



## Mayor says 'obscene' sculpture must go before pope visits Malta

### 教宗將造訪馬爾他 村長籲拆陽具雕塑

The mayor of a town near Malta's main airport called Monday for the removal of a sculpture resembling a phallus near the road leading to the capital Valletta ahead of a weekend visit by the pope.

The sculpture, which Mayor John Schembri described as "obscene" and "embarrassing," should be removed "as a sign of respect" for Pope Benedict XVI.

"Colonna Mediterranea" (Mediterranean Column) is the work of ceramic artist and sculptor Paul Vella Critien and was installed on a roundabout at the entrance to the village of Luqa in January 2006.

The sculpture, which Critien describes as a modern three-dimensional representation of a symbol dating from ancient Egypt has **rubbed** many residents of **predominantly** Catholic Malta **up the wrong way**.

Similar works by Critien have been erected in Germany, Italy and Australia.

The pope is to visit on Saturday and Sunday after recent

revelations that a paedophilia "response team" set up by the Maltese Catholic Church in 1999 had received allegations against 45 priests.

Nearly half of the cases have been ruled **groundless**, the Church said Monday, adding however: "For the Church, every case is one too many."

The Roman Catholic Church has battled a wave of paedophile priest scandals in the US and Europe since last November.

馬爾他主要機場附近某村鎮的鎮長週一呼籲，趁教宗週末來訪前，通往首都法勒他公路旁一個狀似陽具的雕塑應拆除。

村長約翰·仙卜立表示，那個雕塑不但「淫穢」，還「令人尷尬」，「為了尊敬」教宗本篤十六世，應該拆除。

這件名為「地中海之柱」的作品，出自陶藝家保羅·維拉·克利先之手，二〇〇六年一月置於路邊村口的圓環上。

馬爾他民衆大都信奉天主教，這座克利先稱為某古埃及象徵現

代3D版的雕塑，惹惱了多數民衆。

德國、義大利與澳洲也出現克利先類似的作品。

教宗本週六、日將訪問馬爾他，此行是為了造訪當天主教會於一九九九年所成立的戀童癖應變小組。該小組最近接獲多達四十五件牧師戀童申訴。

教會當局週一表示，近半數的指控被認定是毫無根據，但他們也說：「對教會而言，即使一件也算太多。」

羅馬天主教會去年十一月以來，在美國與歐洲爆發多起神父戀童醜聞，爭議至今仍未有具體結果。

Cars pass by Colonna Mediterranea, a sculpture by local artist Paul Vella Critien on a roundabout at the entrance of Luqa, close to Malta International Airport, on April 12, 2010.

PHOTO: AFP

四月十二日，車輛行經馬爾他陶藝家保羅·維拉·克利先的作品「地中海之柱」。該作品二〇〇六年便豎立在路邊村（鄰近馬爾他國際機場）口的圓環上。

照片：法新社

#### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

##### 1. **obscene** /əb'sin/ adj.

淫穢的 (yin2 huei4 de5)

**例**: Mike got fired for downloading obscene content on his office laptop.  
(麥克因為在辦公室的筆記型電腦中下載淫穢資料而遭到開除。)

##### 2. **predominantly** /prɪ'damɪnəntli/ adv.

主要地 (jhu3 yao4 de5)

**例**: Nursing is still a predominantly female profession.  
(護理這個行業仍以女性為主。)

##### 3. **groundless** /'graʊndlɪs/ adj.

無根據的 (wu2 gen1 ju4 de5)

**例**: Astronomers have dismissed fears that the world will end in 2012 as groundless.  
(天文學家摒棄二〇一二年為世界末日的恐懼，因為那是毫無根據的說法。)

#### LANGUAGE POINT 重要片語

##### rub someone up the wrong way 惹惱某人

If you **rub someone up the wrong way**, you annoy or irritate them. According to the article, many residents of Malta have been **rubbed up the wrong way** by the controversial sculpture.

Example: "There's something I don't like about Gary. He always seems to **rub me up the wrong way**."

如果說你「**rub someone up the wrong way**」，意思就是你惹火了他們。根據上文，許多馬爾他居民因這座引發爭議的雕塑而感到惱怒。

例如：「我對蓋瑞有點意見。他總是擾腦我。」