



УКРАЇНСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ КОМІТЕТ МІЖНАРОДНОЇ РАДИ З ПИТАНЬ ПАМ'ЯТОК І ВИЗНАЧНИХ МІСЦЬ  
UKRAINIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES  
COMITÉ NATIONAL UKRAINIEN DU CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES MONUMENTS ET DES SITES

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**STATEMENT**  
**by the Ukrainian National Committee**  
**of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**  
**concerning the destruction of Ukraine's cultural heritage during the armed**  
**aggression of the russian federation**

The open military attack of the russian federation, its military aggression is destroying Ukrainians, cities and villages, as well as the cultural heritage of our people.

On April 18, the entire civilized world celebrates the International Day of Monuments and Sites. For Ukraine, the vulnerability of cultural heritage and the consolidation of humanity's efforts to preserve it for future generations in times of the Great War is one of the main topics.

In the context of armed aggression, the situation in the field of cultural heritage protection in the areas of hostilities and on the temporarily occupied territory remains a matter of great concern. In addition, all Ukrainian cities and villages, from west to east, are systematically subjected to missile attacks from the territory of the russian federation. Such actions of the aggressor pose a danger to the preservation of Ukraine's monuments, including those in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine reports that a total of 1,046 cultural heritage sites in Ukraine have been damaged as a result of russia's armed aggression, 128 of which are of national significance and 848 of local significance. In total, cultural heritage sites were damaged or destroyed in 17 regions of our country. According to the data of regional military administrations, 23 monuments have been completely destroyed since the beginning of the full-scale invasion. World Heritage sites are also under threat of destruction: "Kyiv: St. Sophia Cathedral with adjacent monastery buildings, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra"; "Lviv - the ensemble of the historical center"; "Historical center of Chernihiv", "Bilhorod-Dnistrovska - Akkerman fortress" and the Dendrological Park "Sofiyivka" in Uman.

As of today, the historical centers of Odesa and Kharkiv, with their unique architectural and spatial structure and World Heritage sites, are under particular threat: - "Historical Center of the Port City of Odesa" and "House of State Industry (Derzhprom) in Kharkiv". As a result of almost daily terrorist shelling, these cities suffer the most from the destruction of monuments in the historic center. The structure, materials, and decor of cultural heritage sites are being destroyed, which has led to serious violations of the architectural and urban planning integrity of these cities.

Almost 300 of the damaged monuments are located in Kharkiv region and more than 100 in Odesa and the region. As a result of the Russian missile attacks of January 2, 2023, the UNESCO World Heritage Site "House of State Industry" in Kharkiv was also significantly damaged.

As a result of active missile and artillery shelling, other Ukrainian sites on the Preliminary List are also under threat: Astronomical Observatories of Ukraine, located in the frontline Odesa and Mykolaiv regions; Sofiyivka Dendrological Park in Uman; St. Cyril's and St. Andrew's Churches in Kyiv; Kaniv Reserve "Tomb of Taras Shevchenko"; Site "Tira-Bilgorod, the Way from the Black to the Baltic Seas" in Bilgorod-Dnistrovsky.

A separate mention should be made of the Archaeological Complex "Stone Tomb" near the city of Melitopol, which is currently located on the temporarily occupied territory. Given its location in the area of active hostilities and the aggressor's disregard for any international conventions, the site is in potential danger.

Such actions on the part of the aggressor country once again demonstrate Russia's violation of international legal acts governing relations in the field of preserving the world's cultural heritage, both in peacetime and in conditions of armed conflict.

The aggravation of the situation regarding the preservation of World Heritage sites in Ukraine forces us to recall that the signatories to the International Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict recognized that Ukraine's heritage belongs to all of humanity and that the international community should cooperate and create conditions for the collective preservation of monuments.

Given all the above, in particular the intensification of hostilities in eastern and southern Ukraine, constant missile attacks and the provisions of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the Ukrainian National Committee of ICOMOS appeals to the International Council on Monuments and Sites to join all efforts to protect the cultural heritage of Ukraine and to prepare a resolution.