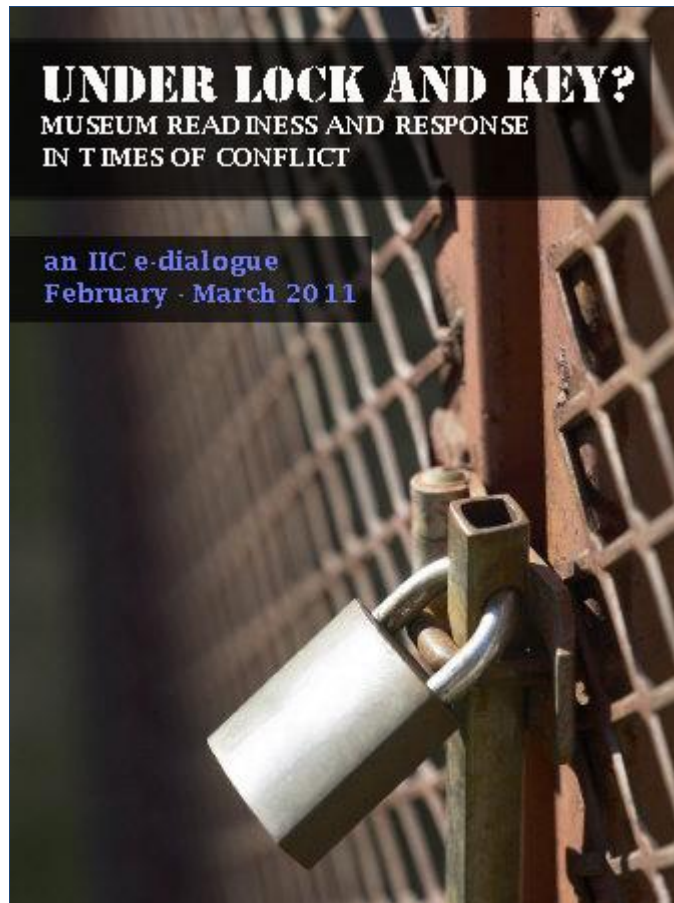




Dialogues for the New Century



UNDER LOCK AND KEY?

Collection readiness and response in times of conflict

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Recent events around the world have once again focused attention on the vulnerability of heritage sites and collections during times of conflict and unrest. IIC has asked five international colleagues to comment on the need to both plan and implement measures which assure the safety of cultural heritage. Their dialogue, conducted between the 10th of February and the 15th of March 2011, provides significant insight into the dynamic nature of the topic and reminds us that the direct and indirect ramifications of conflict can linger of many months, even years, after the outward aspects have been quelled and resolved. This dialogue raises important questions about how we respond and how we cope with difficult times and difficult decisions. And it serves as a call to all heritage professionals, policy makers and organizations to advocate for the protection of collections, monuments, buildings and sites during times of conflict.

Jerry Podany, President IIC

THE STATE OF MUSEUM SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PLANNING

Cori Wegener

President, U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield

The 21st century seems thus far to be an era of increasing armed conflict, political instability, and natural disasters. Developing and developed nations alike have been affected, often with dire consequences for our cultural heritage. Collecting institutions such as museums, archives, libraries and scientific collections have suffered looting, floods, fire, and earthquake damage. What can we learn from these experiences a decade into the 21st century and how can we improve going forward?

Looking back at European museums during WWII, it seems that the key to successfully preserving collections was a comprehensive emergency plan with a dedicated staff trained to carry it out. This basic formula for success is still true today, as we can see from more recent examples:

- In Afghanistan, staff risked their lives to preserve the national film archive, large portions of the national museum collection, and the priceless Bactrian Horde, from the Taliban.
- In 2003, staff of the Iraq National Museum painstakingly cleared the galleries and hid much of the collection in a secret storage magazine.
- In 2005, staff at the New Orleans Museum of Art prepared their institution for Hurricane Katrina and stayed with the collection for days afterward to protect it from looters – all with no support from local law enforcement or the National Guard.
- In 2010, staff at several museums in Port au Prince, Haiti immediately set about rescuing their collections from the rubble in the midst of one of the most devastating earthquakes in history.

However, there are just as many failures, to include the destruction of the Buddhas at Bamiyan, looting and damage to museum's collections and archaeological sites in Iraq, and the recent looting at the Egyptian Museum and archaeological sites throughout the country. We continue to worry about important collections and sites in a number of other Middle Eastern nations that exhibit signs of instability.

The 1954 Hague Convention addresses the issue of protection of cultural property during armed conflict by requiring that States Parties “prepare in time of peace for the safeguarding of cultural property situated within their own territory against the foreseeable effects of an armed conflict”. This means having an emergency plan that covers both manmade and natural disasters on the institutional, regional, and national levels, and ensuring their institutions are incorporated into the local and national emergency response systems. This is just basic best practice in museum stewardship. Further, each nation must have within their armed forces specialized military personnel with cultural heritage expertise and provide cultural training for the rest of the force. Unfortunately, few of the 123 States Parties to the 1954 Hague Convention are fulfilling these obligations.

Toward this end, more than twenty nations now have organized Blue Shield national committees to promote ratification and implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention. These national committees advise and assist with cultural property protection training and planning in their own countries as well as providing experts for a coordinated international emergency response when requested. Finally, the Blue Shield provides an immediate international network for highlighting breach of the Hague Convention both in the media and in the public eye, hopefully encouraging full compliance with the treaty.

MUSEUM SECURITY IN THE TIMES OF CONFLICT: ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Rohit Jigyasu

President of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP)

Conflicts are manifested in various forms since they are rooted in factors specific to local context. As a result, preparedness and response mechanisms must take into account the specific nature of the conflict. I would like to highlight several issues and challenges concerning museum security in times of conflict, especially in the context of developing countries.

Due to dearth of human and financial resources and efficient institutional systems, most museums cannot afford to have expensive equipment and complex procedures, especially for unpredictable conflict situations, and the further costs of maintaining them on regular basis. Therefore low-cost security systems that also take into account local socio-cultural and political sensitivities need to be introduced.

In most cases, security is outsourced to private firms or, as is the case in many small museums, attendants assume the role of guards. Because of the lack of coordination between museum administrations and those responsible for security, either the security staff does not know enough about the layout of galleries, storage and the specific needs of collections or, in other instances, museum attendants do not have sufficient knowledge about security procedures to be activated during normal operation, let alone during conflicts. Moreover communication between museum security and local police is often found to be weak or non-existent.

Designing appropriate documentation systems and ensuring their accessibility is crucial for effective response during conflict situations. However museum documentation systems are not usually designed to cater to security needs and are seldom accessible to the security staff and to local/national civic defence agencies, which have an important stake during conflict situations.

Conflicts may or may not be predictable in a given territory. However preparedness is needed on a continuous basis and should be enhanced through regular drills /simulations. Limited staff and financial resources make it difficult to conduct such activities regularly, and therefore there is a significant need for external support. Such support is often however mostly directed towards response.

Galvanizing local communities and civic organizations to help protect museums can prove crucial as has been demonstrated during recent civic unrest in Egypt, when the local people formed a human chain to protect the national museum. Preparedness activities through collaboration between museums, local governments and community /civic organizations will certainly go a long way in saving valuable heritage in times of conflict.

MUSEUM SECURITY DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT

Barbara O. Roberts

Consultant in hazard mitigation for cultural collections and trainer for US Civil Affairs military personnel

The present situation: The majority of museums worldwide, small, medium, or large, are not prepared for coping with political or civil unrest, conflicts or serious man-made or natural events that may result in the breakdown of law and order and the inability of national, local or civic authorities to assist staff in the protection of cultural property.

In general, we rely on the quick thinking of a few, on co-opting resources that may be on hand and doing the best we can, given the circumstances. We count ourselves lucky if things go our way. The Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria have national plans that go into effect in specific circumstances, others may too. But generally, the levels of training and

readiness at the national, state, local and institutional levels are not sufficient to act as a first line of defence. Interaction and cross training between governmental departments, national, regional or local response agencies and individual institutions are usually either poor or nonexistent.

Some people have knowledge of past experience, for instance, how things were managed in World War II. There are staff with firsthand experience in protecting collections in harrowing conditions in, for example, Cambodia, El Salvador, Northern Ireland, the former Yugoslavia, downtown New York City or Jerusalem. And there are those who live the agony every day in Iraq, Afghanistan, or the 80 or so other countries where conflicts are ongoing.

In the 21st century, cultural institutions, wherever they are, could be subject to direct or collateral damage from adverse circumstances. What we actually do however is only hope for a good outcome. While we might write emergency plans, what about our ongoing training and preparedness actions? Why do we manage to turn our attention to what we consider “other priorities”?

Suggested improvements: Let us rephrase the argument for action. Armed conflict! Acts of War! Terrorist Attack! Words designed to make us freeze. But we can take action if we train for incidents that could either be of short or long duration and that may cause loss, serious damage or long lasting detriment to our collections. We can prepare for events that may occur at any time and in any country in the world. We can empower ourselves and others to act to protect cultural property if we face reality and:

- 1) Bring together key decision makers from government, local authorities, sister institutions and neighbours. Form and build on a sustainable basis the needed training, planning and response partnerships to protect cultural property.
- 2) Provide cultural awareness training for military, police, civil response personnel, neighbours and supporters to improve our ability to work collaboratively, with an understanding of everyone’s priorities, not just our own. How much worse the looting could have been at The Museum of Egyptian Antiquities in February, 2011, if a few night security guards, citizens and government officials had not chosen to assist each other to protect “their” cultural patrimony. A few determined people who worked together made the difference.
- 3) No excuses! Prepare basic inventories and visual documentation. You have to know what you have in order to protect it, retrieve it if stolen, or to understand the extent of damage it has suffered from any cause. If this information is copied and stored in secure locations or with sister institutions abroad ownership can be proven or information passed quickly to international agencies (Interpol, customs, auction houses etc). This is particularly important if the original documentation becomes inaccessible. Proof of ownership begins with adequate documentation.
- 4) Be conversant with the basics of art law and international conventions that apply to cultural heritage.
- 5) We have to venture out of our front doors, accept that we who work with collections are merely “caretakers” and that cultural patrimony is only as safe as our ability to involve the public and encourage them to accept the joint responsibility for its longevity. It is “their” heritage too and they should have an active role in keeping it safe and sound. We, a privileged few in museums, have become masters of “no, only we are the guardians “. It is time to change as we face big challenges ahead. Effective action takes an individual, a staff, a village, a town, a state, a national government and international help as the event unfolds. The same is true as normalcy is eventually re-established.

6) Give me a disparate group of people that may be literate, illiterate, masters of their museum craft, a PhD, a fireman, a night guard, a government minister, someone in uniform, a few neighbours, and someone who may not speak my language, a volunteer – if we have worked and trained together and we know what is expected of each other we would be a great team and do a great job. We have to open our doors and welcome in reality to lend a hand to protect cultural assets.

THE NEED FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY PLANS TO SECURE MUSEUMS AND SITES DURING TIMES OF CONFLICT

Abdelrazek Elnaggar

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During the January 25th, 2011 revolution in Egypt, the world was amazed by the spirit of Egyptian nationalism and awareness which brought the people, students and villagers to risk their lives to protect museums, churches, archaeological sites and libraries from being looted or damaged. Tahrir square, where I protested with my fellow Egyptians, is also the sight of the most important Egyptian Museum.

Why did the people risk their lives to protect our heritage? It was not because the citizens understand that the monuments are considered one of the major three resources of the Egyptian national income but rather because they understand the value of their heritage and the importance of religious tolerance which Egypt has been endowed with for so long. But in times of unrest, conflict and security instability, such a national sense is not enough and cultural heritage is in need of extraordinary emergency plans and early warning systems to safeguard collections, sites and monuments. The governmental authorities and military have plans to secure media, social life and the essential services but they are not sufficiently aware of the value of museum collections and archaeological sites...of heritage. At least not aware enough to include them on their security priority lists. Thus, it is the responsibility of the culture communities to raise their voices for the need of emergency plans during unrest.

The absence of international expert advice regarding the safeguarding of cultural heritage during conflict in developing countries reflects the necessity for increased efforts and ideas from the international conservation organizations. They need to provide guidelines, in-field training and volunteer logistical intervention when possible. For example providing the necessary conservation, transport and storage equipment, along with trained volunteers, to assist in the protection of threatened cultural heritage, is very much needed. Also, there is a need to apply worldwide pressure to force communities and governments to stop the illegal markets which foster the trade of looted artefacts that have been stolen during unrest. Condemnation of vandalism and looting is required on every political level.

I was one of the many people who helped to secure the Egyptian museum during the revolution in Egypt and to bear witness for the need of employment and training for the graduates from schools of archaeology. These are the people who can actively assist in securing the sites, monuments and museums, so necessary in the absence of a national emergency response force. These people are dedicated and have a background in the care of museums and sites.

In the past 30 years in Egypt, the authorities have been interested in increasing the number of museums. But this has been done with the widespread absence of quality security, storage and protection for the objects. For my own country and other countries with minimal budgets, I advocate for keeping the number of museums and archaeological excavations to a minimum. This will allow protection of the objects already excavated and assure their proper

maintenance. When there are no well-maintained storage spaces or places for proper display of the excavated artefacts, it is better to keep them buried until secured places can be found or built.

DISCUSSION

CORINE WEGENER (CW): Everyone has mentioned the importance of not only training staff (to include the spectrum of our volunteers, first responders, etc.) about emergency response, but also the importance of constantly reaching out to the community to remind them that the contents of our institutions are THEIR cultural heritage - we are only caretakers. This reminded me that the Iraq National Museum had been closed to the public for the better part of two decades before it was looted in 2003. Many must have felt little affinity for the collection as part of their experience. Conversely, Egyptians joined forces to protect the Egyptian Museum as their shared heritage (as well as with hindsight of what happened in Baghdad). We must foster a connection between our institutions and the community; this is part of the definition of what it is to be a museum.

BARBARA ROBERTS (BR): The news, received on March 1st, 2011, of the protection of cultural property in Libya, in the midst of seeming chaos is heartening indeed, see http://www.artdaily.org/index.asp?int_sec=2&int_new=45340. The evidence shows that if individuals understand that they have a part to play, regardless of their job title or direct affiliation with a cultural institution, they will act to protect cultural heritage if they can. Trained conservators, collections managers and curators should not believe that they and they alone should, be the yea or nay sayers when it comes to active decision making. Let our message be leadership, calm reactions and knowing what to do in dangerous and stressful conditions. This will save lives and save cultural heritage.

ABDELRAZEK ELNAGGAR (AE): I think most of the solutions and ideas to secure artefacts and sites during unrests and conflict rely on PEOPLE, whether they are policy makers, armed personnel, the dedicated local and national community, volunteers or conservators. Thus, emergency plans without trained staff at all levels will not be effective. Efforts of international organizations and experts must include more training and practice for staff and citizens. If there is a "people's defence" to protect lives, we are also in need for programs for securing museums and sites during unrest.

TOM BRABERS (TB): Museum and staff need to perform integrated risk management, which includes the risks faced by the staff members and of course concerns regarding their safety. The example from Afghanistan that was mentioned, where staff risked their lives, is perhaps a good example as a last resort but such scenarios should be avoided if possible. Alternatives could be avoidance (investing in early warning systems) or acceptance (de-escalating techniques, create awareness among the public for joint responsibility). All these alternatives should be identified, discussed and prepared in advance. Doing this during chaos is bad timing and too late!

TB: Museums need to instruct and train people in what to do when collections are in jeopardy, so much is clear from all the panellist's statements. Rohit makes it very clear that the definition of staff should be widely interpreted, and includes security staff, national police and other actors. This need not be expensive and can be done in a similar fashion to a fire drill. Let's introduce the *conflict drill!*

RJ: Although there might be sufficient knowledge about various international organizations and professionals who can help during times of conflict, we miss standard operating procedures and protocols that can be activated during conflict situations. These procedures can include a comprehensive and easily accessible database of organizations and professionals who can be contacted when the situation demands so. These would also include standardized process of accessing documentation/inventories that would prove crucial for establishing priorities and procedures for salvage of heritage or the methodology of post-conflict damage assessment and its immediate protection, which would have to be done in close cooperation with humanitarian/relief organizations. Although the particular nature of the situation would always demand adjustments in the execution of these procedures, established framework would definitely help in increasing the efficiency of response. Last but not the least, the importance of training and regular practice for testing these procedures cannot be underestimated.

AE: I think in the developed nations, where there is peace and political stability, the policy makers and the emergency plans experts should work on non-traditional, short-term and long-term plans, to expect the unexpected and to develop better alternative security systems for museums and sites.

BR: We all seem to be saying that "we" at the institutional level cannot achieve real change unless there is the support and commitment of governments at the local, national and international level. Let us be upstanding, and call for multinational collaborative actions between nations, let representatives of various necessary ministries, departments of defence, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and cultural heritage organizations gather and come up with viable ways to implement and enforce The Hague Convention and Protocols and laws that govern illicit traffic of cultural property. Let us introduce sustainable best practices for various emergency situations that we know, from experience, work. These can always be improved upon. Cultural NGO's meet and publish estimable resolutions but have no clout, less money and little access to heads of state or the political arena. Leadership, not hand wringing, is needed to protect assets worldwide that define heritage. The need is clear. Coordinated planning and response. Action. Communication and outreach. International pressure and collaborative, supportive, sustainable assistance mechanisms. Our answer to the calls for help must be "yes, you have asked for help and the rest of us must find the ways to assist". If we turn away and we are all guilty by omission. A team should be brought together under the auspices of ICOM/ICOMOS/Blue Shield with full UN support. Not for a fact finding mission but for a training and direct support missions.

CW: I have had this discussion with many people about Haiti. While the situation in Egypt is different from Haiti, the differences between natural disaster vs. man-made, is just the tip of the iceberg. First and foremost, Egypt is an internal conflict and the 1954 Hague Convention does not apply except for the part that requires each nation to take care of their own domestic cultural heritage and prepare during peace for times of possible conflict. In Haiti there was already a UN Peacekeeping Mission (MINUSTAH) as well as a contingent from US Southern Command. After the quake, the US military footprint became quite huge, but only at the invitation of the Haitian government. USCBS and our Haiti working group became involved with support from the US Embassy. We had invitations from various members of the Haitian Ministry of Culture. To my knowledge, there has been no invitation from the Egyptian government to any other nation to assist with security operations of any sort, nor have I heard of any invite from the Ministry of Antiquities or Culture for assistance with cultural heritage. There is the very practical question of exactly what sort of help we could provide? What they need help with is (armed) security at remote sites. It would be unwise to send volunteers in to do this, even if invited, nor did we do it in Haiti other than for our own compound and the sites at which we are actively doing conservation (e.g. Holy Trinity Cathedral). Our strength in this situation lies in raising awareness and pressuring the responsible organizations - in this case the Egyptian government - to provide the necessary security forces to secure their heritage. Then, if asked, we can provide emergency salvage and conservation assistance, but it's my feeling that they have plenty of capable conservators in Egypt.

AE: The need for continuous preparedness and the importance of documentation has been mentioned several times. The situation in Egypt confirms the need for better and more affordable documentation systems and databases of our material. I advocate sharing this information on all levels. We need damage assessment systems and early warning systems for looting and theft. According to the authorities in Egypt during the unrest, the documentation systems and the governmental response to the looted artefacts and sites was very late in providing quick information about the enormity of the event.

CW: I very much agree with Rohit Jigyasu's point that museums and other collecting institutions cannot take the time or expense to develop elaborate plans and systems focused solely on armed conflict scenarios. The emphasis should be on encouraging basic collections stewardship, starting with documenting the collection and undertaking emergency planning. With the internet resources available today, museums can have customs agents around the world on the lookout for objects within 24 hours - IF they have the documentation. If they don't, the odds are against recovering the objects.

TB: Museums should know what they have and be able to prove it. In this documentation a categorization for contingency planning needs to be added. People should know what to take, to leave, to lock, to protect by all means or whatever option is best for that particular item. Or to use the words of Rohit, museum documentation should start to cater for security needs. This has to be realistic, tested and trained, and known to all.

CW: One of the very difficult situations we face at the moment is the growing realization that looting of sites in Egypt may be worse than we initially feared and is ongoing. The national police are not providing security and the antiquities authority is leaderless for the moment. It is difficult to be on the outside watching as this scenario unfolds. What can we do as the international community to encourage the Egyptian authorities to secure this irreplaceable heritage before it's too late?

AE: When information about stolen artefacts is passed quickly to international agencies, it helps to recover the looted objects. But remember that what we face on the borders in Egypt is an unprecedented influx of people from Libya and authorities are unable to prevent the smuggling of loot, and this is typical in times of conflict. In Egypt and other Arabic countries the authorities do not always necessarily realize the value of the treasures we have in museums and the importance of the immovable monuments and sites. The necessity of strict security and documentation is not budgeted for, nor are there emergency plans systematically in place. Therefore strategic plans must be established to dedicate the very modest budget required for controlled and parallel excavations and enough, well-maintained, secured storage and display spaces.

CW: It has been very heartening to read and hear stories from Egypt about civilians from the area helping to protect collections from looters. This is a case where there is general unrest and instability and I think this would be very difficult to train for. One can only hope this situation is not one that will occur regularly. That said, it is critical to have museum staff do a risk assessment and have some plans for how they will react in cases of general breakdown of law and order if they occur in the future. Blue Shield has had some international conferences where we have provided emergency planning sessions, etc. but it is ultimately up to each institution to do their own planning and coordination in preparation for natural and man-made disasters. No one can do this for them because each situation is unique and the museum staff will have to determine to what lengths they want to go to in training volunteers, neighbours in the community, law enforcement and fire fighters, etc. to respond.

Some Blue Shield national committees work closely with their Ministry of Culture for planning training for institutions. In the U.S., most museums are private non-profit institutions and as such are responsible for their own emergency planning and training – many subcontract this activity with regional conservation centres who help with planning and training. We also encourage them to further coordinate with FEMA and local first responders as part of overall domestic planning for cultural heritage emergencies in compliance with the 1954 Hague Convention. As a national committee, the U.S. Blue Shield focuses on providing training regarding the 1954 Hague Convention and respect for cultural heritage by deployed U.S. military units. We partner with the American Institute for Conservation and the Archaeological Institute of America to provide expert trainers.

BR: Corine put it well. It is a tricky problem that requires nation to nation communications at the highest levels all the way around and at that effort I think we all have a failing grade.

AE: I agree that there is a need for specialized military personnel with cultural heritage expertise within armed forces. And it is also a good idea to provide cultural training for the rest of the force. But defining what this means is more difficult especially in the face of widespread ignorance. Crash courses by experts for few select people are not what we

want or need. Specialized military personnel were obviously needed for the situation in Egypt, but the chaos which surrounded Tahrir Square was totally unprecedented. It is also necessary that such training as well as the protection of our sites and museums be put on the security priority list during unrest. We need to improve what is done and learn from the past conflicts and think of future unexpected conflicts in unexpected areas and – perhaps more easily - in expected areas.

CW: The reality of the situation we face with Egypt is that of security. This is internal instability rather than armed conflict. As many archaeologists have pointed out, the Egyptian government understands that there is a problem with site security, but it does not seem to be their priority at the moment. Basic measures of collections management, such as proper documentation and databases, are essential and within the control of collections caretakers. While these measures help to try and recover objects it doesn't help prevent them from being taken in the first place and doesn't help with objects which have not yet been excavated. But how do we get the upper levels of governments to take appropriate measures regarding security of sites in the first place? In terms of international law, there is little to stand on and that's the frustration.

TB: As a newcomer to cultural heritage I am not full up-to-date on all the international laws regarding cultural heritage protection but I can imagine that there are similarities with International Humanitarian Law (IHL). In IHL there is much written about interstate conflicts but not so much on intrastate conflicts. This leaves humanitarian organizations almost empty handed when trying to negotiate access to beneficiaries on the basis of IHL. What remains is an appeal to the non-state armed actors and trying to look for common ground. This could include the notion that these non-state actors themselves indeed depend on the level of acceptance by, or popularity with, the people. Letting humanitarian assistance in could increase that. Experience has shown that this actually works, although beforehand one would say that there is no binding reason for armed actors to let assistance in. I am not sure if it is even feasible to start a similar appeal to whatever governance structure exists in Egypt but it is worth a try. The objective would be to get them to understand that protecting cultural heritage is actually beneficial to them in the short term and in the long term. When all of the unrest and conflict resolves itself in Egypt, will they be remembered as the ones that facilitated the theft or as the protectors of their heritage? National pride and identity, and not to forget the monetary argument. Tourism accounts for a great deal of the GDP in Egypt, and of that tourism quite a lot is made possible by the cultural heritage sector.

AE: We all need to foster programmes, ideas and collaborations that make the people in countries experiencing conflict more aware of the value of the cultural heritage they have. A sense of true ownership and responsibility is required. If this is realized they will be the first aid of the museums and sites in times of unrest and before those situations occur. I believe we need to work more effectively with international organizations to improve the education and culture awareness in developing and poor countries. We need to develop initiatives that lead the people to understand and to love what treasures they have. In this way they will not be lost, even during times of conflict.

Biographies

Corine A. Wegener is the President and Founder of the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, which is part of the International Blue Shield, founded in 1996 to support implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. She developed a 1954 Hague Convention training course for deploying U.S. Army Civil Affairs units in partnership with AIC and Archaeological Institute of America

And co-lead successful lobbying for U.S. ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention in 2009. Since 1999 Corine has been the Associate Curator of Decorative Arts, Textiles and Sculpture at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. She is also the International Project Coordinator for the Smithsonian Haiti Cultural Recovery Project. In 2004 Corine retired from the US Army reserve as a Major. During her service she served as Arts, Monuments, and Archives Officer, 352d Civil Affairs Command, Baghdad, Iraq, from May 2003-March 2004. Corine is Co-Chair, ICOM Disaster Relief for Museums Task Force

Barbara O. Roberts is a conservator in private practice and consultant on hazard mitigation for cultural collections. Since 2007 Barbara serves as a trainer, US Civil Affairs military personnel, in collaboration with the US Committee of the Blue Shield, American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works and the American Institute of Archaeology. She has held positions as a conservator for the Frick Collection, New York (2000 – 2005), and as the conservator of Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles (1981 – 1988). She also held numerous earlier museum posts and conducted training in the United Kingdom beginning in 1969.

Rohit Jigyasu is a conservation architect and risk management consultant from India, currently working as UNESCO Chair professor at the Research Centre for Disaster Mitigation of Urban Cultural Heritage at Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, Japan and is the President of ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness(ICORP). He is also Principal researcher from India for the joint Research Project 'Understanding habitats, housing and social changes in post-disaster traditional and relocated rural settlements in India' being undertaken through collaboration between Chitakara University, Chandigarh and University of Applied Sciences of Southern Switzerland. After undertaking his post-graduate degree in Architectural Conservation from School of Planning and Architecture in Delhi, Rohit obtained a doctoral degree in Engineering from NTNU, Norway.

Tom Brabers is a crisis and security management expert who works internationally and lives in the Netherlands.

He serves as a Security Advisor to the Board of Directors for Oxfam Novib in the Hague. Tom is a member of the steering group Dutch Security Network, member of the European Interagency Security Forum and Chairman of the Oxfam International Security Network. He also works as a freelance advisor, trainer and coach in the field of risk management. Until 2009 Tom was Operational Director for the Centre for Safety and Development in Amersfoort, the Netherlands where he was overall responsible for all operations, in the Netherlands and abroad. He has taught a wide range of courses and seminars on the topic of security and disaster response ranging from the effective decision making to Crisis Management

Abdelrazek Elnaggar is an Assistant Lecturer at the Conservation Department of the Faculty of Archaeology at Fayoum University. He focuses on the conservation of organic materials, preventive conservation and characterization of biological growth on mummies. He is a founding member of the IIC Arabic Regional Group and has recently completed research towards his doctoral dissertation on laser-based cleaning methods for the conservation of objects.

Further reading

Articles that mention Blue Shield in 2011:

[Gary G. Yerkey, "After the Haitian earthquake: saving priceless murals, artifacts, and other treasures," *Christian Science Monitor*, March 7, 2011.](http://ht.ly/49sgp)

[Kate Taylor, "Egypt's Chief of Antiquities Says He's Not Staying On," *New York Times*, March 3, 2011.](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/04/world/middleeast/04antiquities.html)

[Marisa Mazria Katz, "One year on and Haiti still lies in ruins," *The Art Newspaper*, January 12, 2011.](#)

<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/One+year+on+and+Haiti+still+lies+in+ruins/22180>

Gretchen Jennings and Richard Kurin, "The Haitian Cultural Recovery Project: An interview with Dr. Richard Kurin," *Exhibitionist* (Fall 2010): Vol. 29, No. 2. Reproduced with permission.

<http://haiti.si.edu/docs/exh-kurin-interview.pdf>

Kate Taylor, "Rescuing Art From the Rubble of the Quake," *The New York Times*, May 10, 2010.

For more on the Haiti Cultural Recovery Project see <http://haiti.si.edu/index.html>

General reference:

"The 1954 Hague Convention and Preserving Cultural Heritage"

<http://www.archaeological.org/news/hca/3137>

Dialogues for the New Century is a series of events that explore emerging issues in the modern world and the relationship of those issues to the preservation of cultural heritage. Transcriptions of other events in this initiative can be found at <http://www.iiconservation.org> in a number of languages.