



وزارة الثقافة والمجتمع المدني

مصلحة الآثار

The Ministry of Culture & Civil Society
Department of Archaeology



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Department of Antiquities,

Aassraya Alhamrra, Tripoli, Libya

Date: Wed. 11 March 2015

Statement
Heritage Protection

In the past, Libya was a crossroads for many of the Mediterranean and African cultures. For this reason its cultural heritage is of great importance in a worldwide context. However, because of its vast size it is difficult for one nation, in conflict with itself, to protect. In the last four years (during the Arab Spring) Libyan cultural heritage suffered blow after blow and a great deal of cultural property was lost due to destruction, urban encroachment and land grabs. The Department of Antiquities of Libya (DoA) is doing it utmost to protect its museums and its many sites. These efforts are being hindered by lack of awareness of the heritage and the lack of discipline of the security forces. We rely on our modest efforts to take precautions such as hiding portable objects, securing museums and stores, and collaborating with local communities and civil organizations to protect their areas.

Libyan heritage is in great imminent risk particularly as we are not addressing the issue of security as a matter of urgency. We need international assistance to respond to the current threats and we will welcome any assistance in protecting our human heritage.

How you can help us to reduce the risk resulting from the lack of security?

- Formalising strategies to monitor and protect heritage, which will safeguard our precious assets via a DoA management plan.
- Documenting and recording unrecorded objects and sites in digital form.
- Delivering cultural heritage protection training programs for our staff.
- Putting international pressure on our governments to help safeguard our heritage.

DoA wants to engage with the heritage community outside Libya in order to find a way protect Libyan heritage so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

Abdul Rahman Yakhlef Abdul Rahman

Chairman of the Department of Antiquities

