

**KEMET REPORT UPDATE:
(February 13, 2011)
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Since January 25, 2011 we have witnessed the popular uprising of the Egyptian people to get rid of the Mubarak regime, which has ruled Egypt for 30 years. The major demonstrations in the cities of Alexandria, Suez, and Cairo, and the looting during the initial days of the uprising have caused much concern about the welfare of the people and the safety of the ancient African artifacts.

These are the confirmed incidences to date:

1. In late January, at the Qantara East site in the Sinai area there was a total of 6 boxes taken from the storage magazine, but it is not known how many artifacts were stolen. However, 293 artifacts from this site have since been located and returned.
2. On Friday, January 28th, looters broke into the Cairo Museum and damaged 70 items, including four items from the Tutankhamen collection: Tut standing on a panther; Tut on a papyrus boat; a walking stick; and a gold fan head. Also, these looters damaged two non-royal mummies from the Late Period which were housed in a downstairs storage room next to the CT scanner lab in the museum. Ten people were arrested and are in custody.
3. On January 28th, the Cairo Museum looters *stole* at least 18 items, including one Queen Nefertiti item, a dozen items of Yuya, the father of Queen Tiye, and two King Tutankhamen items (a gilded wood statue of King Tut being carried by a goddess, and a gilded wood statute of Tut harpooning). These 18 items were only recently reported as stolen and they remain missing.
4. On February 11th, robbers broke into a storage magazine in Dahshur, near the mud-brick pyramid of King Amenemhet III (an update later).
5. Zahi Hawass, the Director of Antiquities, stated that the chief of tourist police reported that criminals entered the storage magazine at Tuna el-Gebel and that two mummies from the Roman period are missing. However, Hawass also indicated that the curator of the site wrote in his report that nothing happened at Tuna el-Gebel. It is clear that one of these two men is mistaken.

The full extent of the theft and damage to the sites and museums will not be known for some time. It seems that the ongoing demonstrations in Tahrir Square in downtown Cairo will prevent Egypt from getting back to business as usual anytime soon, and will keep tourists away until the demands of the protesters for a new civilian government are met, or the military puts an end to the demonstrations.

Nevertheless, it is interesting to see the recent widespread concerns throughout the U.S about the safety of the ancient Egyptian monuments. Few people realize that the safety of the monuments has been in great jeopardy for years, and they have suffered from systematic and deliberate defacement and de-Africanization at the hands of local Egyptian government workers. Since 1994, I have documented these crimes in my essay series, "The Vanishing Evidence of Classical African Civilizations," and yet almost all Africentric tour leaders and travelers have chosen to ignore this major problem.

Maybe now that the Western media is focusing on the crisis in Egypt and the threat to the artifacts, more people in the African-centered community will address the crimes against the artifacts that I have been documenting for years. Indeed, as I have often stated in the past, it is not possible to effectively argue about ancient Kemet being an African civilization if there is the destruction of all of the physical evidence. In the realm of serious research, "Documentation beats conversation" and thus it is in the interest of the Black community to preserve and protect the sacred physical remains of our history and heritage, regardless if CNN or Al Jazeera reports on this matter or not.

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"Vanishing Evidence" Part I

http://manuampim.com/Part_I.htm

"Vanishing Evidence" Part II

http://manuampim.com/Part_II.htm

"Vanishing Evidence" Part III

http://manuampim.com/Part_III.htm

"Primary Research is the greatest weapon against the distortion of African history and culture." - MA