

ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI): Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq¹

NEA-PSHSS-14-001

Weekly Report 111-112 — September 16 - 30, 2016

Michael D. Danti, Allison Cuneo, Susan Penacho, Marina Gabriel, Kyra Kaercher, Jamie O'Connell

Executive Summary

Towards the end of the reporting period, SARG and pro-regime forces launched a major offensive to reclaim opposition-held areas of Aleppo. The Syrian regime ended the fragile ceasefire on September 19. Russia declared its support for the new offensive in Aleppo, continuing airstrikes on the city and announcing their intentions to deliver additional warplanes to the country. Several sites in Aleppo were reportedly damaged as a result of the renewed clashes and aerial bombardment. Additional aerial bombardment over Idlib, Deir ez Zor, and Homs Governorates damaged five other heritage sites, including a 13th century castle. New footage of the long besieged suburb of Daraya was released, showing damage to three heritage sites, following the re-entry of Syrian government officials and Syrian and international media.

No incidents of heritage damage were investigated for Iraq during the reporting period. Pressure is mounting against ISIL in advance of the upcoming operation to liberate Mosul. Airstrikes against ISIL targets in Ninawa Governorate continued and resistance movements within Mosul are gaining strength. In retaliation, ISIL executed prisoners and carried out car bombings and other suicide bombings.

Key Points

- New video footage shows the extent of the damage to a mosque in Ter Maalah, Homs Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0057 UPDATE](#)).
- Reported SARG airstrikes damaged Qalaat Rahbah and a mosque in Mayadin, Deir ez Zor Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0149](#)).
- Reported SARG barrel bombs and opposition shelling damaged sites in Aleppo ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0150](#)).
- An alleged SARG airstrike damaged a mosque in Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0151](#)).
- An alleged SARG airstrike damaged a mosque in Tal Hassan, Aleppo Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0152](#)).
- New video footage shows damage to two churches and a mosque in Daraya, Rif Dimashq Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0153](#)).

¹ This report is based on research conducted by the “Cultural Preservation Initiative: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq.” Weekly reports reflect reporting from a variety of sources and may contain unverified material. As such, they should be treated as preliminary and subject to change.

Heritage Timeline

September 29, 2016

The New York Review of Books published an article titled “**Ancient Syrian Site: A Different Story of Destruction**” (by Hugh Eakin). The article discusses the timeline of damage to Palmyra and the need for better efforts in mitigating this destruction.
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/ancient-syrian-sites-palmyra-destruction/>

- *Ekathimerini* published an article titled “**A guardian of Syria's imperiled cultural heritage**” (by Giota Mirsioti). The European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM) has worked with Syrian students and scholars for almost a decade to study and document early Christian mosaics at the National Museum in Damascus. The resultant database contains photographs and descriptions for about 365 mosaic floors.
<http://www.ekathimerini.com/212420/article/ekathimerini/life/a-guardian-of-syrias-imperiled-cultural-heritage>

- *The New York Times* published an article titled “**Cultural Property Protection Law Comes Under Fire in Germany**” (by Conrad de Aenlle). In early July, German Parliament enacted the controversial Cultural Property Protection Law, or Kulturgutschutzgesetz. The most contentious feature of the law requires a license to take any artwork that is more than 70 years old and valued at more than 300,000 euros out of Germany. A license will be approved only if a branch office of a government agency determines that the work is not of national significance.
http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/29/arts/international/cultural-property-protection-law-comes-under-fire-in-germany.html?_r=0

September 28, 2016

Deutsche Welle published an article titled “**Maliens dissatisfied with light sentence for Islamist who desecrated Timbuktu.**” Mali has welcomed as a good start the swift ICC ruling against an Ansar Dine member Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi for destroying Timbuktu's cultural heritage, but citizens feel that those committing more severe crimes must also be brought to justice.
<http://www.dw.com/en/maliens-dissatisfied-with-light-sentence-for-islamist-who-desecrated-timbuktu/a-35912148>

September 27, 2016

The Art Newspaper published an article titled “**Basrah Museum opens against the odds in Iraq**” (by Martin Bailey). The Basra Museum will soon open in a former palace of Saddam Hussein. Its collections will focus on the history and archaeology of southern Iraq.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/museums/iraq-s-newest-museum-determined-to-open-against-the-odds/>

- UNESCO published an article titled **“UNESCO’s Culture Conventions more important than ever.”** The Second Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of UNESCO Culture Conventions at UNESCO Headquarters on September 26, 2016 addressed two key themes: safeguarding cultural heritage and cultural diversity in times of conflict and the role of the Conventions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1562>
- September 26, 2016 *The Conversation* published an article titled **“Your tourist snaps can help preserve threatened heritage sites for the future.”** Curious Travellers is a project launched by researchers from the universities of Bradford, St. Andrews, Nottingham Ningbo China, and Birmingham, alongside international heritage consultancy MOSPA, that aims to preserve a record of sites and monuments in 3D digital form using compilations of tourist snaps.
<http://theconversation.com/your-tourist-snaps-can-help-preserve-threatened-heritage-sites-for-the-future-65610>
- September 22, 2016 **The International Justice Project** held an event titled **“Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Conflict: Promoting Accountability and the Rule of Law.”**
<http://www.internationaljusticeproject.com/join-us-in-dc-sept-22-2016-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-promoting-accountability-and-the-rule-of-law/>
<https://humanrightscommission.house.gov/events/hearings/destruction-cultural-heritage-conflict-promoting-accountability-and-rule-law>
- UN News Centre published an article titled **“Protecting cultural heritage from combatants promotes human rights and universal values – Ban.”** Safeguarding cultural property encompasses part of larger endeavors to defend human rights and universal values, according to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He called on the international community to intensify efforts to protect such treasures and end their illicit trafficking.
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55050#.WE2v8WLS1s>

- September 21, 2015 *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**François Hollande announces \$100m fund to protect cultural heritage in the Middle East**” (by David D’Arcy). French president François Hollande denounced the destruction of Syria’s cultural heritage in a speech at the Metropolitan Museum of Art and announced the formation of a \$100 million fund from private and public donors to combat terrorist attacks on cultural sites and “protect the resources of humanity.”
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/news/fran-ois-hollande-announces-100m-fund-to-protect-cultural-heritage-in-the-middle-east/>
- September 20, 2016 **DGAM** published an article titled “**Digitalizing the inventory of the museum of Deir ez-Zor**”. Representatives of DGAM participated in a meeting from September 18-21, 2016 in a conference organized by UNESCO in Beirut, Lebanon.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2052>
- SNHR published a report titled “**128 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civil Facilities in August 2016.**”
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/20/26981/>
- September 19, 2016 *Al Monitor* published an article titled “ **Iraq struggles to stop antiquities looting**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). Efforts to recover Iraqi antiquities are setback by continued smuggling in the north of the country.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2016/09/smuggling-antiquities-iraq-babylon.amp.html>
- *Artnet News* published an article titled “**Triumphal Arch of Palmyra, Razed by Isis, Rises Again in City Hall Park**” (by Brian Boucher). A replica of the Triumphal Arch of Palmyra was erected in New York’s City Hall Park. The arch will remain in the park until September 29, 2016.
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/triumphal-arch-palmyra-isis-city-hall-658061>
 - *Live Science* published an article titled “**Looting? \$283 Million Flow of Artifacts to US Revealed**” (by Owen Jarus). Exports of artifacts, including gold coins, from the US from Turkey has “soared in the last few years.” ASOR CHI’s Michael Danti is interviewed in the article.
<http://www.livescience.com/56141-looting-artifacts-from-syria-to-us.html>

- September 18, 2016 **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Tal Hassan mosque in Tal Hassan village in Aleppo governorate, September 17.**” A mosque was damaged in an airstrike. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0152.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/18/government-forces-targeted-tal-hassan-mosque-tal-hassan-village-aleppo-governorate-september-17/>
- September 17, 2016 **SNHR** published a post titled “**Armed opposition faction targeted Sayedet Al Intiqal church in Al Aziziyeh neighborhood in Aleppo city, September 16.**” A church was damaged by mortar fire. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0150.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/17/armed-opposition-faction-targeted-sayedet-al-intiqal-church-al-aziziyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-september-16/>
- September 16, 2016 **DGAM** published an article titled “**Photos show inside of Aleppo Citadel.**” The DGAM published several photographs taken by drone of damage to the Citadel of Aleppo.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2049>
- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Khaled Bin Al Waleid mosque in Khan Shaikhoun city in Idlib governorate, September 16.**” A mosque was damaged in an airstrike. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0151.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/16/government-forces-targeted-khaled-bin-al-waleid-mosque-khan-shaikhoun-city-idlib-governorate-september-16/>

Military and Political Context

The main theaters of military operations during the reporting period in Syria were:

1. Aleppo Governorate:
 - On September 17, video footage was released that purported to show Syrian opposition forces expelling US Special Forces from the town of al-Rai.² The exact details behind the video remain unclear.
 - On September 18, four airstrikes of unknown origin struck the opposition-held Aleppo neighborhoods of Karam al-Jabal, al-Shaar, al-Sakhour, and Sheikh Hadar in the first airstrikes since the September 12 ceasefire.³

² <http://aranews.net/2016/09/turkey-backed-rebels-syria-threaten-massacre-us-troops-calling-infidels/>

³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37401586> ; <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/18/tensions-escalate-between-russia-and-us-over-syria> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKCN1100M1>

- On September 19, an airstrike of unknown origin struck a humanitarian convoy near the city of Aleppo. The strike, which the US attributed to Russia, killed at least 20 people and destroyed 18 humanitarian trucks. The Syrian military later declared an end to the ceasefire established one week ago.⁴
- On September 20, airstrikes over the opposition-held town of Khan Touman struck a medical facility in an opposition-held area of Aleppo, killing at least nine fighters and five medical workers.⁵
- On September 23-26, SARG and Russian forces allegedly bombarded opposition-held areas of the city of Aleppo, killing dozens of civilians. The strikes were described as the worse bombardment over the city since the conflict began.⁶
- On September 24, pro-regime forces captured the opposition-held Handarat camp for Palestinian refugees located on the north side of the city of Aleppo.⁷
- On September 27, ISIL militants bombarded a market in the northern town of Marea, killing at least four people and wounding 12 more. ISIL militants fired mortar shells at the market from the nearby town of Talalin.⁸
- On September 27, SARG and pro-regime forces launched a “major ground assault” in an attempt to reclaim the eastern opposition-held areas of the city of Aleppo. Extensive clashes and aerial bombardment were reported across the city. SARG forces were reported to be in control of the Farafra district of the city and as having advanced in the district of Handarat.⁹
- On September 27, Kurdish YPG forces repelled an ISIL attack on the city of Manbij.¹⁰
- On September 28, Human Rights Watch reported that SARG forces had “used toxic chemicals in two recent attacks in Aleppo” that targeted two opposition-held neighborhoods.¹¹

⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37429296> ; <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-syria-cease-fire-20160919-snap-story.html> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrias-7-day-grace-period-ends-with-no-aid-and-cease-fire-in-tatters/2016/09/19/633ecd72-7dea-11e6-ad0e-ab0d12c779b1_story.html ; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/20/syria-investigate-attack-un-aid-convoy>

⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37429296> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN11R1CN>

⁶ <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/24/world/middleeast/aleppo-syria-airstrikes.html> ; <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/09/25/495357799/aleppo-under-the-most-intense-air-bombardment-since-syrian-war-began-u-n-says> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/26/world/middleeast/syria-un-security-council.html> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/27/world/middleeast/aleppo-syria.html> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/jets-pound-aleppo-discusses-syria-escalation-160925165014461.html>

⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/25/world/middleeast/syrian-forces-tighten-siege-of-rebel-held-areas-in-aleppo.html>

⁸ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/civilian-casualties-reported-isis-bombardment-north-syria/>

⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/syrian-troops-launch-major-ground-assault-aleppo-160927125537456.html> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/28/world/middleeast/aleppo-syria-ground-offensive.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-attack-idUSKCN11X1MB> ; <http://aranews.net/2016/09/syrian-army-launches-major-ground-offensive-rebels-aleppo/> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-hospital-idUSKCN11Y0QG> ; <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/aleppos-children/aleppo-airstrikes-two-hospitals-hit-syria-continues-offensive-retake-city-n655901>

¹⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/kurds-repel-islamic-state-attack-on-manbij-deny-death-of-american-fighter/>

¹¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/09/28/syria-new-deadly-chemical-attacks>

- On September 28, SDF forces and ISIL militants clashed in the northeastern region of Shahba in the towns of Umm Hosh and Qura.¹²
- On September 28-29, Russia reiterated its support of the Syrian regime and its intention to continue airstrikes in opposition-held areas of eastern Aleppo. The US, in response, is reported to be close to suspending talks with Russia.¹³
- On September 30, SARG and opposition forces clashed in central Aleppo and in areas north of the city. Heavy airstrikes were reported over the city. Pro-regime forces are reported to be massing in anticipation of a large-scale assault against the city of Aleppo.¹⁴
- On September 30, a Russian newspaper reported that additional Russian warplanes would be sent to Syria, in order to increase its air campaign in the country.¹⁵
- On September 30, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, announced “that he would establish an international U.N. board of inquiry” to investigate the attack on a UN aid convoy on September 19.¹⁶

2. Deir ez Zor Governorate:

- On September 17, US-led Coalition airstrikes accidentally struck Syrian military forces, mistaking the group for ISIL militants. The airstrike killed at least 62 Syrian soldiers who were fighting ISIL militants in the area.¹⁷
- On September 18, ISIL militants claimed that their fighters had downed a Syrian military jet in the area of Jebel Tharda in the city of Deir ez Zor.¹⁸
- On September 29, US-led coalition airstrikes “struck and disabled the last two bridges” that span the Euphrates River in ISIL-held Deir ez Zor.¹⁹

3. Homs Governorate:

- On September 20, ISIL militants attacked the SARG-held Jazal oilfield in the countryside of Homs Governorate, killing and wounding dozens of SARG soldiers.²⁰

¹² <http://aranews.net/2016/09/fighting-intensifies-us-backed-syrian-democratic-forces-isis-aleppo/>

¹³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37508085> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN11Z1IY> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37497220>

¹⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKCN1200Q9> ; <https://news.vice.com/article/assad-is-assembling-10000-troops-for-final-assault-on-aleppo> ; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/29/aleppo-attack-foreign-syrian-fighters-plan-shia-islamic>

¹⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN1201WN>

¹⁶ <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-3816234/U-N-investigate-Syria-aid-convoy-attack-urges-cooperation.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/18/tensions-escalate-between-russia-and-us-over-syria> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37398721> ; <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/checkpoint/wp/2016/09/17/pentagon-admits-to-mistakenly-striking-syrian-military-positions/> ; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/sep/18/australian-warplanes-us-airstrikes-killed-syrian-troops-isis-russia> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-idUSKCN1100CR> ; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/damascus-and-moscow-say-u-s-led-coalition-strikes-syrian-army-base-1474139833> ; <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/09/19/u-s-may-have-killed-prisoners-not-troops-in-syria-strike.html> ; <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/09/20/russia-had-to-call-u-s-twice-to-stop-syria-airstrike/>

¹⁸ <http://www.euronews.com/2016/09/18/tensions-escalate-between-russia-and-us-over-syria>

¹⁹ <http://syriadirect.org/news/us-led-coalition-destroys-two-bridges-in-is-held-deir-e-zor-leaving-civilians-in-the-lurch/>

4. Damascus Governorate:
 - On September 16, clashes erupted between SARG and opposition forces in the Damascus suburb of Jobar in some of the fiercest fighting of the week since the announcement of a ceasefire.²¹
5. Hasakah Governorate:
 - On September 15, clashes between Kurdish YPG forces and ISIL militants occurred in two villages near the city of Shaddadi, resulting in casualties on both sides.²²
6. Quneitra Governorate:
 - On September 14, Arab tribal groups in the city of Ras al-Ain protested against Turkish intervention in Syria.²³
 - On September 15, Islamist rebels from the Qadissiyat al-Janoub Coalition threatened to attack the Druze-populated town of Hadir should the residents refuse to support the Islamists' fight against SARG forces.²⁴
7. Raqqa Governorate:
 - On September 16, the US-led coalition announced that a September 7, 2016 'precision strike' had targeted and killed an ISIL senior leader known as Dr. Wa'il.²⁵
8. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
 - On September 21, a Syrian warplane crashed in the area of Eastern Qalamoun. The cause of the crash was unclear.²⁶

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Ayn Isa, Deir ez Zor, Manbij, Mar'a, Shaddadi, Raqqa, and Washiyah.²⁷
- On September 14, US officials stated that 40 American special-operation soldiers were now working with Turkish forces as they clear out a stretch of land across the Turkish-Syrian border region.²⁸
- On September 18, French officials accused the Syrian government as being the principal violator of the Russian and US brokered ceasefire. New violence in Syria has threatened the ceasefire.²⁹

²⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/isis-militants-attack-regime-held-oilfield-syrias-homs/>

²¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/clashes-near-damascus-threaten-syrias-fragile-cease-fire/2016/09/16/479cff7e-7b7b-11e6-8064-c1ddc8a724bb_story.html

²² <http://aranews.net/2016/09/35-isis-militants-killed-clashes-kurdish-ypg-forces-hasakah/>

²³ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/arab-tribes-hasakah-protest-turkish-intervention-syria/>

²⁴ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/syrian-islamist-factions-threaten-attack-druze-minority-quneitra/>

²⁵ <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/947094/coalition-strike-kills-senior-isil-leader/source/GovDelivery>

²⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-damascus-idUSKCN11R12Y>

²⁷ See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [947752](#), [947856](#), [948069](#), [949254](#), [950867](#), [952276](#), [953588](#), [954945](#), [954973](#), [955361](#), [959001](#), [960166](#), [961351](#)

²⁸ <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-sending-special-ops-forces-to-northern-syria-1474030801>

²⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-france-idUSKCN1100PI>; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/barrel-bombs-fall-on-aleppo-with-ceasefire-deal-close-to-unraveling/2016/09/18/64d2589c-7d1e-11e6-8064-c1ddc8a724bb_story.html

- On September 19, the Syrian military announced the end of the ceasefire brokered by the US and Russia, blaming rebels for ignoring the truce. The announcement followed the targeting of an aid convoy, most likely by an airstrike in the rural area of Urum al-Kubra, west of Aleppo city. US officials later blamed Russia for the strike on the aid convoy. The attack killed at least 12 aid workers and 20 civilians. Russia stated that the “air forces of Russia and Syria” were not to blame for the attack.³⁰
- On September 20, the UN announced that it was suspending all aid in Syria following the aerial attack on an aid convoy near Aleppo.³¹

The main theaters of military operations during the reporting period in Iraq were:

1. Ninawa Governorate:
 - On September 13, local activists reported the death of several well-known ISIL leaders in and around the city of Mosul. At least two deaths were a result of unidentified gunmen targeting ISIL members in surprise attacks.³²
 - On September 13, US officials reported that US-led coalition airstrikes struck and destroyed an ISIL chemical weapons factory, housed in a pharmaceutical manufacturing building, near the city of Mosul.³³
 - On September 17, 400 US forces arrived at Qayyarah airbase “to provide logistical support for the airbase,” in the upcoming fight for Mosul.³⁴
 - On September 18, ISIL militants launched an attack on a Peshmerga security center in the district of Khazir, east of the city of Mosul. The attack included three car bombs that detonated at security checkpoints and killed at least four Peshmerga fighters. ISIL militants also attacked Peshmerga positions in Bashiqa and Gwer.³⁵

³⁰ <http://abcnews.go.com/International/syrian-military-us-russia-brokered-ceasefire/story?id=42198664> ; <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-syria-cease-fire-20160919-snap-story.html> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrias-7-day-grace-period-ends-with-no-aid-and-cease-fire-in-tatters/2016/09/19/633ecd72-7dea-11e6-ad0e-ab0d12c779b1_story.html ; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/09/20/syria-investigate-attack-un-aid-convoy> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/end-of-syria-cease-fire-marked-by-new-offensive-and-bombing-of-aid-convoy/2016/09/20/92aead0c-7eb7-11e6-ad0e-ab0d12c779b1_story.html ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/suspends-syria-aid-convoy-bombed-160920080213025.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37424871> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/21/world/middleeast/syria-cease-fire.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/09/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-pre-and.html>

³¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/end-of-syria-cease-fire-marked-by-new-offensive-and-bombing-of-aid-convoy/2016/09/20/92aead0c-7eb7-11e6-ad0e-ab0d12c779b1_story.html ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37417898> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aid-idUSKCN11Q0W1>

³² <http://aranews.net/2016/09/top-islamic-state-officials-under-fire/>

³³ <http://www.newsweek.com/us-led-coalition-destroys-isis-chemical-weapons-factory-near-mosul-498250> ; <https://twitter.com/trbrtc/status/776481647273193473>

³⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/09/iraq-situation-report-september-7-19.html>

³⁵ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/scores-of-kurdish-peshmergas-killed-in-isis-attack-near-iraqs-khazir/> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/09/iraq-situation-report-september-7-19.html>

- On September 21, a report from The Washington Post discussed ongoing resistance efforts inside the city of Mosul, including opposition graffiti appearing in the city. In addition, ISIL spokesman Abu Iman al-Iraq was reported to have deserted ISIL in Mosul, fleeing the city with his family.³⁶
 - On September 22, the US military carried out testing to investigate if chemical agents had been used in an ISIL rocket attack that fell near the Qayyarah Airbase.³⁷
 - On September 25, ISIL militants reportedly executed dozens of prisoners inside the Mosul Central Prison.³⁸
 - On September 27, US-led Coalition airstrikes struck an ISIL base located on the road between Mosul and the district of Khazir, killing at least 28 ISIL militants. Kurdish Peshmerga shelling against ISIL positions in the town of Bashiqa, killed another 11 militants.³⁹
 - On September 30, a US-led Coalition announced the death of ISIL Deputy Military Chief Abu Jannat, during a targeted airstrike in Mosul. Abu Jannat was reportedly responsible for the manufacturing of chemical weapons.⁴⁰
2. Kirkuk Governorate:
- On September 20, Iraqi forces made up of Iraqi soldiers and government allied militias launched a new operation to recapture the town of Shirqat from ISIL militants.⁴¹
 - On September 21, Iraqi forces captured as many as 12 villages surrounding Shirqat and advanced towards the center of the town.⁴²
 - On September 28, the Iraq Oil Ministry announced that ISIL militants had lost control over their oil wells across the country after they were expelled from Shirqat.⁴³
3. Baghdad Governorate:
- On September 27, a series of bombings in Baghdad killed at least 17 people and wounded dozens more. ISIL claimed the attack.⁴⁴
 - On September 30, two explosions occurred in a market in Sadr City, killing three people and wounding three more. No group took immediate responsibility for the attack.⁴⁵

³⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/signs-of-panic-and-rebellion-in-the-heart-of-islamic-states-so-called-caliphate/2016/09/20/55421e4a-7520-11e6-9781-49e591781754_story.html ; <http://aranews.net/2016/09/another-jihadi-leader-deserts-isis-ranks-nineveh/>

³⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37436152> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-chemical-idUSKCN11R2RB>

³⁸ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/islamic-state-executes-75-prisoners-northern-iraq/>

³⁹ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/dozens-isis-militants-killed-coalition-airstrikes-peshmerga-shelling-near-mosul/>

⁴⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/prominent-jihadi-leader-killed-us-strike-north-iraq-official/>

⁴¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-shirqat-idUSKCN11Q01Q> ; <http://www.aina.org/news/20160920134414.htm> ; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-forces-launch-attack-on-shirqat-1474376703> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/iraq-forces-launch-operation-isis-held-town-160920154300904.html>

⁴² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-shirqat-idUSKCN11R150>

⁴³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-oil-idUSKCN11Y1UA>

⁴⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/civilians-killed-powerful-suicide-attack-baghdad-160927093232445.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37484912>

⁴⁵ <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/300920165>

4. Al Anbar Governorate:

- On September 17, civilians began returning to the city of Fallujah three months after Iraqi forces wrested it from ISIL militants.⁴⁶

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Albu Hayat, Baghdadi, Baiji, Bashir, Fallujah, Haditha, Hit, Huwayjah, Kisik, Mosul, Qaim, Qayyarah, Ramadi, Rawah, Sinjar, Sultan Abdullah, and Tal Afar.⁴⁷
- On September 21, the Iraqi Council of Representatives rendered a vote of no-confidence against Kurdish Finance Minister Hoshiyar Zebari.⁴⁸
- On September 28, the White House announced that an additional 615 US troops would be deployed to Iraq in order to provide logistical support for Iraqi forces.⁴⁹
- On September 30, French forces began conducting aerial operations over Iraq from the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier.⁵⁰

⁴⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/iraq-allows-families-back-to-fallujah-for-the-first-time-but-just-a-handful-make-it/2016/09/17/d9d373b6-7ab6-11e6-8064-c1ddc8a724bb_story.html ; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-families-return-to-ravaged-homes-in-fallujah-1474229238> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/09/iraq-situation-report-september-7-19.html>

⁴⁷ See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [947752](#), [947856](#), [948069](#), [949254](#), [950867](#), [952276](#), [953588](#), [954945](#), [954973](#), [955361](#), [959001](#), [960166](#), [961351](#)

⁴⁸ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/09/iraqs-parliament-ousts-kurdish-finance.html>

⁴⁹ <http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/iraq-turmoil/600-more-troops-heading-iraq-n656006> ; <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/958534/carter-600-troops-to-deploy-to-enable-iraqis-to-retake-mosul-from-isil>

⁵⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37515992>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 16-0057 UPDATE

Report Date: September 21, 2016

Site Name: al-Nur Mosque (مسجد النور)

Date of Incident: September 21, 2016

Location: Ter Maalah, Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Constructed in 2002 CE (its minaret was later added in 2008), the al-Nur Mosque was built to resemble the Khalid ibn al-Walid Mosque in Homs.

Site Date: 2002 CE

Incident Summary: New video footage shows damage to mosque in Ter Maalah.

Incident Source and Description: On September 21, 2016 Syria Rebels Gathering published a video on Youtube showing damage to the exterior of al-Nur Mosque in Ter Maalah.⁵¹ The video footage shows large holes in three of the mosque's four domes. It is unclear whether this damage is new, although smoke rises behind the mosque.

For information on previous damage to al-Nur Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0057** in **Weekly Report 89-90**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Nur Mosque, as well as other heritage sites located in areas subject to ongoing aerial bombardment.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Syria Rebels Gathering: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6f9PXD1JQo>

⁵¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6f9PXD1JQo>



Damage to al-Nur Mosque domes (Syria Rebels Gathering; September 21, 2016)

SHI 16-0149

Report Date: September 15, 2016

Site Name: Qalaat Rahbah (قلعة الرحبة); al-Zahra Mosque (جامع الزهراء)

Date of Incident: September 15, 2016

Location: al-Mayadin, Deir ez Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

- Qalaat Rahbah - According to Ross Burns,:
"The first fort was constructed on this spot by Malik Ibn Tauk during the caliphate of al-Mamun (813-33) but was destroyed by an earthquake in 1157. A new castle was built by al-Mujahid Assad al-Din Shirkuh, an amir of Homs (r 1186-1240) and uncle of Saladin, as part of the latter's grand design for the unification of Syria under a single Muslim ruler (a goal largely realised in 1154). This was part of a program of castle-building, all in the style common to Islamic fortifications, in areas of central Syria controlled by Homs (Qaalat Shmemis, Qaalat Shirkuh,). In 1264, the Mamluk ruler, Baybars, appointed an Egyptian as governor. As the successive Mongol invasions ravaged Syria (1260-1400) the fort's usefulness lapsed in the face of damage inflicted by invaders.

Qaalat Rahba concentrates on a central mound, ringed by a high but simple set of walls (a pentagon roughly 270 m by 95 m) rising from a huge ditch...The central enclosure echoes the five-sided shape of the outer wall on a smaller scale (c60 m by 30 m). This donjon had its largest side to the west and was on three levels, the lowers comprising a large cistern. Six construction phases ending probably in the 14th century have been identified with a tendency to replace mud brick with conglomerate stone in later phases. Some of the brickwork in geometric designs is characteristic of an early phase of Arab architecture heavily influenced by Mesopotomia and Persia."⁵²

- al-Zahra Mosque - likely a modern mosque.

Site Date:

- Qalaat Rahbah - 13th-century CE
- al-Zahra Mosque: Unknown, likely modern

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes damage historic castle and mosque in Deir Ez Zor Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On September 15, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG warplanes "fired cluster bombs" at Qalaat Rahbah in the city of al-Mayadeen.⁵³ The airstrike reportedly caused partial damage to the structure. On the same day local news source All4Syria reported that several Russian airstrikes targeted countryside areas of Deir ez Zor. In addition to an airstrike damaging Qalaat Rahbah, it was reported that one of the airstrikes struck al-Zahra Mosque.⁵⁴ No photographs of the reported damage from either incident were available at the time of publication.

⁵² Burns 2009: 238

⁵³ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/15/government-forces-targeted-al-rahbeh-castle-al-mayadeen-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-september-15/>

⁵⁴ <http://all4syria.info/Archive/344958>

Since the start of the Syrian conflict, Qalaat Rahbah has been impacted by illegal excavation, vandalism, looting, and was the site of ISIL executions carried out by child soldiers. For further information on the occurrence of looting and vandalism at Qalaat Rahbah see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0078** in **Weekly Report 15**, **SHI 14-0098** in **Weekly Report 19**, and **SHI 14-0014** in **Weekly Report 21-22**. For further information on the use of Qalaat Rahbah as an execution site, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report 15-0153** in **Weekly Report 69-70**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition and ongoing destruction to Qalaat Rahbah and retrieve further information and on the ground observations as they become available.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

All4Syria: <http://all4syria.info/Archive/344958>

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/15/government-forces-targeted-al-rahbeh-castle-al-mayadeen-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-september-15/>

Scholarly:

Burns, Ross (2009) *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. I. B. Tauris.

SHI 16-0150

Report Date: September 16-27, 2016

Site Name:

- Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral (كاتدرائية سيدة الانتقال)
- Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery
- al-Tawba Mosque (جامع التوبة)

Date of Incident: September 16-27, 2016

Location:

- Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Church - al-Aziziyah neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- Cemetery - Salahaddin neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- al-Tawba Mosque - Bab al-Nayrab neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

- Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral - opened in 1970 CE. The Syrian Catholic Archbishopric of Aleppo is located in an adjacent building.⁵⁵
- Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery - cemetery located in the neighborhood of Salahaddin, Aleppo City.
- al-Tawba Mosque - This Mamluk-era mosque was built ca. 1443 CE and is characterized by a 15x15m central courtyard and a minaret on its northern side (recently reconstructed). The mosque complex originally also contained a *hammam*, but this was demolished when a road was built on the eastern side of the mosque.⁵⁶

Site Date:

- Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral - 1970 CE
- Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery - Unknown, likely modern with some historic components
- al-Tawba Mosque - 1443 CE

Incident Summary: Reported opposition shelling and SARG barrel bombs damage sites in Aleppo.

Incident Source and Description: On September 16, 2016 the Syrian Network Human Rights (SNHR) reported that artillery shells fired from an Opposition-held area of Old Aleppo struck and damaged Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral, causing damage to the building.⁵⁷ A photograph accompanying the report shows a large hole in the church's ceiling.

On September 20, 2016 SMART News Agency published a video showing damage to a cemetery in the Salahaddin neighborhood of Aleppo. The damage was reportedly the result of barrel bombs dropped by SARG helicopters.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/asia/5005.htm>

⁵⁶ Hadjar 2000: 67;

<http://www.esyria.sy/ealeppo/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=201202051815043>

⁵⁷ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/17/armed-opposition-faction-targeted-sayedet-al-intiqal-church-al-aziziyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-september-16/>

⁵⁸ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_VNvrb6ceQ

On September 26, 2016 Halab News reported that large sections of al-Tawba Mosque were destroyed as the result of an airstrike of unidentified origin.⁵⁹ APSA later published photographs and a video of the damage.⁶⁰ Based on these photographs, the damage to the southern half of the mosque (including the green dome) is particularly severe and for the most part has completely collapsed. The northern half of the mosque remains standing, but the stonework and windows have been damaged. The minaret is still intact but the entranceway on the northern side of the mosque next to the minaret has partially collapsed. ASOR CHI has not been able to independently confirm the physical locations shown in the before-and-after comparisons provided by APSA, and has taken note of possible discrepancies evident in the photographs featured below.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to cultural heritage sites in Aleppo, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA 2011:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ORRKZxcsec> ; <http://apsa2011.com/apsanew/bab-el-neyre/>

Halab News: <http://halabnews.net/?p=78269>

SMART News Agency: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_VNvrb6ceQ

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/17/armed-opposition-faction-targeted-sayedet-al-intiqal-church-al-aziziyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-september-16/>

Scholarly:

Hadjar, A. (2000) *Historical Monuments of Aleppo*. Trans. K. al-Jbaili. Aleppo: Automobile and Touring Club of Syria.

⁵⁹ <http://halabnews.net/?p=78269>

⁶⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ORRKZxcsec> ; <http://apsa2011.com/apsanew/bab-el-neyre/>



Damage to Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral (SNHR; September 16, 2016)



Video still of damage to the Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery (SMART News Agency; September 20, 2016)



Video still of damage to cemetery in the Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery (SMART News Agency; September 20, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to north wall and entrance of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to north wall and entrance of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to southern section of al-Tawba Mosque, including destroyed dome (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing northwest (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to southern section of mosque and 'before' photographs (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to interior of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing northwest (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south, and 'before' photographs of interior (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing north (APSA; October 6, 2016)



al-Tawba Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; September 21, 2016)



al-Tawba Mosque with severe damage to the courtyard and southern portion of the mosque (DigitalGlobe; September 25, 2016)

SHI 16-0151

Report Date: September 16, 2016

Site Name: Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque (مسجد خالد بن الوليد)

Date of Incident: September 16, 2016

Location: Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque in the city of Khan Sheikhoun.

Site Date: Unknown, likely modern

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On September 16, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG warplanes fired missiles near Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque in the city of Khan Sheikhoun, causing partial damage.⁶¹ The photograph provided by SNHR shows dust or smoke rising from the main building, but the extent of the damage to the exterior or interior of the building was not known at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment and intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/16/government-forces-targeted-khaled-bin-al-waleid-mosque-khan-shaikhoun-city-idlib-governorate-september-16/>

⁶¹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/16/government-forces-targeted-khaled-bin-al-waleid-mosque-khan-shaikhoun-city-idlib-governorate-september-16/>



Smoke rises following an airstrike that partially damaged Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque (SNHR; September 16, 2016)

SHI 16-0152

Report Date: September 17, 2016

Site Name: Tal Hassan Mosque (مسجد تل حسان)

Date of Incident: September 17, 2016

Location: Tal Hassan Village, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque in Tal Hassan Village.

Site Date: Unknown, likely modern

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike damages mosque in Aleppo Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On September 17, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG airstrikes fired missiles near Tal Hassan Mosque, in the village of Tal Hassan, causing partial damage to the building's walls.⁶² No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication to confirm this report.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Tal Hassan Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment and intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/18/government-forces-targeted-tal-hassan-mosque-tal-hassan-village-aleppo-governorate-september-17/>

⁶² <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/18/government-forces-targeted-tal-hassan-mosque-tal-hassan-village-aleppo-governorate-september-17/>

SHI 16-0153

Report Date: September 20, 2016

Site Name:

- Saad bin Moaz Mosque (مسجد سعد بن معاذ)
- Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church (كنيسة مار بولس الرسول)
- Mart Teqla Greek Orthodox Church (كنيسة مار تقلا)

Date of Incident: September 20, 2016

Location: Daraya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

- Saad bin Moaz Mosque - Mosque in Daraya
- Saint Paul the Apostle Church - Catholic Church
- Mart Teqla Church - Greek Orthodox Church

Site Date:

- Saad bin Moaz Mosque - Unknown, likely modern.
- Saint Paul the Apostle Church - Unknown
- Mart Teqla Church - Built 1872 CE, renovated 1952 CE.

Incident Summary: New footage from Daraya shows damage to cultural heritage sites.

Incident Source and Description: At the end of August 2016, the remaining civilians and rebels in Daraya evacuated the city following a ceasefire agreement between opposition forces and the Syrian regime. As a result of this action, foreign journalists were able to access the city for the first time in the four years that the area was under siege and bombardment.⁶³

On September 12, 2016 video footage released by Syrian state TV showed President Bashar al-Assad attending Eid al-Adha prayers at the Soad bin Moaz Mosque in Daraya.⁶⁴ The footage shows the interior of the mosque, which appears to have sustained some damage during the time Daraya was under siege.

On September 20, 2016 CNN Correspondent Frederik Pleitgen shared a photograph via Instagram of a damaged church in Daraya, Syria.⁶⁵ Following additional research, ASOR CHI identified the photograph as the Saint Paul the Apostle Church. ASoury.net released photographs on September 5, 2016 showing extensive damage to the interior of the church. Saint Paul the Apostle Church is also included in a list of damaged churches in Syria released on December 17, 2013⁶⁶ and earlier video reports detail the damage to the church caused by SARG barrel bombs.⁶⁷

⁶³ <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/08/26/491474426/after-4-years-of-siege-civilians-and-rebels-evacuate-syrias-daraya>

⁶⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3C6Odsllg4E>

⁶⁵ <https://www.instagram.com/p/BKlP7WMgQLR/?hl=en>

⁶⁶ <http://byzcath.org/mobile/index.php/news-mainmenu-49/3854-a-list-of-churches-and-monasteries-and-shrines-damaged-in-the-syrian-crisis-22-11-13>

⁶⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jOzyNkr4SM>

On September 23, 2016 NBN Television released a video report from Daraya documenting a religious ceremony inside Mart Teqla Church. The video footage shows that the exterior of the church as well as the interior has been heavily damaged, most likely as a result of ongoing bombardment in the area over the past four years. Additional video footage shared by the Sama Channel shows extensive damage to the roof of the church, leaving some areas of the church open to the elements.⁶⁸ Additional video footage shared online shows the extensive damage that occurred during years of indiscriminate shelling and barrel bombings.⁶⁹ Mar Teqla has previously been damaged by reported SARG barrel bombings in May 2014 and by reported SARG shelling in November 2012.⁷⁰

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor new reports of damage in Daraya, as well as other heritage sites located in areas subject to aerial bombardment.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

ASoury.Net: <https://asoury.net/2283-صور-إحدى-كنائس-داريا-المدمرة-جزاء-الح-2283>

Byzantine Catholic Church in America: <http://byzcath.org/mobile/index.php/news-mainmenu-49/3854-a-list-of-churches-and-monasteries-and-shrines-damaged-in-the-syrian-crisis-22-11-13>

Darya Revolution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x005xhjZkRY>

Frederik Pleitgen, CNN Senior International Correspondent:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BKlP7WMgQLR/?hl=en>

Local Council Darayya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jOzyNkr4SM>

El Nashra: <http://linkis.com/www.elnashra.com/new/UJzvW>

Huffington Post: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/bashar-assad-eid-daraya_us_57d6aed4e4b06a74c9f5798f

Independent: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/eid-al-adha-syria-president-bashar-al-assad-daraya-damascus-mosque-ceasefire-latest-video-a7237716.html>

NBN Television: <http://www.nbn.com.lb/صلاة-في-عيد-القديسة-مار-تقلا-في-مدينة-دا/>

New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/18/world/middleeast/his-position-still-secure-bashar-al-assad-smiles-as-syria-burns.html>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-assad-idUSKCN11I0CK>

⁶⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp7d7jOLGHM>

⁶⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x005xhjZkRY>

⁷⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJxoOSDX9rA> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TWNjAO7SkTc>

SANA: <http://sana.sy/en/?p=87961>

SAMA Channel:

September 11, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3C6OdsIlg4E>

September 23, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp7d7jOLGHM>

Syria Live UA Map: <http://syria.liveuamap.com/en/2016/23-september-syria-mass-at-mar-taqla-church-in-captured-town>

Today in Syria: <https://twitter.com/todayinsyria/status/769163231055253506>



The view inside Saad bin Moaz Mosque (SANA; September 12, 2016)



President Bashar al-Assad prays inside Saad bin Moaz Mosque (SANA; September 12, 2016)



Exterior and surrounding damage to Saint Paul the Apostle Church (Frederik Pleitgen; September 20, 2016)



Video still of the damage to Saint Paul the Apostle Church (Today in Syria; August 26, 2016)



Damage to the exterior and surrounding area of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



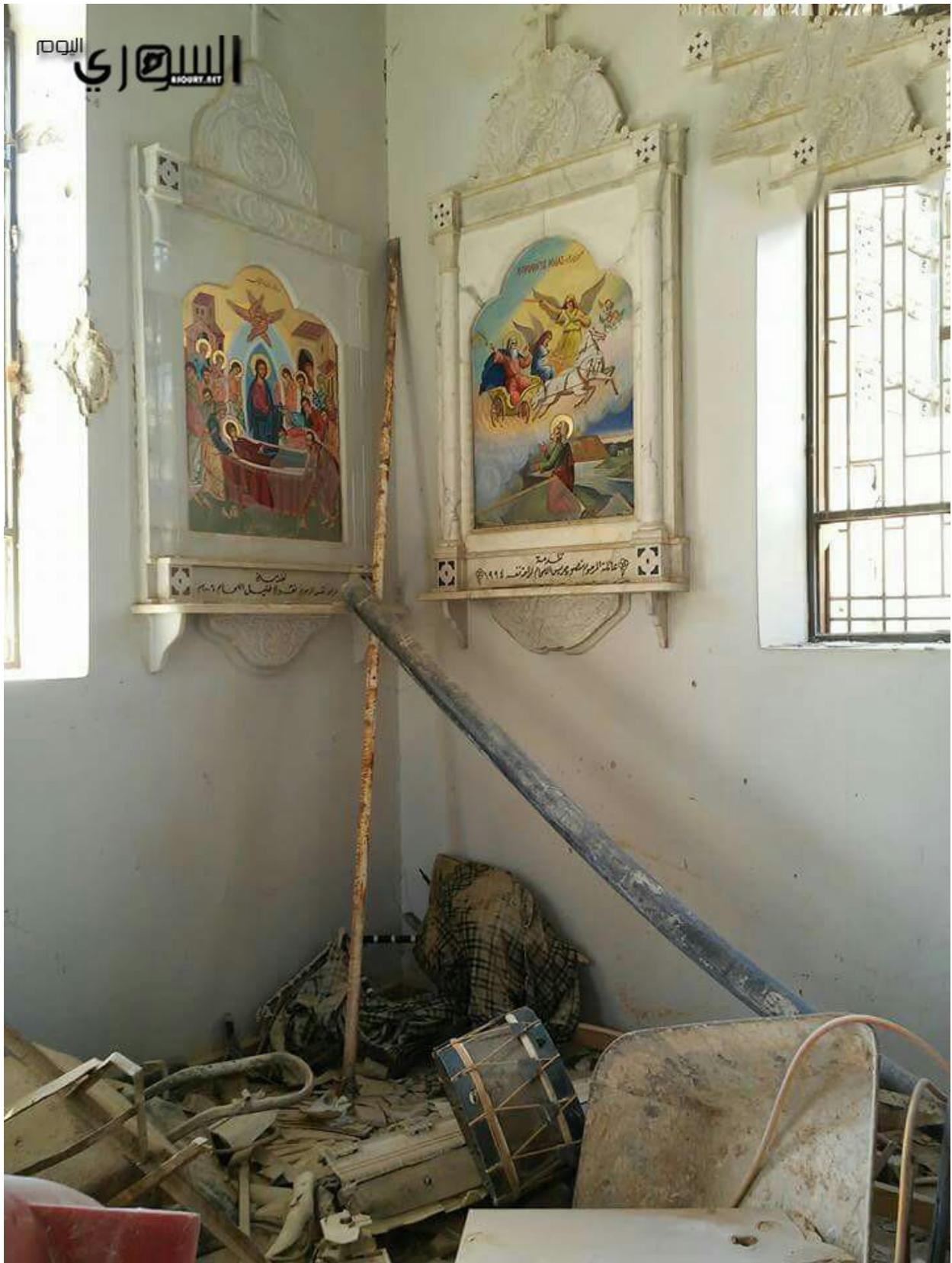
Damage to the exterior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



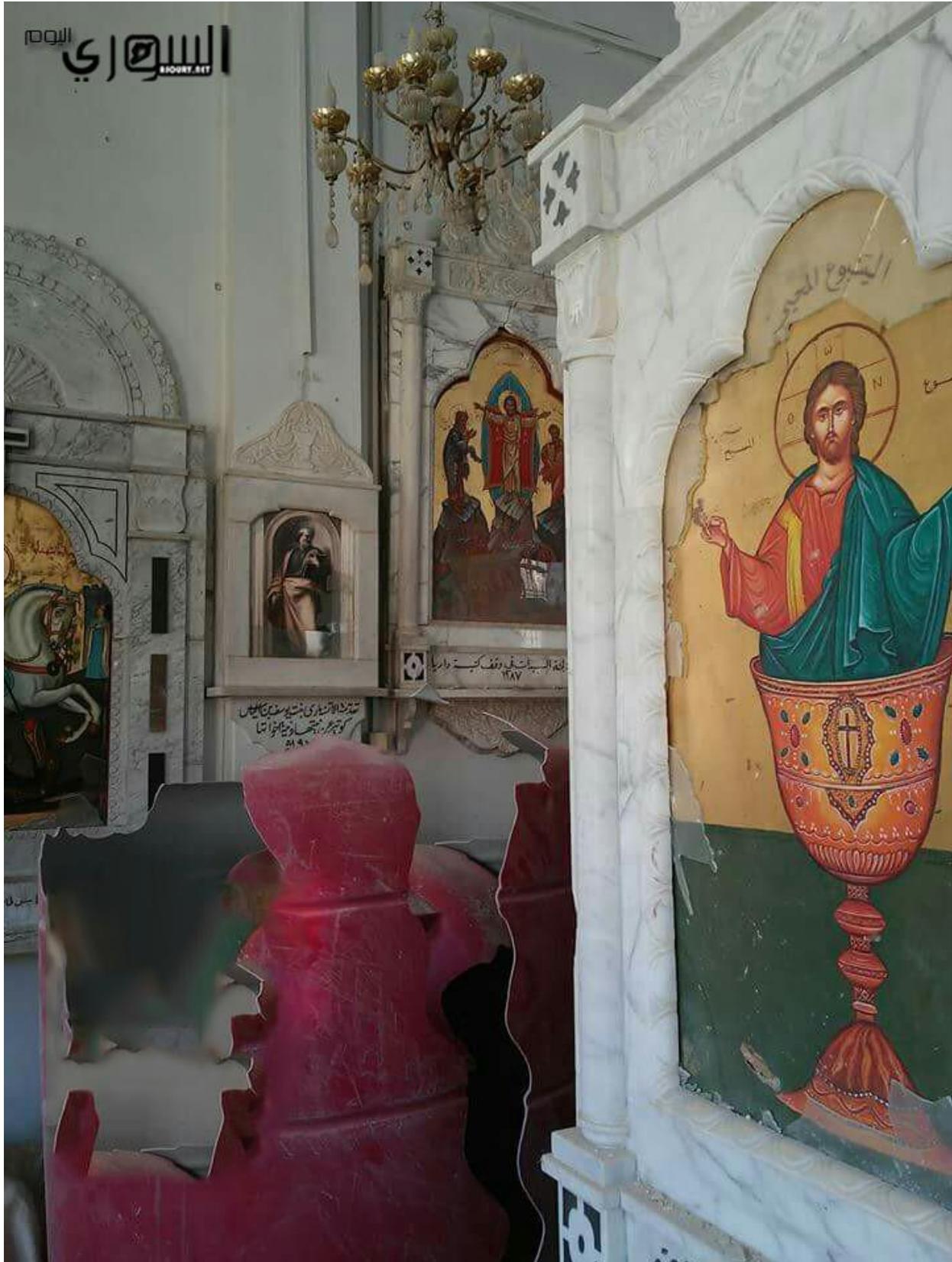
Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Video still of the exterior of Mart Teqla Church (NBN Television; September 23, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Mart Teqla Church (Syria Live UA Map; September 23, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Mart Teqla Church (Syria Live UA Map; September 23, 2016)