



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE of AMERICA

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21 March 2016

The Honorable Minister of Arts and Culture  
c/o the Acting Director General: 'Vusithemba Ndima'  
Republic of South Africa

Your Excellency;

The Archaeological Institute of America has learned with grave concern about the imminent destruction through mining of one of the most important archaeological sites in South Africa, Canteen Kopje, in Northern Cape Province. This site is of international significance, holding a record of human occupation from two million years ago through the Colonial Period. It is of the greatest scientific and cultural value to the people of South Africa and across the world. The site was gazetted a South African Heritage Site as far back as 1948, an indication of its outstanding importance.

The Archaeological Institute of America is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. Founded in 1879, we support archaeologists in the field and disseminate the results of their research to scholars and the wider international public. We advocate for the preservation of the archaeological heritage on behalf of all people. As representative of our 200,000 members worldwide, I encourage you to exercise the authority vested in your office to halt the destruction of Canteen Kopje. It is vital that this unique site is preserved for the benefit of future generations of South Africans and all humanity.

Yours truly,

Dr. Andrew M.T. Moore  
President  
Archaeological Institute of America