ta' Marsalfon, Ghawdex. Dan is-sit, li ilu mitluq is-snin, issa ġarrab ħsara aktar bi graffiti srejjeti fuq il-faċċata kollha tiegħu, b'dannu għall-istess ġebel tal-Batterija.

*Wirt Ghawdex* ilha tosserva l-ħsara li qiegħda ġgarrab il-Batterija matul is-snin u kemm-il darba tkellmet u ġibdet l-attenzjoni ta' diversi awtoritajiet konċernati fuq l-istat ħazin tas-sit. Matul ix-xhur tas-sajf, is-sit huwa post popolari fejn isiru l-Barbikjus minn gruppi kbar ta' nies li jqabdu n-nar fil-miftuħ, qrib u sewwa sew mal-ġitan tal-Batterija, mingħajr ma jagħtu kas li jkunu qegħdin jagħmlu aktar ħsara lill-istess Batterija. Xi haġa trid issir biex dan ma jissuktax.

Din il-Batterija li nbriet madwar tliet mitt sena ilu – fl-1716 – teħtieġ attenzjoni immedjata, u dan il-fatt jista' jipprovdi l-opportunità biex l-awtoritajiet jibdew programm ta' rijabilitazzjoni shiha tagħha.

*Wirt Ghawdex* thegġeg lill-Ministeru għal Ghawdex biex jagħmel minn kollox, jagħmel dak kollu li jista' jsir, biex isiru r-restawr meħtieġ u r-rijabilitazzjoni ta' dan il-post storiku, wirt ieħor għall-umanità. *Wirt Ghawdex* hija lesta li tgħin fi programm bħal dan li jgħin biex il-Batterija tkun salvata milli tinqered darba għal dejjem.

PRO

Joe Zammit Ciantar



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*Photo by Wirt Ghawdex*

Qolla il-Bajda Battery overlooking the inlets of [Qbajjar](#) and [Xwejni](#) was built between 1715 and 1716. The battery, with its semi-circular platform, was protected by a ditch on its seaward side. The gorge of the battery was defended by two blockhouses which were joined together by a wall. Musket loopholes in the short flanks of the blockhouses enabled the defenders to provide protective gunfire along the battery's land front. The main gate leading into the battery was approached by a short flight of steps across a drawbridge. The battery's armament in 1770 was four 6-pdr. guns with 276 rounds of roundshot and 60 rounds of grapeshot.