URGENT: TEMPTED ABUSIVE ACCESS TO THE SORGENTE BOSSI OPEN LETTER FROM HUBERT ZISTLER, PRESIDENT OF THE SWISS CAVING SOCIETY, SECTION TICINO

Today, 30 march 2020, two swiss german cave divers (names known) have tried an abusive access to the Sorgente Bossi Cave. The two were stopped by the police and maintained to be in possession of a regular permit. This proved to be a lie.

Not enough, the two were in permission of an unregistered key to the cave.

The two were sent away by the police and the municipality of Arogno was informed by the police. The municipality then informed the land owner AIL (Aziende Industriali Lugano) and me, the president of the Swiss Caving Society, Section Ticino.

At the moment the owner AIL is making further investigation about the unregistered (presumed abusive) key. And again, a definitive closure of the cave is in the air.

And all that because of two guys (no, I maintain calm and don't post your name neither do I insult you) who think to be too clever to respect the well-known access rules.

By the way access rules. The municipality of Arogno has complained about several divers that don't fulfil the requirements. Instead of fulfilling them they start complaining about the rules. Useless telephone calls, useless emails, a waste of time.

As a consequence, the municipality is thinking to stop to elaborate the requests. The owner AIL has already stated that this also would mean a closure of the cave because in AIL there is no interest and no organization for these requests.

May I recall your attention that the Bossi cave, after the last deadly incident, was opened again thanks to my personal intervention. It was me who went there and explained why cave exploration is important. And it was me, after they offered me the "exclusive access for exploration only" fought for a public access to the cave.

In several months, in a work group with the owner, lawyers, the mayor, the police and myself, brought to life the actual regulations for access. Anybody who has the necessary certification plus a caving insurance can have access to the cave. It is so easy!

And now all that is again at risk.

So, my dear cave divers. You, who think you are more clever than the rest.

First of all, Ticino is more or less under Covid-19 quarantine. What the hell are you doing anyway in Ticino??? Already the fact you come here is a major lack of respect for us "locals" who stay at home. Second. The Swiss Caving Society has sent out a message to avoid caving due to the risk of contamination of the cave rescuers and due to the fact of shortage of hospital beds. So that's a second lack of respect.

Egoistic behavior like this has already closed down many great diving sites.

So. If you have balls you show your face and excuse yourselves in public

Yours,

Hubert Zistler

President SSS TI, Head of Cave Rescuing in Ticino, Cave Diver Rescuer