
September 10, 2018
Paris, France

José Ricardo Marques
Director-General of Arquivo Nacional

RE : Fire at the National Museum of Brazil

Dear José

I am writing in response to the terrible loss suffered by the National Museum last week. It is difficult to comprehend the scale and severity of the destruction of so much heritage, of vital importance to Brazil but also of such value to all of humanity. The loss as many news outlets have stated is incalculable, both to the people of Brazil but also the international community. It is unfortunate that the value of cultural heritage is only seen after it is lost.

In my capacity as President of the ICA, I am particularly concerned that we should be doing what we can to assist in the recovery of Archives that may have been damaged, placed at risk or even lost as a consequence of the fire.

At this early stage, I would be pleased to hear from you if you have any advice to offer, in respect of the extent or nature of the loss or appropriate measures that the ICA might take.

In the meantime, we will consult with ALA and our Expert Group on Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness to formulate ICA's response to this most devastating incident.

With my best regards,



Mr David Fricker
President
International Council on Archives