



**2016**

**ANNUAL REPORT**



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The Antiquities Coalition is leading the global campaign against cultural racketeering: the looting and trafficking of ancient art. This illicit industry is financing organized crime, armed conflict, and violent extremism around the world. It is erasing our past and threatening our future.

But in 2016, we fought back. Over the course of this critical year, the Antiquities Coalition continued to partner with leaders from the public and private sectors to tackle plunder-for-profit head on. Through independent research and outside collaborations, we developed and implemented innovative and practical solutions, empowering communities and even countries in crisis.

Together, with your help, we can stop the traffic in blood antiquities, and save our shared history for future generations.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

## CONVENED WORLD LEADERS TO SHUT DOWN TERRORIST FINANCING FROM CULTURAL RACKETEERING

The Arab League with 17 of its member governments came together at the Second Annual #CultureUnderThreat Regional Conference, held with our partners Jordan and the Middle East Institute in Amman on September 8.

With the adoption of the historic Amman Communiqué and an aggressive action plan, all nations present recommitted themselves to this fight and reaffirmed that “crimes against culture are crimes against civilization.”

This ministerial-level summit also launched the Middle East and North African (MENA) Task Force Against Cultural Racketeering, the first regional body to coordinate efforts against the blood antiquities trade.



***The Antiquities Coalition “provides a powerful example of what can be achieved through partnerships between governments and NGOs.”***

**- Irina Bokova, Director General, UNESCO**

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

**HELPED TO CLOSE THE U.S. MARKET TO ILLICIT ANTIQUITIES FROM EGYPT,  
WHILE INCREASING RESPONSIBLE CULTURAL EXCHANGE**



***“This is a common heritage that we share... We are grateful for the cooperation that the United States has shown... We hope that it becomes a roadmap for the protection of these antiquities to preserve them for generations to come...”***

**- Egyptian Foreign Minister Shoukry**

We worked for the last two years with Egypt and the United States to help conclude their bilateral agreement restricting the import of looted Egyptian antiquities into the American art market, while increasing responsible cultural exchange.

This cultural heritage memorandum of understanding, signed on November 30 by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, is the first between the United States and an Arab nation. It is already serving as a model for others throughout the region.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016

## DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE ROADMAP FOR THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IS ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT

The Antiquities Coalition launched the #CultureUnderThreat Task Force, which developed policy solutions to combat the cultural crisis now facing the MENA region.

This Task Force marked the first time that such a diverse group of experts convened to develop a comprehensive range of recommendations.

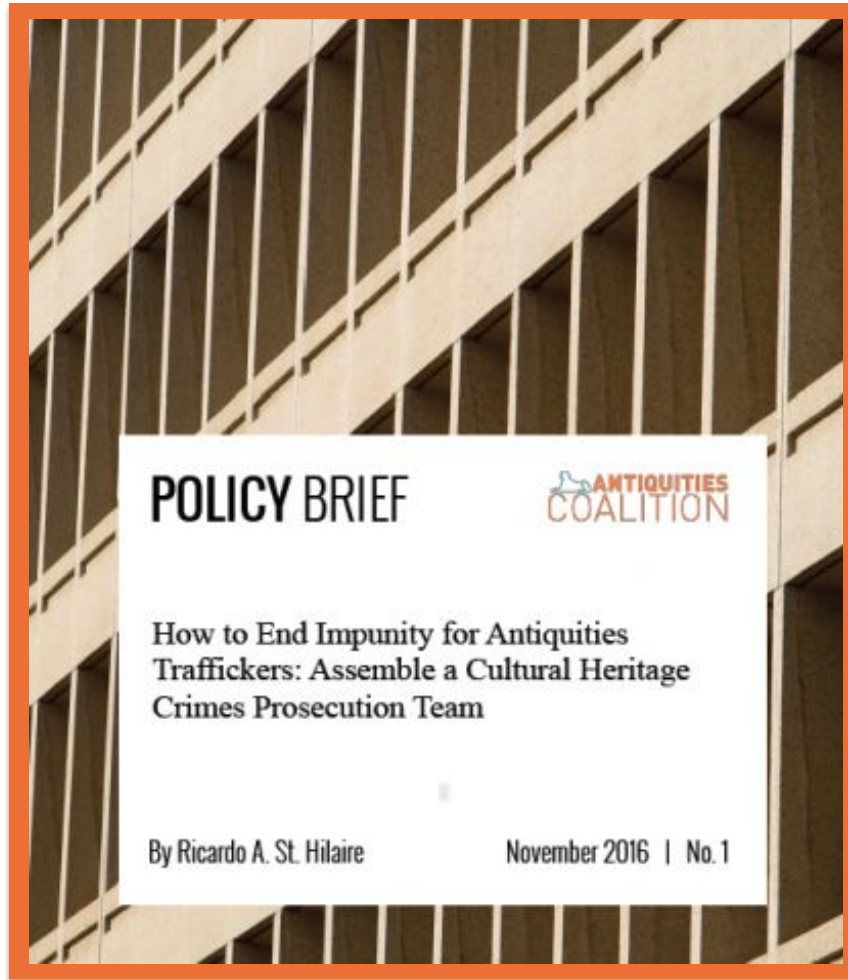
Its 2016 report—which was featured in the *New York Times* and included in the *Congressional Record*—detailed 31 new policies, practices, and priorities for the U.S. government, several of which have already been implemented.



### Task Force Recommendations Adopted Thus Far:

- ✓ The United States should implement United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2199 and 2253 to cut off terrorist financing from antiquities trafficking.
- ✓ Congress should expeditiously pass the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act.
- ✓ The State Department should educate foreign nations about proactive steps to restrict the import of their illegally exported cultural property into the United States.

# ADDITIONAL 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS



## THINK TANK

We launched The Antiquities Coalition Think Tank—the world's first dedicated to cultural heritage preservation—to join with distinguished specialists from the public and private sectors in developing practical and innovative solutions.



## CAPACITY BUILDING

Through quarterly visits by Deborah Lehr to Egypt, we worked to raise awareness and build support for the Museum Digitization and Documentation Center in Egypt (MDDC).



# ADDITIONAL 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS



## RESEARCH

Our scholarship had an impact. In an op-ed published by the *Wall Street Journal*, Deborah Lehr and Tess Davis warned Belgium was poorly prepared to combat terrorist financing through cultural racketeering. These concerns proved warranted when *Paris Match* exposed clear links between the Brussels bombers and antiquities trafficking.



## ADVOCACY

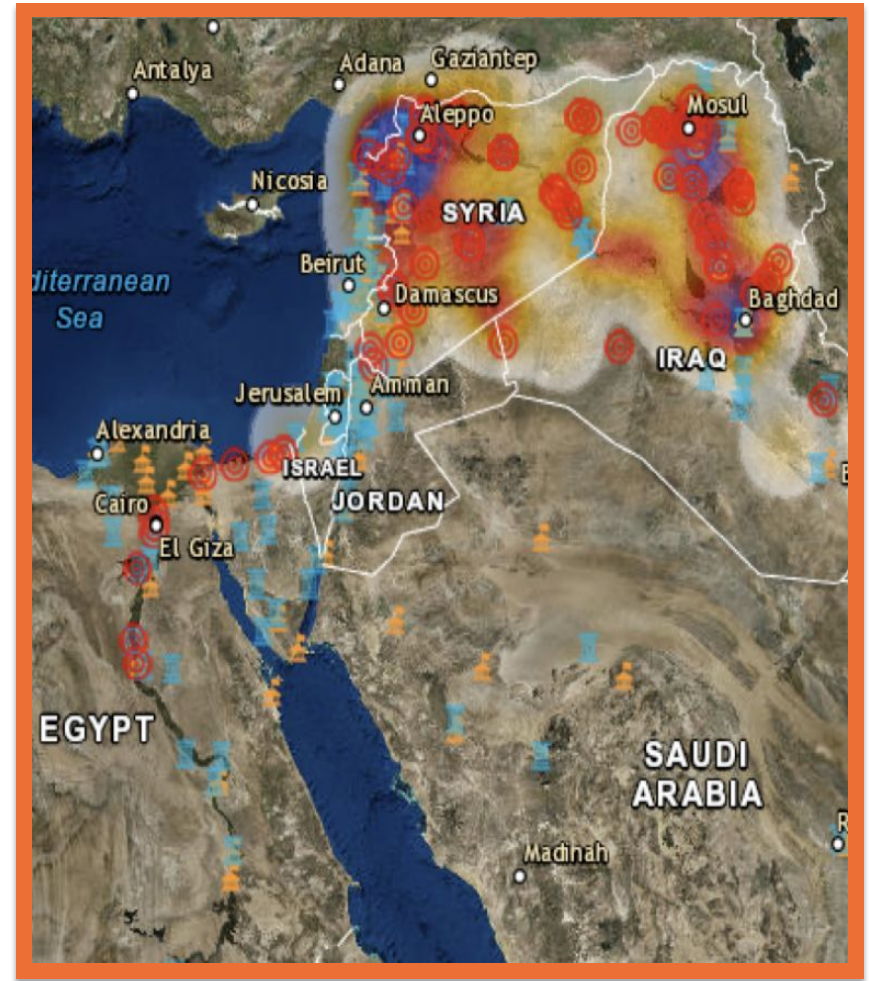
Throughout the year, our team continued to play an important role in the decision-making process at the national and international levels, testifying before Congress and briefing the United Nations.

# ADDITIONAL 2016 ACHIEVEMENTS



## OUTREACH

Through the development of creative and original content, we increased our outreach efforts, reaching more than 10,000 individuals online, further exposing the secret world of cultural crimes while raising awareness about its impact on global economies and national security.



## DIGITAL MAPPING

Our interactive, online resources—such as the #CultureUnderThreat Map, “Before and After” series, and infographics—helped policymakers, the private sector, and the general public better understand cultural racketeering and its implications.



# 2016 IN REVIEW



**January 22**

AC releases #CultureUnderThreat Map that tracks destruction of cultural heritage by violent extremist MENA organizations



**April 13**

AC releases #CultureUnderThreat Task Force Report: Recommendations for the U.S. Government



**April 13**

AC releases interactive #CultureUnderThreat Smart M.App



**July 19**

AC introduces the Digital Library of the Middle East



**September 8**

AC second annual #CultureUnderThreat Conference in Amman results in Amman Communiqué and MENA Task Force against Cultural Racketeering

**September 16**

AC second annual NY Forum convenes leading international policymakers and experts at the Asia Society



**November 17**

AC launches its cultural heritage Think Tank with inaugural Policy Brief by Ricardo St. Hilaire

**November 30**

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry sign the U.S.- Egypt cultural MOU



**February 12**

AC briefs Congressional staffers on cultural terrorism and #CultureUnderThreat Map

**March 9**

AC/Middle East Institute host first #CultureUnderThreat MENA Embassy Roundtable



**May 9**

Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act (H.R. 1493/S. 1887) signed into law

**May 12**

AC Chair Deborah Lehr testifies before the House Committee on Homeland Security on how antiquities trafficking is funding terrorism

**May 25**

AC/Middle East Institute host second #CultureUnderThreat MENA Embassy Roundtable



**August 15**

Federal Register releases official Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Syria, which cuts off the U.S. market to conflict antiquities by implementing H.R. 1493/ S. 1887 and U.N. Resolution 2199

**September 28**

The Terrorism Art and Antiquity Revenue Prevention Act of 2016 (TAAR Act) (S. 3449) is introduced in the Senate



**October 27**

AC/Middle East Institute host third #CultureUnderThreat MENA Embassy Roundtable

**December 6**

Federal Register releases official list of artifacts restricted for import into the U.S. as part of the Nov. 30 U.S.-Egypt cultural MOU

**December 8**

AC holds first official meeting of the Art Market Task Force

**December 21**

AC Think Tank releases second Policy Brief by Dr. Lawrence Rothfield

# GOOD GOVERNANCE

In 2016, we celebrated our first anniversary as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and our second as a nonprofit corporation, while continuing to strengthen our good governance.

We expanded our Advisory Council, composed of experienced global leaders related to our mission, who have provided guidance and support to the board.

And we grew our network of institutional partners to include governments, global corporations, renowned universities, and nonprofits on the frontlines of the fight to save the Cradle of Civilization from violent extremist organizations.

# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Now that we have a proven track record of achievement, we have started to build on the 3-year start-up grant we received in 2015, which allowed us to fully and professionally launch the organization.

In 2016, we joined the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) on a planning grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to explore the feasibility and technical prototyping of a Digital Library of the Middle East.

Additional funds were raised to support the organization's work and operations.

For full financials, please visit [Guidestar.org](http://Guidestar.org), which has granted us "Silver" charity status, demonstrating our commitment to transparency.

## NEW PARTNERS IN 2016



ARTFRAUDINSIGHTS





# LETTER FROM

Dear Friends,

Cultural heritage is under attack. The destruction and looting of antiquities is systemic and cataclysmic—and the loss permanent. The Antiquities Coalition is dedicated to fighting against these atrocities in the Middle East and North African countries as well as globally, from Sarajevo to Shanghai, Bogota to Tokyo. The trafficking of our shared heritage is funding organized crime and terrorism.

In the most extreme cases, violent extremist organizations such as Daesh are raiding sacred sites and promoting illicit digging in historic sites to raise funds for their terrorist activities. And these attacks are not limited merely to Iraq and Syria; the blood antiquities these extremist organizations sell fund terrorism in Europe, and could even be used to attack the United States.

Cultural racketeering is a global challenge that requires an international solution. The Antiquities Coalition is proud to bring together a group of leading experts in this fight. While the problem is immense, there are a number of potential solutions. The Antiquities Coalition takes a creative and innovative approach using policy tools, raising awareness, and uniting regional governments to work together to halt this illicit trade.

We have made progress over the past year. In December, the United States and Egypt signed a historic agreement—the first with an Arab State—to stop the illicit import of Egyptian antiquities. The Amman Conference resulted in a detailed action plan by 17 countries, committed to working together to combat looting. The Antiquities Coalition launched its Think Tank, the first of its kind, to seek innovative policy solutions that empower governments to better protect their heritage. And in May, Congress passed legislation to halt the illicit trade in Syrian antiquities. But much more can still be done.

I hope that you will be inspired by our work and that of our partners, and join us in this initiative to save our shared past.

Sincerely,



Deborah M. Lehr

## OUR TEAM



**Deborah Lehr**

Chair and Founder of the Antiquities Coalition



**Tess Davis**

Executive Director



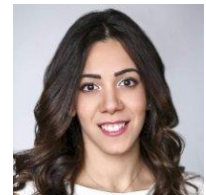
**Katie Paul**

Chief of Staff



**Sonam Deki**

Executive Assistant



**Yousra Abdelhameed**

Fellow

## OUR ADVISORS

**Dr. Zahi Hawass**

Honorary Chairman, Antiquities Coalition Advisory Council, Egyptologist and Former Minister of Antiquities of Egypt

**Carlos A. Cordeiro**

Senior International Investment Banker and a Director and Advisor to Corporations Around the World

**Yasser Elnaggar**

Principal Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Arab Republic of Egypt

**Peter Herdrich**

Co-Founder Antiquities Coalition, Co-Founder DLME

**Brigadier General (Ret.) Russell Howard** Founding Director of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point

**C. Brian Rose**

James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology, University of Pennsylvania

**Erin Walsh**

Former Executive Director, Head of the Office of Corporate Engagement, Asia, Goldman Sachs

# STAY CONNECTED

Check out our website at [theantiquitiescoalition.org](http://theantiquitiescoalition.org) and follow us on social media for updates.

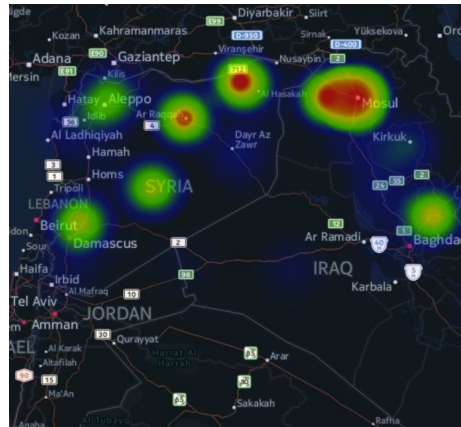
## International

We keep you up-to-date in both English and Arabic



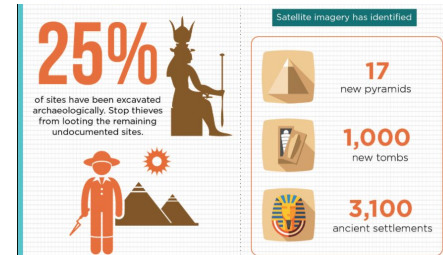
## Interactive

Our interactive, online resources help to raise awareness



## Indepth

Our creative and original content exposes the secret world of cultural crimes



## Informative

We speak and write widely about cultural racketeering to government, academic, and general audiences



## Digital

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and

