



United Confederation of Taíno People

• Borikén (Puerto Rico) • Haiti / Kiskeia (Dominican Republic) • Barbados
• Bimini (United States) • U.S. Virgin Islands • Kuba • Guadeloupe

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Eagle Clan Arawaks

Presencia Taína TV

Kasibahagua Taíno Cultural Society

Opia Taíno, St. Thomas

December 27, 2021

To: Nancy Santiago,
Director, Archeological and Ethnohistory Program,
Institute for Puerto Rican Culture
Via email: nsantiago@icp.pr.gov

Subject: Indigenous archeological site in Luquillo

Dear Mrs. Nancy Santiago:

On December 17, a video report on construction related damage to an Indigenous archeological site in Luquillo was released by advocate Eliezer Molina. The video was published on several social media platforms and it highlights extensive damage taking place close to Monseratte and Playa Luquillo. The United Confederation of Taíno People (UCTP) considers that the site is of significant cultural importance for Taíno Peoples and archeologically.

Upon initial inquiry, the UCTP understands that the damage caused by heavy machinery is linked to developer Federico Stubbe and is related to the construction of a proposed hotel tied to the Marriot company. The United Confederation of Taíno People calls upon the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture and the government of Puerto Rico to use the applicable laws for the protection of cultural patrimony in Puerto Rico to immediately halt the construction and conduct an in-depth impact study including an assessment of the damage and the legality of the construction permitting process.

What the UCTP has observed in Luquillo via Mr. Molina's video is a recurring tragedy



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on the island as development projects are continuously fast tracked. In this particular case, it seems clear that the current construction and damage taking place in Luquillo is in violation of Puerto Rican Public Law 112, July 20th, 1988, which is supposed to protect archaeological sites and associated cultural materials. The damage also appears to violate U.S. Federal Laws including the Endangered Species Act and the Clean Water Act, Section 404, which is the primary vehicle for Federal regulation of some of the activities that occur in wetlands.

As we are concerned with looters and other forms of damage to this site, the United Confederation of Taíno People is requesting an immediate response as to what the Institute of Culture and other appropriate governmental agencies are doing to halt the development process and protect this important Indigenous cultural area from further assault.

We say Hahom (thank you) in advance for your attention.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Múkaro Agüeibaná Borrero

R. Múkaro Agüeibaná Borrero,

President, UCPT;

Kasike, iukaieke Guainía