

## **ANTI-LOOTING “CAVALRY” PREPARES TO STORM DC IN EFFORTS TO AID CHINA**

**NEW YORK, NY FEBRUARY 4, 2005**—On February 17th, 2005, the non-profit advocacy group Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE) will give testimony before the US Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) in support of the People’s Republic of China’s request for assistance from the Government of the United States under Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Included in her testimony supporting the PRC’s request for a bi-lateral treaty with the United States that restricts importation of Chinese archaeological and ethnographic materials to the US, SAFE Founder and Executive Director Cindy Ho will present the CPAC with signatures in support of a petition on the issue currently available on the SAFE website (<http://www.savingantiquities.org>).

This petition directly addresses and publicizes the destructive effects of the illicit antiquities trade regarding China’s cultural heritage. China is one of the longest suffering countries as, for centuries, priceless artifacts continue to be plundered from archaeological, religious, and historical sites.



Overwhelming demand for Chinese antiquities result in a booming market for cultural treasures, often a feature in galleries and auction houses, especially in the United States. China is seeking aid from the United States to help combat this serious threat. The U.S. Cultural Property Advisory Committee sessions regarding China’s request take place on February 17 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and February 18 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the State Department.

SAFE will present CPAC with signed petitions and will participate in the public session on February 17. Petitions are being administered through the SAFE website ([www.savingantiquities.org](http://www.savingantiquities.org)), please follow the “Stop the Plunder” link. Execution of petitions is urgent. Please submit as soon as possible. Petitions will be collected until noon February 17, but please don’t wait, do it NOW.

### **About SAFE**

Saving Antiquities for Everyone ([www.savingantiquities.org](http://www.savingantiquities.org)), the volunteer group dedicated to raising public awareness of the importance of preserving cultural heritages worldwide. SAFE is a nonprofit group of professionals in communications, media, and advertising working together with experts in the academic and museum community. SAFE is sponsored by the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA), a 501(c) (3) corporation. Any contributions made to the Foundation on behalf of SAFE are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

For further information, please contact Cindy Ho, Founder/Executive Director at (917) 916-5748 or [cho@savingantiquities.org](mailto:cho@savingantiquities.org)

SAFE has no political affiliations.