



**STUDI DI DIRITTO INTERNAZIONALE UMANITARIO
E DEI CONFLITTI ARMATI**

Series directed by

Ida Caracciolo and Umberto Montuoro

Studies in International Law

Preserving Cultural Heritage and National Identities for International Peace and Security

Edited by

Ida Caracciolo and Umberto Montuoro



G. Giappichelli Editore – Torino

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| Federico Lenzerini * |

Assistance by Peacekeeping Forces to Protection of Cultural Heritage and International Criminal Responsibility

SUMMARY: 1. Introduction: Security Council Resolution 2347/2017, assistance in the protection of cultural heritage and attempts to establish “Blue Helmets for Culture”. – 2. The participation of peacekeeping forces in ensuring that individuals responsible of crimes against cultural heritage are brought to justice. – 3. Prosecution of perpetrators of crimes against cultural heritage and profiles of individual criminal responsibility/liability. – 4. Conclusion.

1. Introduction: Security Council Resolution 2347/2017, assistance in the protection of cultural heritage and attempts to establish “Blue Helmets for Culture”

Resolution No. 2347 of 24 March 2017 may legitimately be considered the most significant resolution adopted by the UN Security Council (UNSC), up to the time of this writing, in the field of cultural heritage protection.¹ It is indeed a very detailed and structured document, addressing all the most topical aspects related to the threats faced by cultural heritage in contemporary times connected to international peace and security. Among the most relevant parts of the resolution, it is first of all to be noted that both “the unlawful destruction of cultural heritage” and “the looting and smuggling of cultural property in the event of armed conflicts,” perpetrated by terrorist groups, are contextualized in the framework of terrorist activities, which are considered by the UNSC as constituting “one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.”² The concept according to which intentional destruction of cul-

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¹ For previous pertinent UNSC resolutions see Res. 1483 of 22 May 2003, Res. 2170 of 15 August 2014, Res. 2199 of 12 February 2015 and Res. 2249 of 20 November 2015.

² See UNSC Res. 2347 of 24 March 2017, preamble, fourth recital.