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ARMA DEI  
CARABINIERI



# International Conference The Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects

**A Coordinated Action  
through Diplomacy, Law,  
Technologies, and the  
Carabinieri's Role**

## Topic of the Conference

The **illicit trade in cultural property threatens global heritage and security**, particularly in conflict zones where weak institutions enable looting and trafficking, often funding criminal or terrorist groups. International legal frameworks remain inadequate, highlighting the **vital role of diplomacy, youth engagement, and mediation** in protecting and recovering cultural assets.

**Italy** leads global efforts through **pioneering initiatives** like the Carabinieri TPC and the “Blue Helmets of Culture,” which serve as models in heritage protection.

To advance these efforts, the **Heritage International Institute** and the **Carabinieri Arm Corps**, with the support of **Regione Lazio**, present the **international conference “The Fight Against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects through Diplomacy, Law, Technologies, and the Carabinieri's Role.”**

The event will **bring together experts across sectors** and feature many different sessions, offering **focused case studies** on the challenges and opportunities for action in fragile contexts.

# EXHIBITION

## “Recovered Treasures. Cultural Heritage Between Crime, Diplomacy and Justice”

Masterpieces recovered by the  
Carabinieri Command for the  
Protection  
of Cultural Heritage

*Opening ceremony - 1st of July, 09:45-10:15*



**Palazzo WeGil, regione lazio**  
Largo Ascianghi 5, 00153, Rome

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**HII** Heritage  
International  
Institute

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### When

1st July from 8:30am to  
4:30pm

2nd of July from 9:00am to  
4:00pm

### Where

Palazzo WeGil, Largo  
Ascianghi 5, 00153, Rome

### More Contact Info:

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[academicdirection@hii.institute](mailto:academicdirection@hii.institute)

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# The Conference Highlights - 1st of July

**09:00 - 09:45 | Institutional Greetings and Opening of the Conference**

**Pr. Francesco Rocca** – President of Regione Lazio

**Simona Renata Baldassarre** – Regional Councillor for Culture, Lazio Region

**Gen. D. Pietro Salsano** – Commander of the Carabinieri Specialized Units Division

**Prof. Gianluigi Mastandrea Bonaviri** – Academic Director of Heritage International Institute

**Alfonsina Russo** – Capo Dipartimento per la Valorizzazione del Patrimonio Culturale e Direttrice del Parco Archeologico del Colosseo

**Giovanni Melillo** – Procuratore nazionale antimafia e antiterrorismo

**Amb. Alessandro De Pedys** – General Director for Public and Cultural Diplomacy (MAECI)

**11:45 - 13:00 | The International and European Frameworks Against Illicit Trafficking: Gaps, Challenges, and Perspectives**

**Gianluigi Mastandrea Bonaviri** – First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; Academic Director of Heritage International Institute

**Claudia Morini** – Associate Professor of European Law (University of Salento)

**Isabella Salsano** – PhD candidate (University of Salento); HII Department of Heritage and Human Rights

**Marina Schneider** – UNIDROIT Principal Legal Officer & Treaties Depositary

**Cristiana Carletti** – Professor at Public International Law (Roma Tre University); Chief of the HII Department for Heritage and Development Cooperation

Moderator: **Davide Scalmani** – Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Italian Ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Heritage International Institute

**15:45 - 16:45 | Illicit Trafficking, Cultural Identity, and Collective Memory: Human Rights at Stake**

**Alexandra Xanthaki** – UN Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights

**Andrea Socrati** – Chief of the HII Unit of Accessibility and Inclusion Strategies, Responsible for accessibility and special projects of the State Tactile Museo Omero

**Tina Manandhar** – Professor in Traditional Architecture of Nepal, Archival Science, Numismatics (Tribhuvan University), Coordinator for HII in Nepal

**Marco Ramazzotti** – Professor of Archaeology (Roma La Sapienza University)

Moderator: **Laura Guercio** – Chief of the HII Unit of Human Rights, Secretary General of the Universities Network for Children In Armed Conflicts

**10:15- 10:45 | Opening Keynote Speech**

**Davide Scalmani** – Directorate General for Public and Cultural Diplomacy of the Italian Ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation; Heritage International Institute

**10:45 - 11:45 | Law Enforcement and the Fight Against Illicit Trafficking: The Role of Specialized Units**

**Francesco Gargaro** – Gen. D., Chief of the Carabinieri Command for the Protection of Cultural Heritage

**Giovanni Conzo** – Deputy prosecutor, Rome Public Prosecutor's Office

**Luigi Mancuso** – Ten. Col. CC Direttore 1<sup>a</sup> Sezione Unità Nazionale Europol SCIP – Direzione Centrale della Polizia Criminale.

**Tiziano Coiro** – Coordinator Works of Art Unit at INTERPOL

Moderator: **Gianpietro Romano** – Ten. Col. CC Specialized Units Division

**14:30 - 15:45 | Cultural Diplomacy and International Cooperation: A Multi-Stakeholder Perspective**

Welcoming remarks by: **H.E. Ambassador Niccolò Fontana** – Ambassador of Italy in Baghdad

**H. E. Saywan Sabir Mustafa Barzani** – Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the Italian Republic

**Lorenzo D'Ascia** – State Attorney in service with the general Office of the State

**Giuseppina Bonaviri** – Psychiatric physician, PhD in Experimental and Clinical Neuroscience; Chief Executive Officer of Area Vasta Smart

**Saveria Mobrici** – Criminal Lawyer and President of the Military Criminal Law Chamber

Moderator: **Marxiano Melotti** – Associate Professor of Sociology of Tourism and Cultural Heritage (Unicusano)



# The Conference Highlights - 2nd of July

**09:00 - 09:30 | Opening of the Second Day**

**On. Edmondo Cirielli** – Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**Dr. Massimo Osanna** – General Director of Museums of the Ministry of Culture

**9:30 - 10:00 | Opening Keynote Speech**

**Nora Weller** – Division of Archaeology (University of Cambridge)

**11:30 - 12:45 | Illicit Trafficking in Times of War: Heritage Under Attack and the Struggle for Justice:**

**Fausto Pocar** – Professor Emeritus of International Law (University of Milan)

**Rana Kharouf** – Professor at the Sciences Po., Paris School for International Affairs; HII Academic Board

**Ahmed Al Fatlawi** – Professor of International Law (University of Kufa); HII Academic Board

**Luca Fratini** – Coordinator for Women, Peace and Security, Youth, Peace and Security and Mediation Policies, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

**Alberto Oddeino** – Professor in International Law (University of Turin) and Deputy Director of the CPP Master and **Ludovico Carofano** – PhD Student (Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies); Heritage International Institute

Moderator: **Hani El Debuch** – Academic Board HII

**15:15 - 16:00 | Closing Remarks and Future Perspectives**

**Sergio Iovino** – Chief Executive Officer of the Heritage International Institute

**Gianluigi Mastandrea Bonaviri** – First Secretary at the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; Academic Director of Heritage International Institute



**10:00 - 11:15 | Illicit Trafficking in the Digital Age: Emerging Technologies, Black Markets, and New Frontiers of Protection**

**Gianluca Vitagliano** – Gen. B. Chief of the Carabinieri Cryptovalue Command

**Salvatore Rapicavoli** – Magg. Section Chief of Carabinieri SED (Data Elaboration Section RACIS – Command of Scientific Investigations)

**Giuliana Calcani** – Professor of Ancient Art History (Roma Tre University)

**Emanuele Bellini** – Professor of Information Processing Systems (Roma Tre University)

**Emiliano Degl'innocenti** – National Research Council, DARIAH-IT National Coordinator

Moderator: **Valentina Gastaldo** – Professor in Administrative Law (University of Parma); Chief of HII Department of Heritage and Informatics Affairs, New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

**14:00 - 15:15 | Special Session: Illicit Trafficking in Somalia – A Case Study on Fragility, Conflict, and Cultural Loss**

Welcoming remarks by: **H.E. Pier Mario Dacco Coppi** – Ambassador of Italy in Mogadishu

**H.E. Minister Dauud Aways** – Minister for Information, Culture & Tourism of the Federal Republic of Somalia

**H.E. Eng. Ibrahim Omar Shogow** – Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the Italian Republic

**H.E. Farah Sheikh Abdulqadir** – Minister of Education, Culture and Higher Education of the Federal Republic of Somalia

**Sonkor Geyre** – Chairman of Institute Security Analysis and Federalism; Former DG Ministry of Defense Somalia

**Prof. Hassan Osman Ga'al** – Rector of Somali National University (SNU)

**Prof. Mohamud Hamid Mohamed** – Chancellor of the Puntland State University (PSU)

**Gianluca Frinchillucci** – Chief of the HII Department for Heritage and Exploration History and Director of the "Silvio Zavatti" Polar Geographic Institute in Fermo

Moderator: **Flavia Orsati** – Historian of Arts; HII Academic Board