

ABSTRACTS SELECTED

HERITAGE, (POST) CONFLICT AND CONFLICT PREVENTION

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Between preservation and restoration of identity and heritage; the case of Algeria.

Algeria, an African, Maghreb and Mediterranean country, cradle of civilizations, place of passage and trade, by its situation has always dealt with influences and has put up with the brewing she knew, which is apparent in its rich cultural diversity. Confronted to the problem of illicit traffic of cultural goods and properties in Algeria, the country fights as all African countries do. Algeria will be reorganized and endowed with legal and normative instruments in 1998, and since 2005 operational mechanisms were adopted for effective control on the territory. This strategy was accompanied by awareness campaigns addressed to the public, which happens to be sometimes double edged and works against the protection. On the other hand, the protection, and the conservation of cultural heritage in Algeria and the involvement of civil society cannot be understood without the modern history of this country, namely the history of its colonization that lasted 130 years, more than a century of a political settlement, during which heavy excavations were conducted to justify ideologically the French presence in the continent as a continuity and a cause of a Roman's inheritance in Algeria. These protected sites and preserved properties, where no Algerian had any access, consolidated a break between the north and the south, between the Roman heritage and the traditional vernacular architecture which was considered afterwards as a heritage of "the poor" that outlines the misery of the Algerian.

It is in this context that Algeria has built up its identity for years between the need of preservation and adhesion to the society. Through my communication, I would like to present the experience that Algeria undergoes in this framework among various aspects, without excluding the strong period of internal conflicts that lasted over 10 years and to present how the cultural heritage has suffered from a significant damage during this period.

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As such, she has participated in several national and international forum meetings on the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property as a representative of her institution and country.

She also had to participate and coordinate projects under Euromed heritage and has done several internships within this framework.