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Australian Charged with Vandalism for Alleged Attack on Stone of Destiny Exhibit in Scotland

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A 35-year-old Australian, Arnaud Harixcalde Logan, faces charges of malicious mischief in Scotland after allegedly smashing the protective glass case of the historic Stone of Destiny at Perth Museum, spotlighting concerns over the security of cultural treasures. The incident has reignited debate about safeguarding heritage and the motivations behind destructive acts.

The disturbance occurred on 12 July 2025 at approximately 1:55pm at Perth Museum, located about 50 kilometres north of Edinburgh. Logan allegedly targeted the display housing the Stone of Destiny, also known as the Stone of Scone—a 150-kilogram block of sandstone used in centuries of Scottish coronations, including the crowning of King Charles III in 2023. Police Scotland swiftly arrested Logan at the scene. A police spokesperson told *The Scotsman*, “A 35-year-old man was charged in connection with malicious mischief following an incident at Perth Museum.”

The attack forced the evacuation of visitors and the temporary closure of the Stone of Destiny Experience, part of a £27 million redevelopment that opened in 2024. Culture Perth and Kinross, which manages the museum, confirmed the incident in a statement to *BBC News*, saying, “The safety of visitors and staff remains our priority, and we are assisting police fully.” Museum officials confirmed the Stone itself was not damaged.

Logan, reportedly dressed in a kilt, appeared at Perth Sheriff Court on 14 July 2025, charged under Scots law with malicious mischief—an offence roughly equivalent to vandalism. He made no plea and was remanded in custody, with a further hearing scheduled the following week. A witness speaking anonymously to *7News* claimed Logan referred to himself as a “leader of his clan” with a “rightful claim to the throne,” although police have not confirmed any such motive.

The incident has triggered renewed scrutiny over the security of Scotland’s cultural heritage. Although Perth Museum operates with 24/7 security and surveillance, critics argue that access to highly symbolic artefacts such as the Stone of Destiny requires even stronger protections. Some cultural heritage advocates have also called on

government officials to reassess how national treasures are safeguarded from politically or ideologically motivated acts.

The Stone of Destiny holds immense historical and cultural significance. Once housed at Westminster Abbey for centuries, it was formally returned to Scotland in 1996 and most recently travelled to London for the coronation of King Charles III. Logan's alleged actions highlight the vulnerability of iconic artefacts and the pressing need to ensure their protection. As Scotland reflects on preserving its heritage, the case underscores the importance of accountability and resilience in the face of symbolic attacks.