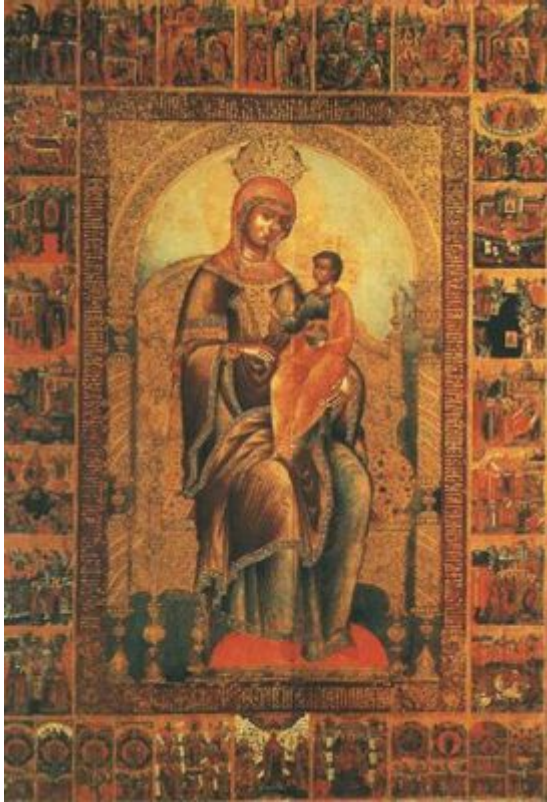


EXCLUSIVE: Religious artifacts in Cyprus in 'great peril'

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The Washington Times

By Julia Duin

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Religious artifacts on the divided island of Cyprus are in «great peril,» according to a U.S. Helsinki Commission document to be released Tuesday afternoon.

Thousands of Orthodox icons, manuscripts, frescoes and mosaics have been looted from churches, chapels and monasteries in northern Cyprus, ending up on international auction blocks, says the document, the result of a lengthy investigation by the Helsinki Commission and titled «**Destruction of Cultural Property** in the Northern Part of Cyprus and **Violations of International Law.**»

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