

STATEMENT FROM INAH ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

The archaeologists and other researchers of the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) dedicated to the exploration, discovery, study, conservation and dissemination of the archaeological heritage of Mexico, denounce that the administrative bureaucracy holds hostage the institution that for decades has fulfilled the substantive tasks conferred on it by current legislation. Before starting any research project, we must present it to the Archaeology Council, a consultative entity that has exceeded its functions and attributions by making discretionary decisions and covering up bad practices that have damaged the national archaeological heritage. The officials have imposed a cumbersome procedure called the Institutional Project System (SIP) that has to go through seven bureaucratic levels to achieve budget approval, which is delivered quite late or incomplete.

Bureaucrats have imposed a mechanism for the hiring of professionals who collaborate in research work demanding requirements that are almost impossible to meet, forcing them to take out a bond and civil liability insurance, which together with the payment of taxes reduces the payment offered by up to 45%. The hiring process is a total simulation, as they are forced to submit two false quotes. Under this scheme, those hired lack social security, do not generate seniority and lack the benefits established by the labor law. Sometimes their payment has been delayed for up to six months. To carry out the field work, there are no longer vehicles or gasoline, and travel expenses are only authorized for seven days, being insufficient for any archaeological intervention.

For the study of the materials and objects that we recovered in the excavations, there are practically no resources, putting their conservation at risk. We love archaeology and respect the INAH, but we can no longer work in these degrading conditions, drowned by excessive and unnecessary procedures.

We demand respectful treatment for research and conservation work on archaeological heritage.