

Remarks by Robert A. Hartung
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Threat Investigations and Analysis
“Conflict Antiquities Symposium: Forging a Public/Private Response to Save
the Endangered Patrimony of Iraq and Syria”
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Ladies and Gentlemen: Thank you very much for the opportunity to participate in this afternoon’s important forum and to highlight another key U.S. government counterterrorism initiative, the Rewards for Justice Program.

As Deputy Assistant Secretary and Assistant Director for the Threat Investigations and Analysis Directorate in the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Diplomatic Security, I oversee the Rewards for Justice program, which is one of the U.S. government’s most valuable assets in the fight against terrorism.

Through Rewards for Justice, the U.S. Secretary of State can offer and pay rewards for information:

- that favorably resolves acts of international terrorism against U.S. persons or property domestically or abroad,
- that leads to the arrest or prosecution of individuals responsible for such acts or to the location of a key terrorist leader, or
- that disrupts terrorism financing.

Indicative of its success, the program has paid in excess of \$125 million to more than 80 individuals since its inception in 1984.

With a focus on disrupting the financing that allows ISIL to fund its brutal tactics and its terrorist activities, and as part of a broad U.S. government response, the U.S. Department of State is announcing today a reward of up to \$5 million for information leading to the *significant* disruption of the sale and/or trade of antiquities or oil by, for, on behalf of, or to benefit ISIL. Although this reward offer is for information on ISIL trafficking in both antiquities and oil, I will focus my comments this afternoon on the antiquities aspect of this issue.

This reward offer joins a host of other U.S. government initiatives intended to stop ISIL's financing and funding. In announcing this reward offer, the U.S. Department of State hopes to generate information regarding individuals or entities engaged in the facilitation, processing, smuggling, distribution, sale, and trade of antiquities benefitting ISIL, as well as information about the smuggling networks, methods, and routes underlying these activities. Getting to the root of these activities and identifying those individuals responsible will help our public and private partners to craft solutions to counteract and remedy trafficking in conflict antiquities. Ultimately, information generated by this reward offer will help us disrupt ISIL's ability to finance its operations and activities.

I must underscore that Rewards for Justice is not offering a buyback program for trafficked antiquities; Rewards for Justice is focused on soliciting *information* about terrorist activities. Through the Rewards for Justice program, individuals who provide information that significantly disrupts ISIL's financing may be eligible for rewards. Credible tip information will be investigated by federal law

enforcement agencies, which may, in turn, nominate tipsters to receive payments when successful significant disruptions have occurred.

Secretary of State Kerry has accurately described ISIL and its brutality as, and I am quoting here, “one of the most tragic and outrageous assaults on our shared heritage that perhaps any of us have seen in a lifetime.” Through Rewards for Justice, watchful citizens can do their part to disrupt the looting and sale of conflict antiquities, counter ISIL’s financing of its brutal and nihilistic activities, and bring to justice those responsible. Individuals providing useful and actionable information will be helping to preserve and safeguard our shared cultural heritage, making the world a safer place for us, and allowing future generations to experience and enjoy some of the world’s greatest landmarks and historical artifacts of civilization.

We encourage anyone with information on ISIL’s trafficking in antiquities to contact the Rewards for Justice office via the website at www.rewardsforjustice.net, email (info@rewardsforjustice.net), telephone (1-800-877-3927), or by regular mail (Rewards for Justice, Washington, D.C., 20520-0303, USA). Individuals outside the United States may also contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

All information submitted to us will be kept strictly confidential.

Thank you for your time.