



UK Naga Skull Auction Controversy

[Source: HT](#)

Recently, a 19th-century "**horned Naga skull**" was withdrawn from an auction in the UK following significant backlash from authorities in **Nagaland and India**, bringing attention to the sensitive **issue of Indigenous human remains** and the broader debate surrounding [colonial legacies](#).

- At the auction **19th-century Naga human skull** was valued at **3,500-4,500 Pounds**, alongside remains from [Papua New Guinea](#), [Borneo](#), [Solomon Islands](#), and **African countries** like [Benin](#), [Congo](#), and [Nigeria](#).
- **Nagaland Chief Minister** and the **Civil society** led the **protest** against the auction.
 - They view it as a continuation of colonial violence and [racism](#), perpetuating harmful stereotypes such as labelling the Naga people as "**savages**" and "**headhunters**," a characterisation **rooted in British colonialism**.
 - The sale of Indigenous human remains, particularly those stolen during colonial rule, was strongly condemned as an **ethical violation**.
 - The **auction of human remains** is said to **violate Article 15 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)**, which states: "**Indigenous Peoples have a right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations**, which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information."
- The [Naga community](#) has been involved in efforts to **repatriate ancestral remains** from the **Pitt Rivers Museum** in Oxford, which holds around **6,500 Naga artefacts** collected during the British colonial period.



Read More: [NAGA Conundrum](#)

