

what is an  *illicit excavation*?



## Illicit archaeological excavation

also known as looting or unauthorized excavation, involves digging up archaeological sites and extracting artifacts without proper authorization or in violation of legal regulations.



## The consequences of illegal excavations:

- Destruction of archaeological sites
- Irreversible damage to layers and context
- Loss of cultural heritage

## Destructive methods used in illegal excavations

- Bulldozing, tunneling, uncontrolled digging
- Destruction of archaeological layers
- Erasure of valuable historical information



## Fighting back: protecting our cultural heritage

- Implementation of specific laws and regulations
- Education and public awareness
- Surveillance and patrolling of archaeological sites
- International collaboration to combat the illicit trafficking of artifacts
- Use of advanced surveillance technologies
- Cooperation between sectors and organizations
- Restitution and repatriation of stolen artifacts
- Monitoring of the art market and regulation
- Research and accurate documentation of archaeological sites and objects