

Auf Initiative der ÖSTERREICHISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT FÜR KULTURGÜTERSCHUTZ hat die INTERNATIONALE LIGA DER NATIONALEN KULTURGÜTERSCHUTZGESELLSCHAFTEN aufgrund der kriegerischen Ereignisse im Nahen Osten und der damit verbundenen Gefährdung, der in diesem alten Kulturraum befindlichen Kulturgüter, an die kriegführenden Parteien, bedeutende Staatsmänner und internationale Organisationen (UNO, UNESCO) ihrer Sorge in folgendem Appell Ausdruck verliehen.

## **A P P E A L**

The International League for Cultural Property Protection is deeply concerned about the ongoing hostilities in Lebanon and Israel, which endanger the survival of the civilian population on both sides and cause loss of life among the civilian population, damage on civilian property and destruction and loss of cultural property.

The League urges the Parties to the conflict to terminate the hostilities immediately and to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) immediately and completely.

The League reminds the Parties to the conflict on their obligations under international humanitarian law with regards to the protection and the respect of buildings dedicated to religion, art, science as well as historic monuments, in particular to their obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

The fundamental rules applicable in all armed conflicts are as follows:

- It is prohibited, to use buildings dedicated to religion, art, science as well as historic monuments for military purposes.
- It is prohibited to attack, destroy or damage such sites, unless they are abused for military purposes. However, if force has to be used, it may be used only after an effective advance warning is given whenever circumstances permit.
- Pillage is prohibited.
- The Power under whose effective control such sites are is responsible for taking the necessary measures of precaution, e.g. to evacuate mobile cultural objects to a safe place until the conditions are met to return them on their original place or to carry out emergency repairs on damaged buildings without altering the historical substance.
- In territories under occupation of a belligerent Power, the said Power may not export cultural property outside the occupied area. If security reasons make an evacuation to a safer place necessary, such evacuation shall be authorized and executed under the auspices and according to the procedures of UNESCO.
- Any violation of the abovementioned rules is considered a war crime and must be investigated and punished.

The League calls on Israel and Lebanon to ratify Protocol II to the 1954 Hague Convention on Cultural Property Protection of 1999.

The League urges all States, under the coordination of UNESCO, to assist Israel and Lebanon after the effective cessation of hostilities in restoring damaged cultural property.

For the International League of Cultural Property Protection

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