



# PERU SUES YALE OVER ARTIFACTS

PAUL NEEDHAM | 12:00 AM, DEC 09, 2008

The Republic of Peru has quietly filed a lawsuit against Yale, officially turning a nearly century-long dispute over the rightful ownership of Inca artifacts into a legal battle, the News has learned.

Peru's 31-page complaint, accompanied by some 26 exhibits, was lodged in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on Friday by the Washington law firm that has represented Peru since last fall. In that time, Peru and Yale came close to signing an agreement that would have kept the parties out of court by sending some — but not all — of the artifacts excavated by Yale explorer Hiram Bingham III back to Machu Picchu, but ultimately were unable to finalize those plans.

[ydn-legacy-photo-inline id="11491" ]

Instead, according to the complaint, Peru now seeks “the immediate return of all such property as well as damages that it has suffered on account of Yale’s persistent breach of its obligations and profit at the expense of the people of Peru.”

The lawsuit does not come as a complete surprise; officials in Peru have hinted since April that they would sue Yale, and those intentions were reiterated by the country’s Council of Ministers in November, when it approved in principle the filing of a lawsuit.



University General Counsel Dorothy Robinson said although Peru filed the lawsuit, Yale has yet to be served with papers. Still, echoing statements she made a month ago, Robinson said she had hoped to resolve the disagreement with Peru amicably.

“Clearly it is a case where there is good reason for both sides to reach a creative, constructive resolution,” she said in an e-mail Tuesday. “We will, of course defend the suit.”



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Eli "73" • 13 years ago

Yale should defend itself in depth until the cost of litigation outpaces Peru's



How is possible?,What a pity! this prestigious University acting like a cheap thief!, they didn't honored the agreement one century ago,Indiana Jones and George Bush arrogance combined!...

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**Anonymous** • 13 years ago

As both a peruvian and a Yale graduate, I had hoped for an amicable resolution. Yale, however, still sees itself Indiana Jones rescuing for humanity treasures found in Banana Republic. Peru is a sovereign nation with beautiful, safe museums where the pieces belong &#45 not in Peabody's basement.

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**Glenn Gutmacher** • 13 years ago

A lot was said about tapping for the secret societies, but when I was at Yale &#40mid&#451980s&#41 the night when the dozen or so a capella singing groups held their tap night was a big deal on campus. And the bonds that these people had often lasted well beyond their campus years.

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**citizen of macondo** • 13 years ago

I hope Yale wins the dispute. Otherwise, they artifacts are gonna end up in the hands of thieves and highest bidders down in Macondo. Should Peru win, it will be a treasure for the corrupt to reward themselves handsomely.

At Yale, they are safe and protected for generations to come.

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