

McAndrew, James E.

From: McAndrew, James E.
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:10 AM
To: 'I.Bokova@UNESCO.ORG'
Subject: Re-Send - Due to typographical error [GDLSK-FileRoom.FID663669]
Attachments: CV-BIO-GDLSK2016.pdf

Dear Ms. Bokova,

Over the past two decades I have dedicated my life to the protection and preservation of the world's cultural heritage. In the USA, I was formerly the Head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's International Art and Antiquity Theft Investigations Program. I retired from US government service at the end of 2010. Since that time, I work with the private sector to include museums, auction houses, dealers and collectors in antiquities and other archaeological, ethnological and ecclesiastic objects. I am well aware of "cultures-in-crisis" and was personally involved in addressing the legal frame-work currently in place to address the problem. In my opinion, the laws, agreements and conventions lack cohesiveness and do little to deter illicit excavations or destruction of sites. I worked with the Coalition Government in the two Gulf wars in Baghdad and was responsible for the recovery of stolen and looted artifacts from the National Museum in Baghdad; the U.S. Blue Cross to protect archaeological sites; Dr. Hawass (Egypt) on investigations and recovery matters, to name a few. Attached is a copy of my Bio/CV.

I was currently participating in the Antiquities Coalition's #CultureUNderThreat Task Force in New York to propose solutions, from a public and private perspective, on the trafficking of illicit antiquities from their country of origin. I applaud Ms. Lehr and the effort put forth by the Antiquities Coalition as I am also appreciative of your effort through UNESCO. I have strong relations with countries in MENA, as well as Asia and Central and South America. I've worked closely with them over the years.

That being said, I am concerned that UNESCO and organizations like the Antiquities Coalition are ignoring members of the private sector such as museums, auction houses, dealers and collectors. Inclusion of those in the trade is paramount to any successful "solution". As the representative of a large portion of the private dealers and collectors, it was clear that the Antiquities Coalition was not authentic in their call to the trade for help. It's obvious in the negative rhetoric and false statistics they still project against the private sector in public forums. The ownership, trade and transfer of cultural property has been in existence for thousands of years. Cultural Patrimony laws only first surfaced in the 20th century for all 1970 UNESCO signatory countries. Provenance doesn't exist and the knee jerk reaction to establish an acceptable benchmark date for those items in public and private collections is still not established. As such, UNESCO, INTERPOL and non-for-profits like the Antiquities Coalition continue to misrepresent the position of the "trade" as well as publicize incorrect import statistics and the image that antiquities trade supports terrorism. Aside from the one instance of the Abu Sayef raid (which didn't amount to much in terms of cultural property as a significant source of funding for terrorism), there's been little to no additional measurable information of same.

I am close to members of the trade. They feel left out. They have a lot to offer UNESCO, INTERPOL and the relevant public and international entities that truly seeking coordination from ALL stakeholders. I could bring the trade to the table. I also offer a unique perspective from my international work while at DHS. I welcome the opportunity to meet and/or speak with you to discuss the above. I still have, in my heart, the desire to stop the illegal trade in cultural property and the destruction of same in situ.

Kind Regards.

James McAndrew

**James E. McAndrew
Forensic Specialist**

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