



G O V E R N M E N T

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

AND

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HOUSE OF ANCESTRY, SOUTH CAROLINA, USA



MEMBERS OF

TO: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PRESIDENTS OF:

ALL AUCTIONEER HOUSES GLOBALLY INCLUDING:

CHRISTIES (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

SOTHEBYS (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

BONHAMS (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

FREEMANS AUCTION (AND ALL LOCATIONS THEREOF)

ALL INSTITUTIONS HOLDING AFRICAN ARTIFACTS,

MUSEUMS AND PRIVATE COLLECTORS

ONLINE AFRICAN ANTIQUITY MERCHANTS

Paris, June 6, 2020

SOAD/00999/2020

WORLDWIDE CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

We are writing as the State of the African Diaspora an International Governmental Organisation (IGO) in association with the House of Ancestry, South Carolina, USA and as Members of the Economic Community of the 6th Region of Africa.

London Satellite address:

Gemma House, 39 Lilestone Street, City of Westminster
London NW8 8SS, United Kingdom

As a matter of extreme urgency, we issue this Cease and Desist Order Letter to instruct you to immediately, stop, suspend, terminate, discontinue and cancel all and any future, sales, auctions, online sales, biddings, private and public arrangements of sale of any and all African Cultural Artifacts and Antiquities including Aboriginal Art, which were looted, pillaged and stolen during the periods of colonisation. We understand that your establishments are in the possession of and has been in the possession of such African Culture Artifacts and Antiquities. We also understand that your establishments are in the process of and have been in the past selling, auctioning, and by private arrangement sales and public sales disposing of such stolen and looted artifacts.

During the periods of colonisation, these were periods of armed and brutal conflict against African people of the Continent and in many other regions including Australasia and the Pacific and thus the African cultural artifacts that was stolen, looted and pillaged during these periods which are now scattered all over the world in the West, in your establishments, auction houses, museums, catacombs, private collections, should have been protected according to the Convention below.

According to the Hague Convention:-

The **Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict** is the first international treaty that focuses exclusively on the protection of cultural property in armed conflict. It was signed at The Hague, Netherlands, on 14 May 1954 and entered into force on 7 August 1956. As of September 2018, it has been ratified by 133 states

For the purposes of the present Convention, the term 'cultural property' shall cover, irrespective of origin or ownership:

- (a) movable or immovable property of great importance to the cultural heritage of every people, such as monuments of architecture, art or history, whether religious or secular; archaeological sites; groups of buildings which, as a whole, are of historical or artistic interest; works of art; manuscripts, books and other objects of artistic, historical or archaeological interest; as well as scientific collections and important collections of books or archives or of reproductions of the property defined above;
- (b) buildings whose main and effective purpose is to preserve or exhibit the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a) such as museums, large libraries and depositories of archives, and refuges intended to shelter, in the event of armed conflict, the movable cultural property defined in sub-paragraph (a);

We also draw to your attention the European Court resolution:-

The text adopted by a large majority of the Members of the European Parliament **B8-0212/2019 - European Parliament resolution on fundamental rights of people of African descent in Europe (2018/2899(RSP))**

states...

7. Recalls that some Member States have taken steps toward meaningful and effective redress for past injustices and crimes against humanity – bearing in mind their lasting impacts in the present – against People of African Descent;

8. Calls on EU institution and the rest of Member States to follow this example which may include some form of reparations such as offering public apologies and the restitution of stolen artefacts to countries of origin."

""Crimes against humanity", "redress", "restitution", "reparation"

The full resolution is cited at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/B-8-2019-0212_EN.html

Therefore, with immediate effect, we urge you to take this Cease and Desist Order Letter as the commencement of an urgent lawsuit lobby to the International Courts of Justice to issue an immediate worldwide injunction to confiscate, remove, repossess and liberate all the African and Aboriginal Art which is currently in your possession pending due investigations and in line with the Hague Convention and the European Parliament resolutions. The State of the African Diaspora, the House of Ancestry and the Economic Community of the 6th Region have no confidence nor assurance that you are able nor willing to conserve, preserve and protect African Cultural Heritage and Antiquities for restitution and hence why this urgent injunction is applicable and necessary.

We, as the State of the African Diaspora, are working with many African Royalties, Kings, Queens and Traditional Leaders. We have been issued with the authority and mandate to act on behalf of the Congolese Government to pursue and recover and retribute back to the Congo, pillaged and looted artifacts which were stolen. Please see attached letter from the Minister of Tourism of the Democratic Republic of the Congo dated 19 October, 2019 issuing this mandate.

We have identified in upcoming auctions, many artifacts from the Congo, Nigeria, Benin and elsewhere which will require us to commission a thorough and detailed investigation as to how these items have come into the possession of auctioneers which are now being auctioned. Here are a few we have identified :



LOT 55
STATUE SONGYE A SONGYE FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONG...

Estimate EUR 300,000 - EUR 500,000
(USD 341,622 - USD 569,369)



LOT 56
STATUE KONGO A KONGO FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONG...

Estimate EUR 50,000 - EUR 80,000
(USD 56,937 - USD 91,099)



LOT 57
STATUE SONGYE A SONGYE FIGURE
RÉPUBLIQUE DÉMOCRATIQUE DU CONG...

Estimate EUR 30,000 - EUR 50,000
(USD 34,162 - USD 56,937)

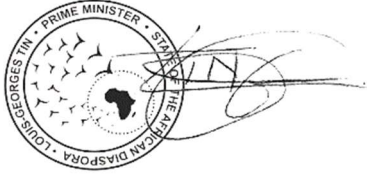
We will be in pursuit of a thorough international interpol investigations into this matter and thus urge your participation with us in order that the ramifications of any unlawful sales contravening the above said Convention and Resolutions may be reconciled forthwith.

Detaining and selling ill-gotten artifacts, artifacts stolen in a context of war crimes and crimes against humanity, is also a crime. It is called concealment and laundering, which are liable to prosecution in all criminal codes. Therefore, you are likely to be exposed to severe legal, mediatic, diplomatic and financial consequences on the international stage. African artifacts need to be restituted to the African continent and to other nations from whence they were looted and stolen, and returned to their origins. We are ready to discuss with relevant parties concerned about the modalities of this restitution, not about the principle. Due to your impending auction calendars, we expect an answer from you by Tuesday, 9 June, 2020 by 12 midnight, GMT, in the hope of opening the lines of direct communication with the necessary persons holding authority.

You may contact us on both of the emails below and we remain available to receive.

Yours faithfully

Louis-Georges Tin



Prime Minister

STATE OF THE AFRICAN DIASPORA

tin@stateofafricandiaspora.com

Chief Lonzado Langley

**National Spokesman, Professional
Forensic Genealogist/Colonial Historian**

HOUSE OF ANCESTRY

LLangley@houseofancestry.com

Cc: African Union

This Cease and Desist Order Letter has been issued to the following and will be issued to other institutions, as becomes necessary :

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BONHAMS WORLDWIDE

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