Date: April 10 2007
Place: In front of the Iraq Museum, Baghdad, Iraq

Program: Candlelight vigil in the main gallery followed by the launch of “Archaeology Cafe”, a forum for open discussion, with its first session dedicated to “The Protection of Cultural Heritage in times of War” at the restaurant L’Atelier, across the street from the museum, sponsored by the newspaper Al-Akhbar. Event organized by archaeologist and journalist, Joanne Farchakh.

For more information contact vigil@savingantiquities.org
Following are suggestions for holding a candlelight vigil at your museum. Upcoming programs are listed here and may offer some ideas. Feel free to see what others have done around the world for more inspiration. In the end, the most successful event will be what works best for you and your institution. If you have any suggestions you would like to share, please contact us.

Whom to ask to host a vigil?
- Museum Director, President or Chief Curator; also keep your Communications or Publicity Department informed.

Where to hold the vigil?
- In a public space such as museum lobby (e.g., see 2007 Beirut Museum event)
- In an auditorium (particularly if media will be projected or panel discussion will take place
- In-house restaurant, café or courtyard

When to hold the vigil?
- Any day during April 10-12, preferably at a time of day when people gather
- Before the museum opens
- During lunchtime
- Near the end of the day
- At the beginning or end of another event
- Any time that suits museum’s calendar

What does a vigil program consist of?
Consider a simple remembrance or a more formal program, such as:
- a lecture or a panel discussion
- a tour of your Ancient Near Eastern or other collection
- screenings of relevant videos available from the SAFE website
You may also choose to light a virtual candle and add your museum’s name to the list of other supporters.

Consider using the occasion to review your security and risk management policies
As we remember the losses suffered by one of the pre-eminent museums in the world, consider making the Global Candlelight Vigil for the Iraq Museum an annual occasion for your institution to analyze and update its risk management practices. Conduct a security audit. Anticipate the many internal and external threats that museums and collections face. Discuss the risks to world heritage caused by natural disaster, armed conflict and the looting of cultural property worldwide. Also consider the ways in which stakeholders at your museum can offer support to museums that lack the means to provide adequate security.

How to hold the vigil?
- Schedule your event and post it on the SAFE website so that your members and local community will learn of it and attend. We can then update you with any new information.
- Download and customize an announcement flyer to advertise your event
- Distribute the SAFE Candlelight Vigil brochure about the destruction of Iraq’s heritage (produced in cooperation with The Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago). It can be downloaded and printed at your location; professionally printed copies are also available (contact us for details).
- Visit the SAFE website for additional tools

And please don’t forget…
Document your vigil with digital photographs or video and send them to SAFE so they can be shared with others around the world.

"...we should build museums in a way that the building defends itself. There may come a time, during a natural disaster perhaps, when no one will be there to protect the museum. But there will always be people who will enter the museum and take things, because they know these places contain precious material."

Donny George, former Director of the Iraq Museum, on the American television program “Charlie Rose”, January 19, 2007

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