LOST CITIES AND LOOTED TOMBS: STUDYING ARTIFACT SMUGGLING IN BELIZE

This is a fascinating work in progress.

Almost every main site has been looted.

My Day of Archaeology

We were supposed to dig today, but we were delayed by a problem with the security at the site. Instead, we went to the nearby market and bought some terrified snakes to entertain the kids. We know we won't be able to claim the artifacts we bought, but we will use it to start a snake sanctuary, which will be a great way to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the Maya's cultural heritage.

We also spent some time today at the local museum, where we witnessed a very peculiar display: a collection of ancient looters who had been caught in the act. The museum curator told us that they were all serious archeologists who became involved in looting to finance their research. It's a sad commentary on the current state of archaeology in the region.