



# ICBS

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE BLUE SHIELD

JOAN VAN ALBADA  
PRESIDENT

Mr Sukehiro Hasegawa  
Special Representative of the Secretary General  
United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor

Paris, 6 June 2006

Dear Mr Hasegawa,

Please find here attached a statement by the International Committee of the Blue Shield expressing its deep concern with the recent lootings in East Timor resulting in the destruction of vital records and information.

The Blue Shield is the cultural equivalent of the Red Cross. It is the symbol specified in the 1954 Hague Convention for marking cultural sites to give them protection from attack in the event of armed conflict. It is also the name of an international committee set up in 1996 to work to protect the world's cultural heritage threatened by wars and natural disasters.

The vital work of the ICBS was recognised in the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention, agreed in April 1999 by 84 countries.

ICBS calls on you to ensure the protection of the unique and vulnerable records stored in the Truth Commission building, the National Archives and the courts. Those documents will serve as evidence in the future and are basic for the fight against impunity which is one of the main concerns of the UN Secretary General.

Thank you in advance for your help,

Sincerely,

Joan van Albada  
President

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THE ICBS WORKS TO PROTECT CULTURAL PROPERTY IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL AND HUMAN DISASTER.  
IT COMPRISES THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON ARCHIVES (ICA),  
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MUSEUMS (ICOM),  
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS) AND  
THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS (IFLA)  
THE CO-ORDINATING COUNCIL OF AUDIOVISUAL ARCHIVES ASSOCIATIONS (CCAAA)



International Council on  
Monuments and Sites  
Conseil International  
des Monuments et des Sites

