



HAUT-COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME • OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

Dear Sir

a. What is the impact of the intentional destruction of cultural heritage on the enjoyment of human rights, and particularly, on cultural rights? What is the impact of destruction of tangible cultural heritage on intangible cultural heritage, on cultural practices and beliefs, and on the right of concerned persons to participate in cultural life?

- There is a large and serious effects, especially due to the destruction of terrorist groups (ISIS) in Iraq since he entered the city of Mosul on June 10 and who worked on the destruction of dozens of archaeological sites, including the National Museum, and the results of the following:

1. destruction of a number of churches, which affected the flight of thousands of Christian citizens out of Iraq
2. destruction of temples and archaeological sites of Yazidi, which led to the exodus of hundreds of citizens, immigrants to European countries
3. The destruction of mosques and religious places of the Shiite community in Mosul which led to the emergence of violence and try to take revenge in addition to the displacement and migration of hundreds of thousands of Shiites to the provinces in Iraq and outside Iraq
4. The total destruction by ISIS led to the loss of a lot of heritage that expresses the cohesion of Iraq since ancient history, which leads to the loss of those effects for future generations in Iraq.

b. What are examples of different situations illustrating the above (situations of armed / non armed conflict or international / internal conflict; destructions by States / Non-States actors; geographical or other diversity, etc.)?

- - As a result of armed conflict in Iraq, and as a result of the extremist ideology of terrorist groups (ISIS), which led to the destruction of places of worship for different categories of Iraqi society, these effects stretching back thousands of years, which represents a symbol of Iraqi civilization, an internal conflict State of Iraq has not been able, and the community international to provide the protection of heritage in Iraq, and an indication of the performance of the United Nations, and that did not bother or provide protection to those effects, although these effects are part of the World Heritage list, and the constant threat elsewhere
- Examples are as follows:
- 1. In Mosul: Al-Hadar, and Assyria and Calah



- 2. destruction of ancient mosques such as aftermarket Prophet Yunis, and Prophet Shit, temples, mosques and Yazidi Shiite mosques
- 3. destroy traces of Mosul Museum, which contains dozens of relics
- 4. seen the destruction of St. Elia in Mosul
- 5. city of Nimrud, different places Last
- 6. smuggling of a large number of historical relics and icons, and sell them in other countries.

c. What are examples of good practices, especially with regard to prevention and protection against destruction, as well as repatriation and reconstruction measures of cultural heritage, including through human and cultural rights education and awareness?

- - Unfortunately, there are no cases of prevention due to the complete destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq, ISIS relied on the bombing of heritage areas without the presence of international protection or national
- - There is enough interest or suit by the direction of the Iraqi state to protect relics, there are no specialized centers for the protection of antiquities and cultural rights definition
- - Some non-governmental organizations, Work - community awareness and government institutions on the need to protect the heritage and the reduction of neglect
- - UNESCO did not achieve positive results for the protection of heritage, with the lack of attention of the international community in the field of the protection of the Iraqi heritage

d. What strategies are in place to protect cultural heritage defenders at risk? Under which circumstances can they be considered as cultural rights defenders?

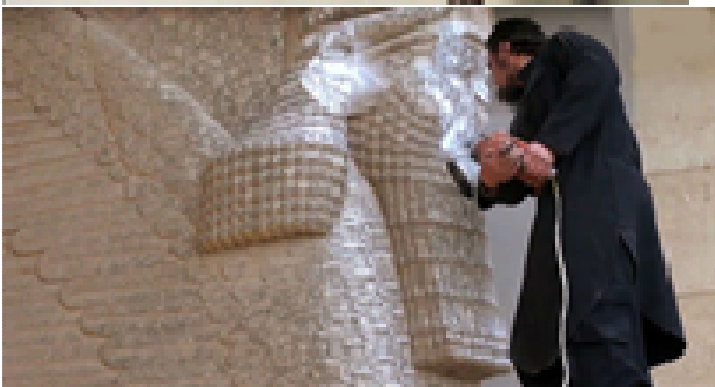
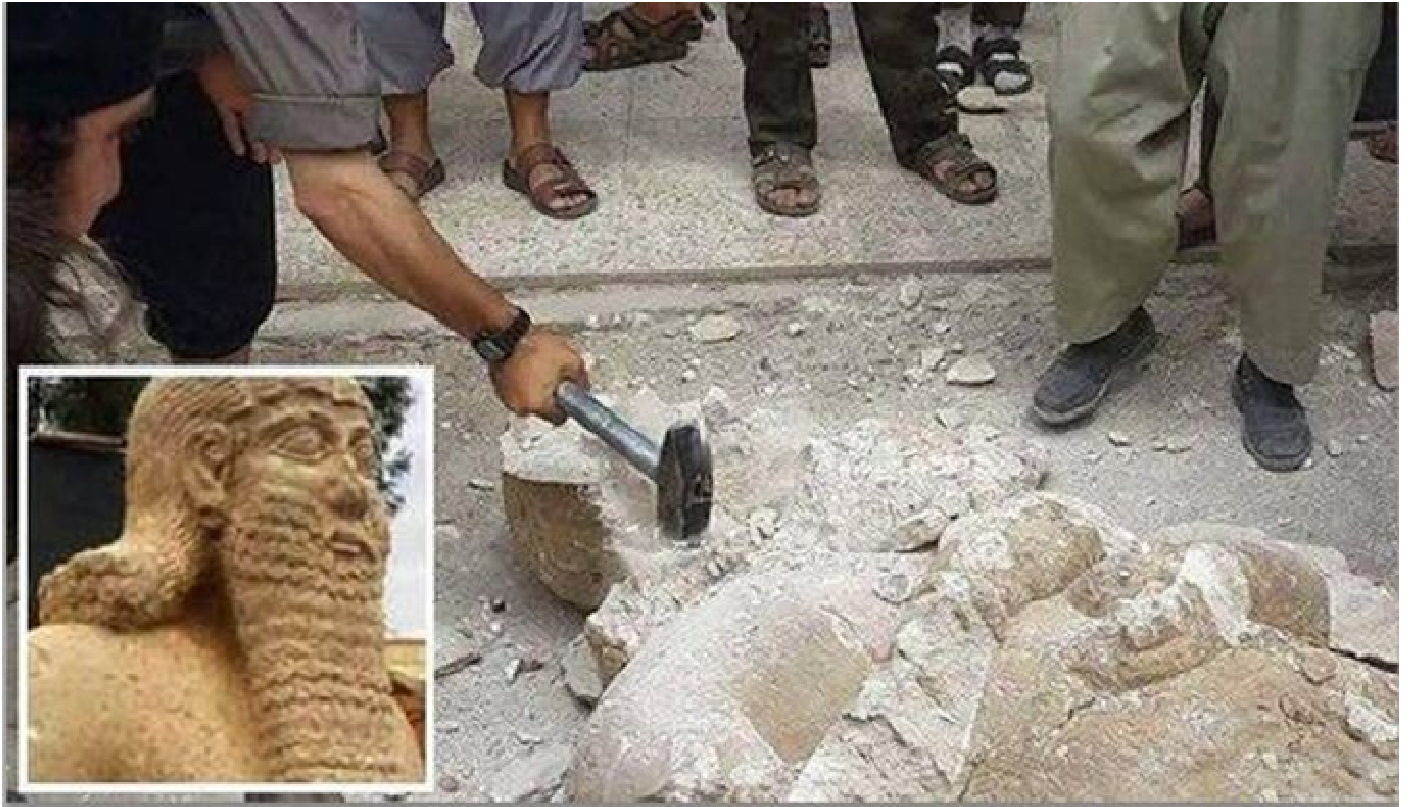
- - There is no strategy for heritage protection or the protection of defenders heritage because of the lack of government attention
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- Finally, non-governmental organizations seeking and through field activities definition of the importance of heritage, and contributed to the organization of demand and advocate for the inclusion of campaigns or put parts of Iraq's heritage in the World Heritage List with UNESCO
- So we call upon the Special Rapporteur to follow up the matter, although there is a conference in Istanbul under the auspices of UNESCO on same Iraqi heritage inclusion in the World Heritage list, the conference takes place at the current June 20



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