
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Words in the News

Ivory protest



NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript

Transcript

Beautiful **ornaments** from an ugly trade.

More than a ton of ivory has been taken to New York's Times Square and destroyed as a protest.

Many of the items were **confiscated** from an antiques dealer in Philadelphia.

The international trade of ivory was made **illegal** in 1989 but officials say around 35,000 elephants are still being **slaughtered** in Africa every year.

The message is that traders' profits should be **crushed** and people shouldn't buy ivory.

(Note: 1 ton = 907.185 kg)

Vocabulary

ornaments

objects used for their beauty, with no practical purpose

confiscated

items taken away by an authority

illegal

against the law

slaughtered

killed violently

crushed

(here) reduced dramatically; destroyed

Watch this video online: Ivory protest

<http://bbc.in/1KbUeEx>

Exercise

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from news reports.

Note that you may have to change the form of a word to complete the sentence correctly.

ornaments / confiscated / illegal / slaughtered / crushed

1. Mr Jeffrey added: "Criminals involved in the _____ supply of medical products through the internet aren't interested in your health, they are interested in your money and are able to get this by selling you a potentially dangerous product or by stealing your bank details. "
2. Germany has signed an agreement for the return of a Matisse painting, looted by the Nazis, to the family of its original Jewish owner.

Femme Assise [Seated Woman] was _____ from the Munich apartment of Cornelius Gurlitt, the son of Adolf Hitler's art dealer.

3. Last year a record 1,215 rhinos were _____ for their horns in South Africa - and at the same time, 42 poachers were killed by rangers and police. This bloody conflict is fuelled by the mistaken belief in Asia that rhino horn cures cancer, and it's growing more intense every year.
4. The lock-rings - worn either as earrings or in the hair by a person of wealth and status about 3,000 years ago - were discovered in Rossett.

The _____ will now go on display in Wrexham County Borough Museum.

5. "Instead of allowing his spirit to be _____ and giving up, instead of allowing himself to be filled with anger and frustration, Jafar Panahi created a love letter to cinema," said Black Swan director Darren Aronofsky, who headed this year's jury.

Answers

1. Mr Jeffrey added: "Criminals involved in the **illegal** supply of medical products through the internet aren't interested in your health, they are interested in your money and are able to get this by selling you a potentially dangerous product or by stealing your bank details. "

Source: Record 'fake drugs' haul worth £16m by UK agency

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-33183330>

2. Germany has signed an agreement for the return of a Matisse painting, looted by the Nazis, to the family of its original Jewish owner.

Femme Assise [Seated Woman] was **confiscated** from the Munich apartment of Cornelius Gurlitt, the son of Adolf Hitler's art dealer.

Source: Germany in deal to return Gurlitt's looted Matisse

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-32053766>

3. Last year a record 1,215 rhinos were **slaughtered** for their horns in South Africa - and at the same time, 42 poachers were killed by rangers and police. This bloody conflict is fuelled by the mistaken belief in Asia that rhino horn cures cancer, and it's growing more intense every year.

Source: Poaching the creature that's more valuable than gold

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-32151983>

4. The lock-rings - worn either as earrings or in the hair by a person of wealth and status about 3,000 years ago - were discovered in Rossett.

The **ornaments** will now go on display in Wrexham County Borough Museum.

Source: Bronze Age rings found in Rossett, Wrexham, declared treasure

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-32072587>

5. "Instead of allowing his spirit to be **crushed** and giving up, instead of allowing himself to be filled with anger and frustration, Jafar Panahi created a love letter to cinema," said Black Swan director Darren Aronofsky, who headed this year's jury.

Source: Berlin Film Festival: Panahi's Taxi wins Golden Bear

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-31475783>