

HISTORICAL MEMORY – NAZISM

Installation of cobblestones in honor of the deportees begins

They will be part of the Stolpersteine Art Memorial, with more than 100,000 throughout Europe

SFGA/JAVILADOT



The sculptor, Gunter Demnig, showing one of the gilded brass cobblestones, 'Stolpersteine'.

EL PERIÒDIC
ESCALDES - ENGORDANY

This Wednesday, Meritxell witnessed the act of homage to the 13 Andorrans who were deported to Nazi concentration and extermination camps during World War II, seven of whom ended up dying. This initiative, promoted by Velles Cases Andorranes through the Traces Gunter Demnig Foundation, consists of placing gilded brass cobblestones, 'Stolpersteine', with the data of the victim

of Nazism in front of the houses where they were born or lived, or in some place significant to them.

Specifically, the cobblestone has been placed in tribute in front of the house of Bonaventura Bonfill Torres, in Cal Candela de Meritxell. In fact, the historian of the Department of Cultural Heritage, Pau Chica, has highlighted that "all of them are an example of how the Second World War fully affected the Andorrans and also Andorra as a country, which in those years had just over 4,500 inhabitants". "As had already happened with the Spanish Civil War, the Principality once again became a land of passage and refuge for the more than 8,000 evasions who are estimated to have passed through the country throughout the Second World War", he added.

Velles Cases Andorranes has also placed seven more paving stones in tribute to Pere Mandicó Vidal (from Cal Xicos de Prats), Josep Calvó Torres (from Cal Jauina de Prats), Antoni Vidal Felipó (from Cal Vidal de Prats), Josep Franch Vidal (from Cal Ponet de Canillo), Cándid Rossell Rial (from Ca l'Adela, Andorra la Vella), Salvador Montanya Codina (from Ca la Conxita de Andorra la Vella) and Bonaventura Casal Farràs (from Ca l'Ayern de la Margineda, Andorra la Vella). Thus, the paving stones placed in Andorran territory will form part of the Stolpersteine Art Memorial, with more than 100,000 of these elements placed throughout Europe.●

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Moments after placing the golden brass paving stones, 'Stolpersteine'.

"Today, more than ever, it is important to remember the mistakes of totalitarianism"

Ensenyat highlights the task of discovering the citizens who died at the hands of the movement

POL FORCADA QUEVEDO
ANDORRA LA VELLA

"80 years have passed. There have been decades of silence for many families, but today, more than ever, it is extremely important to remember the mistakes of totalitarianism and war". These were the words of the general trustee, Carles Ensenyat, during the speech he gave during the closing session of the 'Stolpersteine' initiative, in the Plaza del Consell General, in tribute to the 13 Andorrans who were deported to Nazi concentration and extermination camps during the Second World War. "It is an act with the will to be national, in the plaza where the entire Andorran population has been for centuries. In representation of the Andorran people and in representation of this sovereignty that at a time in history lost some citizens who were retaliated against by a horror such as Nazism", he completed. Ensenyat highlighted the work of Roser Porta and Jorge Cebrián in discovering the citizens who died at the hands of the German totalitarian movement,



Relatives of those deported to the Nazi camps in the tribute in front of the Casa de la Vall.

pointing out that there could have been more, "but we will not know." "Until recently, it was unknown whether there had been Andorrans among the victims. Often, the relatives themselves did not know, because there were those who had perhaps gone to France and it was not known what had happened to them. Little by little, this investigation has

revealed that many died in these concentration camps," he detailed. He pointed out that even many families were ashamed to admit that they had died in a concentration camp, "when precisely there should be no shame." "In this case, there must be a very deep recognition for these people who were murdered," he added.

The General trustee has made

it clear that the names of all these Andorran people should be present in the concentration camps: «We often think that the Principality, having been a neutral country and not having entered the war, should not be there. On the contrary, we realize that not only should it be there, but that 13 victims among 8,000 citizens is a significant figure». ●

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