

Syria Calls on Civilized World to Intervene in Turkey Cultural Aggression

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Turkey has a long history of criminal aggression against Syria. Even before the NATO Spring was imposed in March 2011, Turkey had built tent cities for refugees, before they felt the need to flee. It has housed various terrorists, fraudulent humanitarian gangs, and seems to have given maps locating the almost 200k landmines on the border with Syria to all the foreign terrorists who have invaded. Now, the country of caliph wannabe Erdogan is bulldozing archaeological sites in Afrin.

From SANA, 10 July:

General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums appealed to international organizations, legal and academic figures who are interested in culture to intervene and protect the Syrian cultural heritage, putting an end to the unjust aggression of the Turkish occupation forces on archaeological sites in Aleppo countryside.

The directorate said in a statement on Wednesday that the latest information coming from Afrin area refer that the Turkish occupation forces and their mercenary terrorists bulldozed archeological hills in Afrin plain to excavate the treasures and archaeological findings stored in the hills, which date back to thousands of years, leading to the destruction of the archaeological layers and the destruction of illuminated pages of the history and civilization of the Syrian people.

The photos received from the area show that rare statues and sculptures were found, dating back to the first millennium BC and to the Roman era, the statement said, adding that the Turkish aggressions are taking place in most of Afrin archaeological sites registered on the list of national heritage, among them Tal Birj Abdalo, Tal Ayn Darah, Tal Jinderous and site of Nabi Huri.







The Hague Protocols of 1954 and 1999 provide for the *Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict*:

Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed conflict 1954

- The Hague 14 May 1954
 Convention, The Hague 14 May 1954
 Second Protocol, The Hague, 26 March 1999

Depositary - Opened for Signature - Entry into force - Authoritative texts - Registration at the UN - States Parties - Declarations and Reservations -

UNESDOC - (PDF) English - French - Spanish - Russian

The High Contracting Parties are agreed as follows:

- Each High Contracting Party undertakes to prevent the exportation, from a territory occupied by it during an armed conflict, of cultural property as defined in Article I of the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, signed at The Hague on 14 May, 1954.
- Each High Contracting Party undertakes to take into its custody cultural property imported into its territory either directly or indirectly from any occupied territory. This shall either be effected automatically upon the importation of the property or, failing this, at the request of the authorities of that territory.
- Each High Contracting Party undertakes to return, at the close of hostilities, to the competent authorities of the territory previously occupied, cultural property which is in its territory, if such property has been exported in contravention of the principle laid down in the first paragraph. Such property shall never be retained
- 4. The High Contracting Party whose obligation it was to prevent the exportation of cultural property from the territory occupied by it, shall pay an indemnity to the holders in good faith of any cultural property which has to be returned in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

5. Cultural property coming from the territory of a High Contracting Party and deposited by it in the territory of another High Contracting Party for the purpose of protecting such property against the dangers of an armed conflict, shall be returned by the latter, at the end of hostilities, to the competent authorities of the territory from which it came.

These *Protocols* are not worth the paper on which they are written, as they are not enforced. Israel has bragged about its part in the looting of the Eliyahu Hanav Synagogue in Jobar, with not a single word of condemnation from the UN. Western imperial media do not consider newsworthy when Syria arrests smugglers of antiquities, such as occurred a few months ago, in Daraa.



Syrian Antiquities Dept. & local police saved treasures from being smuggled out of the country.

Turkey is not a signatory to these Protocols, not that it would matter; Erdogan's invasion of Syria and his facilitation of entry of foreign takfiri into Syria are breaches of International Law, and the <u>UN</u> does nothing to reign him in, as it does nothing to stop the ongoing war crimes by the most powerful countries in the world, against Syria.

That Turkey has not cleaned up its landmines from its border with Syria, despite being a signatory to the Mine Ban Treaty, has resulted in no consequences.

Are there any civilized people left in this world to put an end to the cultural genocide against Syria?

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