
March 19, 2015

Summary

Just about everyone has a camera at his or her immediate disposal through a smartphone. It is not uncommon to want to immortalize certain individuals, experiences, sites, or scenery, especially when traveling abroad. However, individuals to be photographed might have religious or animist/indigenous beliefs that photographs steal the soul (particularly of children) or disrespect the spiritual world; gender roles may make photography difficult, precluding women from being photographed; and security

Some people s-10(m)-21(pl)-4(y)18()-(l)want b
paid 61(f)-10(or)-266(be)4(i)-6(n)4(e)27,500 per year.

In early March, two U.S. citizens carved their names into the Coliseum walls and then photographed themselves and their act of vandalism. The two were arrested for [aggravated damage](#) and may face fines and jail time. The Coliseum has [signage](#) in English and Italian that defacing the structure is prohibited.

In early February 2015, U.S. sisters were [arrested and deported](#) from Cambodia for taking inappropriate photographs of themselves in the Preah Khan Angkor temple, a World Heritage site. They were [charged](#) with [aggravated damage](#) and [destruction of property](#). They were sentenced to a six-month suspended prison term, fined the equivalent of U.S.\$315, and banned from the country for four years.

In October 2014, a U.S. citizen was [arrested](#) in the United Arab Emirates and charged with taking pictures of a restricted area. He was held in the al-Wathba prison, charged, fined the equivalent of U.S.\$135, and [released](#) after 29 days incarceration. The U.S. citizen was to speak at a conference and then travel on to Malaysia. However, as in many cases, the detention was allegedly not communicated to the Embassy or to his contacts, and only after the U.S. citizen did not appear in Malaysia days later did his friends become concerned and begin searching for him.

Impact to Private Sector

Depending on what country is involved, visitors who violate local law or custom can be detained for lengthy periods, charged stiff fines, and/or be declared persona non grata. Not knowing local laws and customs is not excusable in the eyes of the court or police. Further, photographic [documentation](#) of illegal activities can be used in most judicial trials, as was the case when a fish poacher photographed himself with an illegal weapon in Wales, U.K. Prisons overseas are not kept to U.S. standards, and prolonged detainment under such conditions may lead to biological and psychological maladies. Further, should a detained individual be representing a corporate entity, an arrest could cause unwanted business tensions. The notoriety that would likely come, at least online if not in mainstream media, may be damaging personally, making future academic or professional pursuits challenging.