



– On Wednesday, 12 June 2024, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), The Soufan Center, and the Permanent Missions of France and Norway to the United Nations held a policy event on “Investigating and Prosecuting the Destruction, Looting and Illicit Trade of Cultural Property Linked to Terrorism”. The event was hosted at the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations.

While the links between terrorism and the destruction of or trafficking in cultural heritage artefacts are well known, efforts to investigate and prosecute the destruction, looting and illicit trade of cultural property by terrorist groups remain relatively rare, often with light penalties.

“CTED is very pleased, as I said, to co-organize this timely event with our partners, and offer the podium to a very distinguished panel of experts, many thanks for accepting our invitation to be with us here today, in order to raise awareness, to strengthen international cooperation and advance accountability for the destruction, looting and trafficking of cultural property for terrorist purposes,” said Assistant Secretary-General Natalia Gherman, Executive Director of CTED.

The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations, [redacted], the Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, [redacted], the Assistant Director General for Culture of UNESCO, [redacted] and Ali Soufan, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of The Soufan Group and Founder of The Soufan Center also gave welcoming remarks.

“We have many important sectors represented here today who play vital roles in the protection and maintenance of cultural heritage. By gathering together, I believe this event can serve as an important inflection point to work toward ending the relative impunity for these crimes,” said Ali Soufan, Chair and Chief Executive Officer of The Soufan Group and Founder of The Soufan Center.

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