

# WORLD HERITAGE WATCH

Press release

## Shelling of Ukrainian Cities Threatens the Art Treasures of the Country: The Cultural Heritage Community Must Help!



An image of the crucified Jesus Christ is brought from the Armenian Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary (16th century) in Lviv for storage in a bunker.

*Photo: Andre Luis Alves*

World Heritage Watch is urgently appealing for donations to help bring Ukrainian art treasures to safety.

With Russian invading forces increasingly shelling Ukrainian cities, the country's cultural heritage is in ever greater danger of being destroyed or looted.

Since the Russian dictator Putin has repeatedly denied Ukraine its cultural and historical independence, there are urgent fears that he will destroy the country's cultural heritage and have its most important objects shipped to Moscow, where they will be presented as testimonies of Russian culture.

As difficult as it is to protect built monuments such as churches, statues and historic buildings from bombs and missiles - the inhabitants of Lviv are boarding up their historic facades, and movable cultural property can still be brought to safety if action is taken quickly. It can either be stored locally in bunkers or taken out of the country to escape the invaders' grasp.

However, Ukrainian museums and churches lack the materials and transportation facilities to properly pack and move the artifacts. We are calling for donations from the international heritage community to purchase packing materials and send them to Ukraine to secure Ukraine's movable cultural heritage until it can be safely returned to its original locations.

World Heritage Watch is in contact with an initiative in Lviv that can distribute the materials in Ukraine. However, this will remain possible only as long as Lviv, Kyiv and Odessa are still open. Therefore, action must be taken immediately.

Donations from which we can buy materials in Berlin and ship them to Lviv can be made  
- by bank transfer to our account

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- or by Paypal through our website <https://world-heritage-watch.org/content/donations/>

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