

The Minister would like to sincerely thank and praise the efforts of United States Attorney Damian Williams of the Southern District of New York (SDNY), the prosecutors from SDNY, especially Jessica Feinstein and Shiva Logarajah, the investigators from HSI, especially Special Agent John P. Labbat, and all relevant authorities both abroad and in Cambodia, with particular thanks to the US Embassy in Phnom Penh and the Ministry's team of archaeologists and researchers.

The Minister also would like to extend special thanks to Bradley J. Gordon of Edenbridge Asia and Steven Heimberg of Apex Advisors. Mr. Gordon and Mr. Heimberg, the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts' legal advisors, have spent many years helping Ministry officials to negotiate the return of Khmer cultural treasures have been instrumental in effecting the recovery of many invaluable cultural properties, and in particular these items being returned today by the MET.

She concluded "We are proud of our joint efforts and cooperation with the United States of America with respect to restoring Cambodia's cultural heritage and bringing back our stolen artifacts. These returns contribute to the reconciliation and healing of the Cambodian people who went through decades of civil war and suffered tremendously from the tragedy of the Khmer Rouge genocide and to a greater strengthening of our relationship with the United States"

