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Middle East Section Election 2009

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PRESIDENT 2-year term

Instructions: (Your vote is optional) Please vote for only one choice

Farha Ghannam 

Anne Meneley 

BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term

Instructions: (Your vote is optional) Please vote for exactly 2 choices

Ilana Feldman 

Ahmed Kanna 

Smadar Lavie 

Pardis Mahdavi 

David A. McMurray 

Faedah M. Totah 

BOARD MEMBER #2 ARCHAEOLOGY SEAT 2- year term

Instructions: (Your vote is optional) Please vote for only one choice

Yorke Rowan 

Moain Sadeq 

Robert R. Saunders 



VOTE

Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: PRESIDENT 2-year term

Farha Ghannam



FARHA GHANNAM (PhD, University of Texas- Austin, 1997) **Positions Held:** International Journal of Middle East Studies (2005-present); ...

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Anne Meneley



ANNE MENELEY (PhD, New York University, 1993) **Positions Held:** Associate Professor, (2002-pres) Trent University; Assistant Professor (1998-2002) Trent Unive...

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **PRESIDENT 2-year term**

Farha Ghannam



FARHA GHANNAM (PhD, University of Texas- Austin, 1997) **Positions Held:** International Journal of Middle East Studies (2005-present); Significant Publications: "Two Dreams in a Global City: Class and Space in Urban Egypt," in *Other Cities, Other Worlds* (Andreas Hussain, ed.) Duke University Press, 2008; *Health and Identity in Egypt* (co-edited with Hania Sholkamy), The American University in Cairo Press, 2004; *Remaking the Modern: Space, Relocation, and the Politics of Identity in a Global Cairo*, University of California Press, 2002. Associate Professor of Anthropology (2006- pres) Swarthmore College; Assistant Professor of Anthropology (1999-2006) Swarthmore College; **Interests and/or Activities:** Urban Space, gender, and globalization; Board member and Treasurer, SUNTA (1998-2003); Book Review Editor,

As a long-time member of MES, I am impressed by how much the section has changed over the past years, especially its increasing visibility in the AAA and its growing role in addressing pressing political and ethical issues relevant to anthropology in general and the Middle East in particular. As president, I would be honored and challenged during these difficult financial and political times to help further the growth of the section and reach out to more graduate students, faculty members, and researchers who work on different aspects of life in the region. I would be interested in the development of connections between anthropologists working on the Middle East and those working on other regions. Areas I hope to further develop include co-sponsoring sessions and organizing joint workshops about the teaching and practice of anthropology in different areas. I would also work to ensure that MES's specific issues are heard and addressed by the AAA. For example, I am troubled by the restrictions placed on the ability of some anthropologists from the Middle East to travel to the US and attend the AAA meetings and would be interested in exploring ways to tackle such restrictions.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **PRESIDENT 2-year term**

Anne Meneley



ANNE MENELEY (PhD, New York University, 1993)

Positions Held: Associate Professor, (2002-pres) Trent University; Assistant Professor (1998-2002) Trent University; Visiting Assistant Professor (1996-1998) Lewis and Clark College; **Interests and/or**

Activities: Yemen, Palestine, commodities; Board Member Middle East Section (2007-pres); Chair, MES student and senior scholar award committee;

Significant Publications: "Time in a Bottle: The Uneasy Circulation of Palestinian Olive Oil" Middle East Report (2008); "Chador Barbie and Islamic

Socks: Fashion and Fundamentalisms" Cultural Anthropology(2007);

Tournaments of Value: Sociability and Hierarchy in a Yemeni Town, University of Toronto Press (1996, 2002).

I am so impressed by the great young scholars we have in Middle Eastern anthropology. My goal as president is to do whatever we can to encourage them. As the chair of the awards committee for the MES for the past two years, I've had the pleasure to read and appreciate the wonderful work that is being done in our field. I've also had the chance to read the glowing recommendations for senior scholars who have mentored these fine students. I want to support the Middle East Section's profile in human rights advocacy and encourage our previous efforts to provide a corrective to other destructive information about the Middle East which has so influenced foreign policy. My other interest is to encourage work on commodities in the Middle East (petroleum, olive oil, dates, and qat, for instance), to see how these goods have instigated or restricted the movements of people, and the attendant cultural transformations.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term

Ilana Feldman



ILANA FELDMAN (PhD, University of Michigan, 2002)
Positions Held: Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2007-pres) George Washington University; Assistant Profess...

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Ahmed Kanna

AHMED KANNA (PhD, Harvard, 2006) **Positions Held:** Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban and Global Studies (2008 – pres) Trinity College; Postdoctoral Fel...

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Smadar Lavie



SMADAR LAVIE (PhD, Berkeley, 1989) **Positions Held:** The Hubert H. Humphrey Distinguished Visiting Professor (2007-2009) Macalester College; Visiting Associate Pro...

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Pardis Mahdavi



PARDIS MAHDAVI (PhD, Columbia University, 2006)
Positions Held: Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2006-pres) Pomona College; Visiting...

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David A. McMurray

DAVID A. McMURRAY (PhD, University of Texas- Austin, 1992) **Positions Held:** Associate Professor & Chair (2005-pres) Oregon State University; **Interests ...**

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Faedah M. Totah

FAEDAH M. TOTAH (PhD, The University of Texas -Austin, 2006) **Positions Held:** Assistant Professor of International Studies (2007-Present) Virginia Commonwea...

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term**

Ilana Feldman



ILANA FELDMAN (PhD, University of Michigan, 2002)
Positions Held: Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2007-pres) George Washington University; Assistant Professor/Faculty Fellow of Middle East Studies (2004-2007) New York University; Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities and Lecturer of Anthropology (2002-4) Columbia University; **Interests and/or Activities:** Middle East/Palestine; anthropology of state and government; humanitarianism and human rights; **Significant Publications:** *Governing Gaza: Bureaucracy, Authority, and the Work of Rule* (1917-67) Duke University Press, 2008; "The Quaker Way: Ethical Labor and Humanitarian Relief" *American Ethnologist*, 2007; "Difficult Distinctions: Refugee Law, Humanitarian Practice, and Political Identification in Gaza" *Cultural Anthropology*, 2007.

While Middle East anthropology has historically been somewhat marginal to the larger field, such isolation happily no longer characterizes the field. As a member of the board of the Middle East section of the AAA, I would seek to promote and develop opportunities for collaboration and ongoing engagement between anthropologists focusing on the Middle East and those working in other areas. Jointly sponsored panels and workshops at the AAA meetings would be one obvious venue for collaboration and I would seek to explore other possibilities as well. In addition to supporting engagement across the discipline, I would hope to help foster a wider audience for the voices of Middle East anthropologists, who have a wealth of often unique knowledge to contribute to public discussions about events in, and US foreign policy towards, the region. Depending on the needs and interests of section members, I would be interested in utilizing resources of the Middle East section to help facilitate such public engagement.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term**

Ahmed Kanna

AHMED KANNA (PhD, Harvard, 2006) **Positions Held:** Postdoctoral Fellow in Urban and Global Studies (2008 - pres) Trinity College; Postdoctoral Fellow, International Studies (2006 - 2008) University of Iowa; Visiting Fellow, Graduate School of Design, (2006) Harvard University; **Interests and/or Activities:** Anthropology of the city and architecture; space and politics; Arab Gulf and Iran; critical theory; **Significant Publications:** The Superlative City: Dubai and the Urban Condition in the Early 21st Century (editor) Harvard University Press, Forthcoming; "The 'State Philosophical' in the 'Land without Philosophy': Shopping Malls, Interior Cities, and the Image of Utopia in Dubai," Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review, 2005.

The term "anthropology of architecture" may strike many as a neologism. After all, other than a handful (if that many) studies of the built environment by anthropologists (for example, the work of T. Caldeira, E. Guano, and J. Holston), anthropologists have generally avoided the built environment as a research and political problem, opting instead to look at two vaguely related areas: the natural environment and "space." The contemporary Middle East, however, is a region with an ongoing passion for the built environment. Major architects such as Rem Koolhaas and Zaha Hadid have even gone so far as to anoint the region a major, even progressive, hotbed for radical design and ambitious urban schemes. The Middle East, therefore, seems to cry out for more scholarly engagement with the built environment, and especially its sociocultural, socio-spatial, and political ramifications. It is my hope to begin a conversation on the MES board about increasing the profile of this understudied area of anthropology. As a condensation of the political hierarchies, aspirations, and desires of a society, architecture would seem an excellent "field" for new anthropological studies. As a region that increasingly, perhaps inevitably imagines its identities and futures architecturally, the Middle East may become a *locus classicus* for such work in the near future.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term**

Smadar Lavie



SMADAR LAVIE (PhD, Berkeley, 1989) **Positions Held:** The Hubert H. Humphrey Distinguished Visiting Professor (2007-2009) Macalester College; Visiting Associate Professor of Anthropology and Women Studies (2001-2007) Beit Berl College; Associate Professor of Anthropology and Critical Theory (1994-1999) University of California, Davis; Assistant Professor of Anthropology and Critical theory (1990-1994) University of California, Davis; **Interests and/or Activities:** coloniality, authorship, feminist theory; Editorial board, Collaborative Anthropologies (2007-pres); Board of directors, Ahoti (Sistah - Hebrew), for Women in Israel (2003-2005). **Significant Publications:** Displacement, Diaspora and Geographies of Identity (co-edited with Ted Swedenburg) Duke University Press, 1996; Creativity/Anthropology (co-edited with Kirin Narayan and Renato Rosaldo) Cornell University Press, 1993; The Poetics of Military Occupation, University of California Press, 1990.

MENA Anthropology has always been on the cutting edge of bridging historical, detailed knowledges of anti-colonial struggles with the performances of ritual, religion, gender, citizenship, and human rights. U.S. anthropologists working in MENA were among the first to focus on social, cultural and legal justice issues, and the critique of the neo-liberal discourse on pluralism, often at a great risk to their careers. Likewise we were among the first to revise methodologies and practices of ethnographic inquiry and writing. Until 9/11, this was unrecognized. U.S. anthropology showcased these issues in the context of Latin America and South-East Asia. Our intergenerational continuity ought to flower forth from MES not only to other sections of the AAA but also across disciplinary boundaries. In a similar vein, our intimate, long term committed involvement in the vie quotidienne of MENA and its global diasporas ought to continue promoting a dialogic, culturally sensitive relationship between heterogeneous communities in MENA and the U.S. via the school systems, universities, printed and electronic media, and other venues of the multi-localized public sphere. MES ought to continue its commitment to the production of transversal, decentralized anthropological theory through horizontal engagement with both the academic and activist non-English discourses of MENA and its diasporas in Arabic, Farsi, Turkish, Hebrew, and all other languages and dialects of the globalized MENA.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term**

Pardis Mahdavi



PARDIS MAHDAVI (PhD, Columbia University, 2006) **Positions Held:** Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2006-pres) Pomona College; Visiting Assistant Professor (summer 2007) New York University; **Interests and /or Activities:** gender, sexuality, Islam, youth, health and human rights in the Middle East; Editor, Culture, Health and Sexuality (2007-pres); **Significant Publications:** *Passionate Uprisings: Iran's Sexual Revolution*, Stanford University Press, 2008; "Health and the Infrastructure of Risk in Post-Revolution Iran" in *Contemporary Iran* (edited by Ali Gheissari), Oxford University Press, 2009; "But What If Someone Sees Me? Women, Risk and the Aftershocks of Iran's Sexual Revolution" in *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, 2009.

When I first became a member of AAA as a graduate student, I remember feeling overwhelmed and lost during the annual meetings. I joined various sections in desperate search for a home with possibilities for inspiration, meaningful conversation, and mentorship. I found this and more in MES. The contacts and friends I made through attending MES meetings have provided me with support, guidance, and mentorship throughout the years, but it took me a few years to find MES. I feel that the MES is a section with many possibilities, and one of my goals as a board member would be to do more outreach and help to increase the visibility of the section especially to graduate students and newer faculty members who may be new to the AAA. I want to assist others in finding a "home" at the AAA, and also want to be part of a section that has given me so much over the years. I feel that I can bring my energy, and experiences navigating the AAA, as well as my insights as a relatively new faculty member at a small liberal arts college. In sum, I feel that I can learn a lot from colleagues at MES, and also give back to the section if given this opportunity.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

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David A. McMurray

DAVID A. McMURRAY (PhD, University of Texas- Austin, 1992) **Positions Held:** Associate Professor & Chair (2005-pres) Oregon State University; **Interests and/or Activities:** North African migration, Arab influences on French popular culture; **Significant Publications:** Rhythms of Resistance: Histories of Musical Opposition and Affirmation from Around the World, Cengage Learning, 2008. "Censorship, Surveillance and Middle East Studies in the Contemporary U.S." in Auto-ethnographies of Academic Practices: An Introduction (edited by Donna Young and Anne Meneley), Broadview Press, 2005; In and Out of Morocco: Migration and Smuggling in a Frontier Boomtown, University of Minnesota Press, 2001.

I would like to spend my time on the MES Board promoting student research, panels at the AAA meetings, and grant opportunities that reach beyond a place-based anthropology and recognize the traffic between Europe, South Asia, Africa, Eurasia and the Middle East. In a related vein, I would like to promote greater interest in transnational cultural phenomena, such as music and other forms of popular culture. I am also interested in investigating ways of using MES to help increase university participation in the Scholars at Risk program, especially finding temporary positions for scholars from Middle East and North African nations. Finally I would like to maintain a dialogue among professionals based on reflections on teaching about the Middle East, which is a perennial problem for all of us.

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View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #1 3-year term**

Faedah M. Totah

FAEDAH M. TOTAH (PhD, The University of Texas -Austin, 2006) **Positions Held:** Assistant Professor of International Studies (2007-Present) Virginia Commonwealth University; Visiting Assistant Professor (2006-2007) Knox College; **Interests and/or Activities:** Space and place, heritage, colonialism; **Significant Publications:** Return to the Origin: Negotiating the Modern and Unmodern in the Old City of Damascus. City and Society, forthcoming; The Future of the Bayt Arabi (Courtyard House): Preserving or Recreating a Syrian Tradition, Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Working Papers Series, 2009.

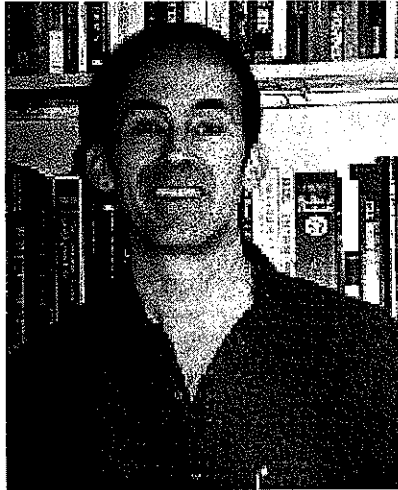
A few years ago when I was deciding between attending AAA or MESA, one of my mentors said there is not much Middle East at AAA. I was glad to find this was not the case when I did attend! I appreciated the work of MES in selecting panels that show the fascinating scholarship emerging from the region. I believe the work of MES is especially important for the contribution of anthropology of the Middle East to the development of the discipline. The current interest in the Middle East that focuses on fundamentalism and terrorism is misrepresenting the diversity found there. I believe MES is instrumental in illustrating the vitality not only of the geographical area but of research interests that cover a wide spectrum and connect with work in other parts of the world. MES is also important for providing scholars with a place to meet. This becomes important for many of us who work in institutions with few specialists on the Middle East and even less resources. As a member of the board for MES I will work to enhance the involvement of the section with the rest of AAA and increase the involvement and contribution of members.

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View details for: BOARD MEMBER #2 ARCHAEOLOGY SEAT 2- year term

Yorke Rowan



YORKE ROWAN (PhD, University of Texas-Austin, 1998)
Positions Held: Research Associate (2008 - pres)
Oriental Institute...

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Moain Sadeq



MOAIN SADEQ (PhD, Free University of Berlin, 1991)
Positions Held: Visiting Associate Professor
(2007-Pres) University of Toronto; Visiting Associate ...

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Robert R. Saunders

ROBERT R. SAUDERS (PhD, American University, 2007)
Positions Held: Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Geography and History (2007- pres) Eastern Washingt...

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For additional information, please contact the Chair, Board

Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #2 ARCHAEOLOGY SEAT 2- year term**

Yorke Rowan



YORKE ROWAN (PhD, University of Texas-Austin, 1998) **Positions Held:** Research Associate (2008 - pres) Oriental Institute, University of Chicago; ECA Research Fellow (2008) W.F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research, Jerusalem; CAORC Scholar (2007) American Center of Oriental Research, Amman, Jordan; Fulbright Research Scholar to Jordan (2006-07) Yarmouk University; Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology (2004-06) University of Notre Dame; **Interests and/or Activities:** prehistory, ritual, politics of archaeological practice; **Significant Publications:** *New Approaches to Old Stones: Recent Studies of Ground Stone Artifacts* (edited with J. Ebeling) Equinox, 2008; "The Meaning of Ritual Diversity in the

Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant" (with D. Ilan) in *Cult in Context: Reconsidering Ritual in Archaeology*, Oxbow, 2007; *Marketing Heritage: Archaeology and the Consumption of the Past* (edited with U. Baram) AltaMira, 2004.

Anthropology and archaeology in the Middle East often do not operate with similar goals in mind, and many archaeologists conducting research in the Middle East are not active in the AAA. Despite this, increasing numbers of archaeologists from different disciplinary backgrounds are becoming engaged with the individuals and communities living in the areas where they carry out their field research. Challenges, questions and dilemmas other anthropologists confront during their investigations (human rights, ethical considerations, academic freedom) are increasingly of major interest to archaeologists, whether anthropologically trained or not. As world events continue to bring attention to the MES, the expanding membership of the section could be increased further through new student membership, including those from non-anthropological backgrounds, minority scholars and those from abroad. Archaeologists should become more involved in assisting MES leadership so that collaborative, relevant programs and sessions are developed that will encourage greater participation. My major focus, then, if elected as the Archaeology member of the MES section board of the AAA, will be to encourage active involvement of the section membership and the Board in defining opportunities to address common interests, and for defining areas of particular concern to archaeologists and anthropologists working in the Middle East.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #2 ARCHAEOLOGY SEAT 2- year term**

Moain Sadeq



MOAIN SADEQ (PhD, Free University of Berlin, 1991) **Positions Held:** Visiting Associate Professor (2007-Pres) University of Toronto; Visiting Associate Professor (2006), Montclair State University, New Jersey; Visiting Fulbright Lecturer and Researcher (2002/2003), The University of Chicago; Founder and General Director (August 1994-Present), Palestinian Department of Antiquities (Gaza); Co-founder and Dean (1991-1994) Faculty of Education [presently: al-Aqsa University], Gaza; **Interests and/or Activities:** archaeology, especially Gaza; cultural dialogue; public outreach and education via film and television; **Significant Publications:** "Pilgrimage, Sciences and Sufism: Islamic Art in the West Bank and Gaza" in *Museum with No Frontier, Palestinian Territories* (with M. Hawari, Y. Natsheh, N. Al-Ju'beh, M. Abu Khalaf), London, 2003; "Le développement urbain de Gaza" in *Scientific Catalogue for Gaza à la croisée des civilisations* Geneva, 2007; Recent "Archaeological Survey and Excavations in the Gaza Region" in *Conservation and Exploitation of Palestinian Cultural Patrimony* (edited by Fabio Maniscalco) .Naples, 2005

For many decades, archaeological exploration in the Middle East was pursued to satisfy state or national agendas or in response to specific spiritual interests. This situation largely has been transformed as a result of developments in the discipline of archaeology itself. Now, archaeologists aim to understand ancient societies in a broad interdisciplinary frame, looking beyond the constraints of political frontiers, using stratigraphic and analytical studies as a means of investigating all layers of the past. Despite this change there is a long road ahead for both the international archaeological community and archaeological practitioners in countries of the Middle East. If elected, I will reach out to all archaeologists and anthropologists, in order to facilitate their contributions to, and understanding of, the social and political conditions that continue to constrain the ability of indigenous archaeologists to fully participate in archaeological and anthropological research. I will seek to inform members of the MES about global efforts devoted to achieve social security, cultural and political tolerance, and cosmopolitan co-existence of communities of all faiths, races and cultural backgrounds.

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Middle East Section Election 2009

View details for: **BOARD MEMBER #2 ARCHAEOLOGY SEAT 2- year term**

Robert R. Saunders

ROBERT R. SAUDERS (PhD, American University, 2007) **Positions Held:** Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Geography and History (2007- pres) Eastern Washington University; **Interests and/or Activities:** politics and identity in archaeological and cultural heritage narratives; **Significant Publications:** Building Destruction: The Consequences of Rising Urbanization on Cultural Heritage in the Ramallah Province, (with Salah al-Houdeliah, Ph.D.) International Journal of Cultural Property, Accepted; Between Paralysis and Practice: Theorizing the Political Liminality of Palestinian Cultural Heritage, Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress, December 2008.

MES needs to continue to take an active leadership role in firmly positioning anthropological archaeology in the Middle East region. Too often anthropological approaches to archaeological research in the region are drowned out by classical and biblical archaeological constructions of the archaeological past. As a member of the MES board, I would be committed to strengthening relationships among anthropological archaeologists and cultural heritage professionals in order to ensure that the activist nature of MES is more directly applied to the archaeological issues in the Middle East. Furthermore, I believe that we must examine the contemporary context and political forces at work in the preservation, management and promotion of archaeological and cultural heritage sites in the Middle East. With the level of ongoing warfare, unmitigated urbanization and looting that plagues several hotspots throughout the Middle East, we need to make sure that our activist approach extends to the protection of threatened archaeological and cultural heritage.

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