

## ICHO LAW

### **Legal bill on preventing clandestine diggings and illegal excavations intended to obtain antiquities and historical relics which are, according to international regulations, 100 years in age or more; dated May 17, 1980**

Single Article – Considering the importance of conserving Islamic and cultural heritage from the view-point of sociology, and scientific, cultural, and historical research, and considering the necessity of preventing plunder and export of these valuable reserves, which according to national and international rules and regulations are prohibited, the following Single Article is hereby approved:

1 – Any digging or excavation intended to obtain antiquities and historical relics is absolutely forbidden. The violator shall be sentenced to correctional confinement of 6 months to 3 years. The discovered objects and the digging equipments shall be confiscated in the interest of Public Treasury.

In case the clandestine excavation is done in historical places registered in The National List for Cultural Heritage, the violator will be sentenced to the utmost prescribed punishment.

2 – In case the objects - mentioned in this Article – are found by chance, the finder shall be obliged to deliver them to the nearest department of Culture and High Education as soon as possible.

Here, a committee shall be formed, including religious judge, local public prosecutor, the Head of the Department for Culture and High Education (or their representatives) and a highly specialized expert, which, after the examination the case, shall act according to the following:

A – In case the discovered objects are found in private properties, precious metals and jewels shall, after being weighed, be estimated as twice as the market value of the raw material; and other objects shall be estimated as half of the evaluated price; and the total estimated sum shall be paid to the discoverer.

B – In case the objects are discovered in non-private properties, the discovery-reward shall be half of the sum specified in subparagraph A.

C – The assessment and payment of the discovery-reward mentioned in subparagraphs A and B shall be performed by the Department of Culture and High Education within the maximum of one month.

3 – According to International laws, antiquities are objects made or produced at an earlier period at least 100 years ago. For objects with less than 100 years in age, the discoverer may own them after paying the one-fifth of their evaluated price (as ordained by Islamic law- Khoms) to the National Treasury.

4- Any person who, in violation of provisions of this law, trade in such discovered objects shall be liable to the penalty provided for in subparagraph A above.