ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI): Safeguarding the Heritage of the Near East Initiative[1]

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May 2017 Monthly Report - Appendices

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[1] This report is based on research conducted by the "Safeguarding the Heritage of the Near East Initiative." Monthly 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.

Other Key Points

Syria

- Photographs show severe damage to al-Kabir Mosque, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0032 UPDATE**
- Video footage shows damage to Ayn Daqnah Village Mosque, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0076**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages Kadiran Mosque, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages al-Shuhada Mosque, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**
- New video shows destruction of antiquities, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0081**
- Reported SARG missiles and shelling damages Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0082**
- Reported SARG shelling in Hama Governorate destroys Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque, Hama Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0083**
- Reported SARG missiles and shelling damages Hamouriya Grand Mosque, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0084**
- Reported US-led Coalition forces shelled Bayyoud Village Mosque, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**
- An old house in Aleppo was purchased and is being dismantled for transport to Lebanon. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0086**
- Newly released video shows damage to al-Alo Mosque, Raqqa Mosque. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**
- Newly published photographs show reconstruction and stabilization of Bawabat al-Yasimin, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0088**
- Newly released photographs show renovation to al-Umayyad Mosque, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0089**
- Newly released photographs show clean-up activities at Khan Uch Khan, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0090**
- Suspected Russian airstrike damages an unnamed mosque in al-Tarn, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0091**
- Syrian forces reportedly shell Othman Bin Affan Mosque, Deir ez Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0092**
- Newly released photographs show reconstruction of Bahramiya Mosque, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0093**

Iraq

- New photographs were released of damage to libraries in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0016 UPDATE**
- New photographs and reporting provide additional detail on damage to Hatra, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0024 UPDATE**
- Video shows an RPG rocket striking dome of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0025**
- New photographs show damage to the Maltai Reliefs, Dohuk Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0026**

- New video footage details the condition of Mar Kurkees Church, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0027**
- New photographs show the current condition of Dair Mar Elia, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0028**
- Photographs and video footage show extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0029**
- Photographs shows extensive damage to al-Sawaf Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0030**
- Video footage show extensive damage to Yehia al-Talib Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0031**
- New photographs and video show cleanup and reconstruction efforts taking place at Mosul University, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0032**
- Video footage and photographs show condition of and damage to Mar Mikhael Monastery, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0033**
- Video footage and photographs show condition and damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery in Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0034**
- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to Baha'a al-Deen al-Sumaeda'e Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0035**
- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to al-Najjar Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0036**
- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to al-Shahid Muhammed Mosque, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0037**

Libya

- Tell B 10 has been destroyed and replaced by a modern villa, al Khums Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0002**
- Ongoing urban encroachment and excavation have damaged the Roman Wall, Derna Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0003**
- Private developers have torn down a historic building in Tripoli, Tarabulus Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0004**

Military and Political Context

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

1. Raqqa Governorate:
    - During the reporting period, local reporting groups Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) and the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported extensive aerial bombardment, resulting in civilian casualties, in villages and town surrounding the ISIL-held city of Raqqa.[2]
    - During the reporting period, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) recaptured the city of Tabqa from ISIL militants. The SDF allowed ISIL fighters to retreat from al-Tabqa, with conditions, without informing the US-led Coalition who targeted the fleeing militants with aerial bombardment.[3]
2. Aleppo Governorate:
    - On May 3, a car bombing struck a "headquarters for the interim government" in the Syrian opposition-held town of Azaz, killing at least five people. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.[4]
    - On May 11, SARG airstrikes targeted ISIL-held villages in Aleppo Governorate. The strikes killed thirteen people in the town of al-Maskaneh. Clashes between SARG and ISIL militants occurred around al-Jarrah military airport.[5]
3. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
    - During the reporting period, clashes continued between Syrian opposition group Jaish al-Islam, the al-Rahman Corps, and al-Qaeda linked Levant Liberation Committee (formerly Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) in the area of Eastern Ghouta.[6]
    - On May 2, an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) aid convoy was able to reach the besieged town of Douma for the first time since October 2016.[7]
    - On May 25, pro-regime forces recaptured several towns and the Damascus-Palmyra Highway following the withdrawal of ISIL militants from large areas of Eastern Qalamoun.[8]
4. Homs Governorate:
    - On May 7, SARG forces captured the village of al-Zalakiyat from ISIL amid heavy bombardment.[9]
    - On May 9, the Syrian military launched a new assault in eastern Homs Governorate, opening up another front against ISIL-held areas in Deir Ez Zor Governorate. On the

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[2] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-strikes-idUSKBN1861PR
[3] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN17X1II ; http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/kurdish-forces-90-percent-syria-tabqa-170502081348954.html ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-tabqa-idUSKBN1840UT ; http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39877719 ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-tabqa-idUSKBN1862E4 ; http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/backed-sdf-tightens-noose-syria-raqqa-170518043207198.html ; https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-and-its-syrian-allies-at-odds-over-deal-that-let-islamic-state-flee-1494628924
[4] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-bomb-idUSKBN17Z0J8
[5] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-strikes-idUSKBN1861PR
[6] http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/05/syrias-ghouta-residents-fear-its-time-flee-170504051649125.html
[7] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-douma-idUSKBN17Y2K6
[8] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html
[9] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-fighting-idUSKBN1830IF

same day, SARG and US-backed opposition forces clashed in southern areas of Homs Governorate.[10]

- On May 18, the US military carried out an airstrike against a pro-regime militia near the town of al-Tanf, destroying "at least one tank and a bulldozer" that were part of a convoy of Syrian and Iranian-backed militias that had clashed with Syrian opposition forces. Clashes continued between pro-regime and opposition forces clashed near al-Tanf.[11]
- On May 20, buses evacuated civilians and opposition fighters from the final opposition-held neighborhood of al-Waer, Homs City.[12]
- On May 23, SARG aircraft began to return to Shayrat Airbase. Following the April 7 US strike on the airbase, SARG forces had relocated most of its aircraft to Damascus and Bassel al-Assad International Airport.[13]
- On May 23, ISIL militants took responsibility for an attack in the majority-Alawite district of Zahraa in the city of Homs that left five people dead and thirty more injured.[14]
- On May 25, SARG forces stated that they had recaptured territory from ISIL in a "rapid advance" near the border with Jordan and Iraq.[15]
- On May 31, Russian forces launched cruise missiles from the sea against ISIL targets near Palmyra.[16]

5. Damascus Governorate:
    - On May 8, hundreds of Syrian opposition forces began leaving from the Damascus neighborhood of Barzeh as part of an evacuation deal with the Syrian regime. The opposition forces, which included members of Jaish al-Islam, will be relocated to opposition-held Idlib Governorate over the course of 5 days. Delays resulted in the final evacuees leaving Barzeh on May 29.[17]
    - On May 14, SARG and opposition forces reached new evacuation agreements and around 1,500 opposition forces and their families were moved from the Damascus-neighborhood of Qaboun to Idlib Governorate.[18]
    - On May 23, pro-regime forces intercepted two ISIL-suicide bombers near the majority-Shia district of Sayyeda Zeinab in Damascus, forcing both bombers to detonate their devices.[19]

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[10] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/activists-syrian-troops-and-rebels-clash-near-jordan-border/2017/05/09/27bc91ee-34ab-11e7-ab03-aa29f656f13e_story.html ; http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/syria-army-moves-area-rebels-evicted-isil-170515043533965.html

[11] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-idUSKCN18E2JU ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-army-idUSKCN18F0N7 ; http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html ; https://www.stripes.com/us-warns-iran-backed-pro-syrian-regime-forces-to-move-away-from-base-in-syria-1.471181

[12] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html

[13] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html

[14] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html

[15] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-south-idUSKBN18L1O6

[16] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html

[17] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-evacuation-idUSKBN1840PR ; http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html

[18] http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/syria-army-moves-area-rebels-evicted-isil-170515043533965.html ; http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4506544/Syria-regime-nears-total-recapture-Damascus.html ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-capital-idUSKBN1890W2

6. Deir ez Zor Governorate:
    - On May 17, the US-led Coalition denied allegations that their forces had carried out a May 15 airstrike on the town of Abu Kamal that resulted in dozens of civilian casualties. ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage of the aftermath of the attack, accusing the US-led Coalition of carrying out the airstrikes.[20]
    - On May 25-26, The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes over the town of al-Mayadin killed over 100 civilians, including 40 children. The airstrikes reportedly targeted the municipality building, which was being used to house family members of ISIL militants.[21]
    - On May 31, a US-led Coalition airstrike killed the founder of ISIL-affiliated media outlet Amaq News Agency.[22]
7. Hama Governorate:
    - On May 17, ISIL militants launched an attack against SARG-held villages in Hama Governorate, killing an estimated 50 people including 15 civilians.[23]
8. Idlib Governorate:
    - On May 21, ISIL militants detonated an IED and suicide bombing at a meeting of 'Salafi-Jihadist' group Ahrar al-Sham in the area of Tal Touqan in eastern Idlib Governorate. The attack killed at least 25 Ahrar al-Sham forces including the local emir.[24]
9. Hasakah Governorate:
    - On May 2, ISIL militants attacked a makeshift Syrian and Iraqi IDP camp in Rajm al-Shaddadi, near the town of al-Shaddadi. The attack, which included at least five suicide bombers, killed more than 30 civilians. ISIL militants also clashed with SDF forces located at a nearby checkpoint. Some reports claimed that ISIL militants kidnapped civilians.[25]
10. Daraa Governorate:
    - On May 29-31, pro-regime forces reportedly deployed reinforcements, including Iraqi and Afghani Shia militias, from Aleppo City and Damascus to the city of Daraa.[26]

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Hawl, al-Tanf, Deir ez-Zor, Palmyra, Raqqa, and Tabqa.[27]

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[19] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html
[20] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39947052 ; http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/led-coalition-kills-23-civilians-isil-held-town-170515104936745.html
[21] http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-syria-air-raid-idUKKBN18M0H1
[22] http://www.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-syria-islamicstate-idUSKBN18R36F
[23] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39966105 ; https://www.voanews.com/a/islamic-state-kills-scores-central-syria-surprise-attack/3861050.html
[24] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html
[25] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39778171 ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-islamic-state-idUSKBN17Y13H
[26] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html
[27] See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: 1184832, 1183596, 1182305, 1196637, 1182111, 1188363, 1196235, 1188434, 1196080, 1196009, 1190219, 1186050, 1187654, 1192494, 1188622, 1193431, 1195061, 1179515, 1177144, 1175613, 1182043, 1178309, 1181059, 1172194, 1169142, 1174461, 1175284, 1175374

- During the reporting period, Russian airstrikes were reported over Aleppo, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Hama, and Deir ez Zor Governorates.[28]
- During the reporting period, "de-escalation zones" negotiated by Russia, Turkey, and Iran took effect. However, clashes and aerial bombardment continued over some areas included in the de-escalation zone. According to the New York Times the "de-escalation zones, envisioned as places where displaced Syrian civilians could voluntarily return, include the northern province of Idlib, the central province of Homs, the Eastern Ghouta region outside Damascus, and southern Syria along the Jordanian border."[29]
- On May 1, Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report revealing evidence that "strongly suggests" that the April 4, 2017 SARG airstrike in the town of Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib Governorate was a chemical weapons attack utilizing a form of a nerve agent.[30]
- On May 1, the United States Treasury announced "one of the largest sanctions actions in history" which designated "271 employees of Syria's Scientific Studies and Research Center (SSRC) as responsible for 'developing and producing non-conventional weapons and the means to deliver them'."[31]
- On May 3, the Syrian National Coalition (SNC) suspended its participation in peace talks being held in Astana, Kazakhstan citing continued SARG aerial bombardment of opposition held areas.[32]
- On May 9, US officials announced that President Trump had approved arming the Syrian Kurdish YPG forces in the fight against ISIL.[33]
- On May 15, the United States accused the Syrian government of using a crematorium to hide mass murders at a prison complex in Syria.[34]
- On May 30, the United States confirmed the first delivery of a small arms shipment to Syrian Kurdish YPG forces in efforts to recapture the ISIL-stronghold city of Raqqa.[35]

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

1. Ninawa Governorate:
    - On May 4, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) "opened a new front" against ISIL after a two week stall in advancement. The new offensive will begin from the northern area of the city and will attempt to trap the militants that remain holed-up in the Old City.[36]

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[28] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/05/russia-lays-trap-in-syria.html
[29] https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/08/world/middleeast/syria-un-de-escalation-zones.html ; https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/05/world/middleeast/syria-deescalation-zones-russia-iran-turkey.html ; https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/04/world/middleeast/russia-iran-turkey-syria-de-escalation-zones.html ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN1812BV ; http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39864950
[30] https://www.hrw.org/report/2017/05/01/death-chemicals/syrian-governments-widespread-and-systematic-use-chemical-weapons
[31] http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/04/24/united-states-sanctions-hundreds-for-syrian-chemical-weapons-attack/
[32] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-talks-idUSKBN17Z10T
[33] http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-syria-ypg-idUKKBN1860WC ; http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39869749
[34] https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/15/world/middleeast/syria-assad-prison-crematory.html ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-accuses-syria-of-mass-executions-and-burning-bodies/2017/05/15/b7b66c86-3986-11e7-8854-21f359183e8c_story.html ; http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-idUSKCN18B20E
[35] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-may-18-june-1.html
[36] https://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-forces-launch-new-push-in-mosuls-west-1493903868

- On May 12, Popular Mobilization Front (PMF) forces launched an offensive to recapture the areas of Qaiwaran and Baaj from ISIL.[37]
- On May 29, members of the PMF announced that they had captured several villages near the ISIL-held town of Baaj near the Syrian border.[38]

2. Maysan Governorate:
   - On May 1, ISF began new operations to strengthen security and "mitigate rising tribal violence" in Maysan Governorate.[39]
3. Basra Governorate:
   - On May 2, ISF intervened in tribal clashes in the city of Basra.[40]

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Beiji, Haditha, Rawah, Hawijah, Hawl, Kirkuk, Qaim, Rawah, Rutbah, Mosul, Samarra, Sinjar, Tal Afar, and Tikrit.[41]

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

1. Fezzan Governorate:
   - In May 18, militiamen affiliated with the Misratan Third Force launched an attack against the Libyan National Army (LNA) at the Barak al-Shati airport base, killing 141 Libyan army personnel and civilians. According to LNA sources, many of their members killed were unarmed and had been shot execution style.[42]
   - On May 18, militants reportedly belonging to the Benghazi Defense Brigades (BDB) carried out an explosives attack that killed a prominent eastern tribal leader and several of his family members as they exited a mosque after Friday prayer.[43]
2. Jufra Governorate:
   - On May 19, the LNA "heavily bombed" BDB locations in Jufra Governorate. The bombing campaign continued for several days.[44]
3. Derna Governorate:
   - On May 27, the Egyptian Air Force carried out aerial bombardment against "camps and ammunition stores" belonging to the Derna Mujahideen Shura Council (DMSC) located in Dahr al-Hamar and al-Fatayeh.[45]

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[37] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN1881MS
[38] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-syria-idUSKBN18P1C0
[39] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/05/iraq-situation-report-april-21-may-5.html
[40] http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/05/iraq-situation-report-april-21-may-5.html
[41] See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: 1184832, 1183596, 1182305, 1196637, 1182111, 1188363, 1196235, 1188434, 1196080, 1196009, 1190219, 1186050, 1187654, 1192494, 1188622, 1193431, 1195061, 1179515, 1177144, 1175613, 1182043, 1178309, 1181059, 1172194, 1169142, 1174461, 1175284, 1175374
[42] http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-barak-al-shati-massacre-shows-a-weakened-un-supported-government-and-a-fractured-country
[43] http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-barak-al-shati-massacre-shows-a-weakened-un-supported-government-and-a-fractured-country
[44] http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/the-barak-al-shati-massacre-shows-a-weakened-un-supported-government-and-a-fractured-country
[45] http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-security-analysis-idUSKBN18R2GE ; http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/egypt-launches-strikes-libya-minya-attack-170526200625281.html

Other significant political and military events during the reporting period:

- On May 7, US military officials confirmed that an April 2017 US raid in the Nangarhar province of Afghanistan killed an ISIL leader.[46]
- On May 7, American and Jordanian military forces conducted an annual joint exercise and included troops from more than 20 nations. The exercise raised concerns that Jordan may be considering additional military intervention in Syria.[47]
- On May 22, a suicide bomber targeted an arena in the English city of Manchester, killing 22 people who were attending a concert. ISIL later took responsibility for the attack, however no direct link between the bomber and the militant group has been confirmed. Investigations between links to the bomber and ISIL militants in Libya are ongoing.[48]
- On May 26, gunmen, posing as security officers, attacked buses carrying Christian pilgrims in Egypt's Minya province, killing at least 28 people. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack but ISIL is suspected.[49]

[46] http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/confirms-death-isil-leader-afghanistan-170507202702947.html ; https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-military-says-troops-killed-islamic-state-leader-in-afghanistan-1494193425

[47] http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/jordanians-won-support-ground-intervention-syria-170509110657155.html

[48] http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/manchester-terror-attack-everything-know-far/

[49] https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/26/world/middleeast/egypt-coptic-christian-attack.html

Incident Report: Syria

SHI 17-0032 UPDATE

Report Date: May 8, 2017

Site Name: al-Kabir Mosque (جامع الكبير)

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: al-Bab, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Early 20th Century CE

Incident Summary: Photographs show severe damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 8, 2017 APSA published a report on the damage to the al-Kabir Mosque in the city of al-Bab.[50] The report included photographs depicting the damage to al-Kabir Mosque. Several smaller domes of the mosque have been damaged, and large amounts of debris are present surrounding the mosque.

Pattern: Military Activity: explosives.

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

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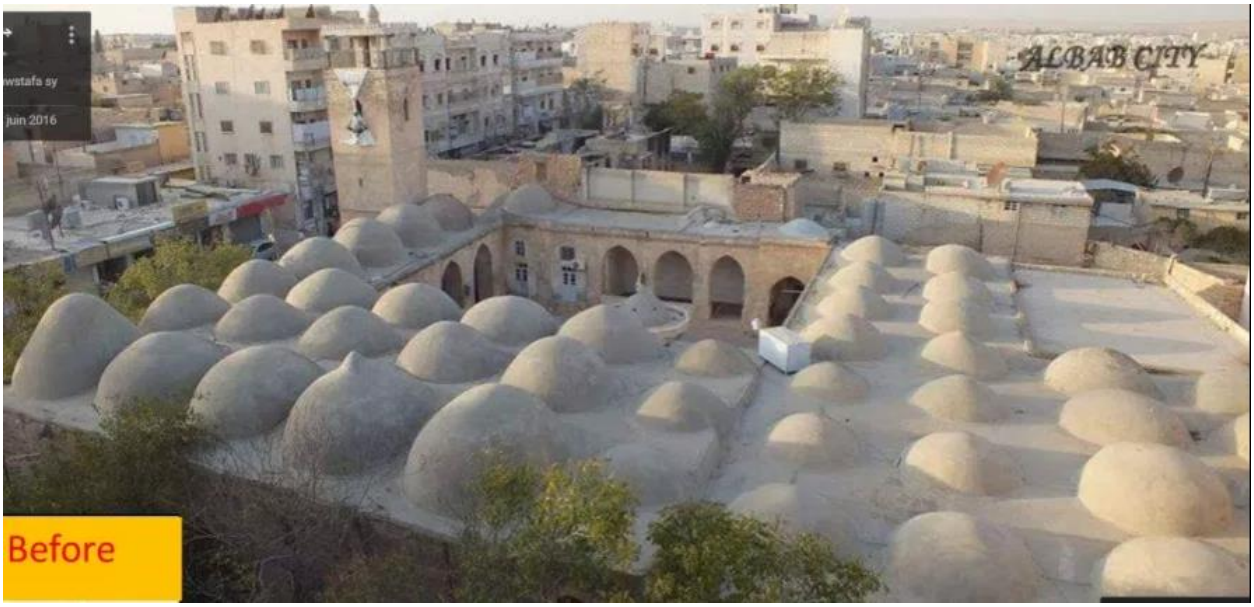

al-Kabir Mosque prior to damage (APSA; May 8, 2017)

al-Kabir Mosque prior to damage (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque, a large amount of rubble is seen (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque, a large amount of rubble is seen (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Exterior damage to al-Kabir Mosque (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (APSA; May 8, 2017)

Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (APSA; May 8, 2017)

SHI 17-0076

Report Date: May 1, 2017

Site Name: Ayn Daqnah Village Mosque

Date of Incident: May 1, 2017

Location: Ayn Daqnah (عين دقنة), Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Video footage shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 media outlet al-Azaz al-Alami published a video that reported to show a Syrian flag and possibly a Kurdish YPG flag flying over a mosque in the village of Ayn Daqnah. The mosque shown in the video appears to have been heavily damaged. The exact date of the damage occurrence is unknown.

According to DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, the western side of the mosque and the minaret were badly damaged between March 17 and March 20, 2016. The minaret has collapsed and much of the western side has crumbled.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Ayn Daqnah Village Mosque, 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:

al-Azaz al-Alami (مكتب اعزاز الإعلامي): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34885ocuxmw

Video still of two flags flying over the badly damaged village mosque (al-Azaz al-Alami; May 1, 2017)

Village mosque before damage, note the shadow from the minaret (DigitalGlobe; March 17, 2016)	Village mosque post damage with arrows pointing the the collapsed wall and minaret (DigitalGlobe; March 20, 2016)

SHI 17-0077

Report Date: May 7, 2017

Site Name: Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque (مسجد حمادة العليوي)

Date of Incident: May 3, 2017

Location: Hneida Village (قرية هنيدة), Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 3, 2017 Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that a US-led Coalition airstrike targeted and destroyed the Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque in Hneida village.[51] RBSS published a photograph of the mosque prior to damage. Photographs released later by RBSS shows the destruction of the mosque to Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque as a result of reported continued bombardment by US-led Coalition aircraft.[52] Drone footage released by ISIL-affiliate Amaq News Agency shows that the roof of the mosque has collapsed, a portion of the dome remains however has been heavily damaged. The minaret of the mosque remains standing.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque in Raqqa Governorate, 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:

Amaq News Agency

Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently:
https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.Sl/posts/1539902269354352:0

Raqqa News Network:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=439975126371033

[51] https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.Sl/posts/1539902269354352:0
[52] https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.Sl/posts/1545046352173277

Syrian Network for Human Rights:
http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/04/international-coalition-forces-shelled-hamada-al-elaywi-mosque-hnieda-village-raqqa-governorate-may-3/

Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque prior to damage (RBSS; May 3, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Video still of the destroyed Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 8, 2017)

Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; April 12, 2017)	Hamada al-Al'ouwi Mosque post damage (DigitalGlobe; May 17, 2017)

SHI 17-0078

Report Date: May 7, 2017

Site Name: Kadiran Mosque (جامع كديران)

Date of Incident: May 8, 2017

Location: Kadiran, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Village mosque.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 8, 2017 a local reporting group reported that a US-led Coalition airstrike struck the mosque in the village of Kadiran.[53] Raqqa Post reported that the strike had destroyed the mosque.[54] No photographs of the damage were available at time of publication.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Kadiran Mosque, 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:

al-Raqqa al-Midaniya:
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=267962130278918

Raqqa Post: http://www.raqqapost.com/25833/2017/05/08

[53] https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=267962130278918
[54] http://www.raqqapost.com/25833/2017/05/08

SHI 17-0079

Report Date: May 7, 2017

Site Name: al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque (مسجد العروة الوثقى)

Date of Incident: May 6, 2017

Location: Hneida Village (قرية هنيدة), Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 7, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes fired missiles on al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque in the village of Hneida causing severe damage and rendering the mosque inoperable.[55] The strike occurred on May 6, 2017.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque in Raqqa Governorate, 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:

Syrian Network for Human Rights:
http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/07/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-orwa-mosque-al-hneida-village-raqqa-governorate-may-6/

[55] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/07/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-orwa-mosque-al-hneida-village-raqqa-governorate-may-6/

al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; April 12, 2017)	al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque severely damaged (DigitalGlobe; May 17, 2017)

SHI 17-0080

Report Date: May 7, 2017

Site Name: al-Shuhada Mosque (جامع الشهداء) (Martyrs Mosque)

Date of Incident: May 6, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 6, 2017 Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes struck al-Shuhada Mosque in the city of Raqqa. The extent of the damage is unknown. No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Shuhada Mosque, 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:

Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently:
https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.Sl/posts/1545046352173277

SHI 17-0081

Report Date: May 16, 2017

Site Name: Antiquities from unknown sites in Deir ez-Zor Governorate. Possible sites: Halebiye (Zenobia) and/or Dura Europos (Tell Salhiya)

Date of Incident: May 13, 2017

Location: Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Halebiye was fortified in the 3rd century CE by Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra, after whom the site was named in antiquity. After her revolt against the Roman Empire in 273, Halabiye was captured by the Romans and subsequently refortified as part of the Limes Arabicus.

Dura Europos was founded ca. 300 BCE by the Hellenistic Seleucid dynasty at the intersection of strategic trade routes, and soon became a great caravan city. In 113 BCE, the Parthians captured Dura Europos, and it remained largely in their possession until 164 CE, when the city was captured by the Romans. It was then captured by the Sassanians in 256 CE who destroyed the city.

Site Date: Halebiye: Roman-Arabic; Dura Europos: Hellenistic through Sassanian

Incident Summary: New video shows destruction of antiquities in Deir ez-Zor Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On May 13, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released a video showing a member of ISIL destroying antiquities at an unknown location in Deir ez-Zor Governorate.[56] Al-Arabiya states the artifacts were found by the antiquities authority in the area of Salihia, located near the site of Dura Europos.[57] In the video two sites are shown, one a cave in red rocks (possibly outside of Dura Europos along the Euphrates), and the other inside of a building (possibly the *Praetorium* in Halebiye). al-Masdar News claims the artifacts are from sites west of Abu-Kamal city. The caption on the video states, "Deir Al-Zour Department - Destruction of statues found by the Antiquities Authority in Salhia, west of Albuqamal."[58] Salihia is not west of Abu-Kamal, but the objects probably originate near that area. The artifacts shown are a mixture of early and middle bronze age (2nd millennium BCE) statues, modern fakes seen in marketplaces, and statues from Dura Europos (Tell Salahiya) carved in the Palmyrene style (200-280 CE). While the video shows these objects, the member of ISIL is stating that the members of the Sharia Committee decided to destroy the objects because they are idols that are worshiped instead of God.[59] At the end of the video he takes a sledgehammer to the antiquities, smashing the objects into tiny pieces.

For previous reports of looting in Dura Europos, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0078** in **Weekly Report 15**; **SHI 14-0098** in **Weekly Report 19**; **SHI 16-0161** in **Weekly Report 117-118**.

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[56] Amaq News Agency
[57] http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/16/VIDEO-ISIS-destroys-ancient-artifacts-in-Deir-Ezzor.html
[58] https://mobile.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-militants-crush-antiquities-discovered-deir-ezzor-province-video/
[59] https://www.rt.com/news/388475-isis-destroy-artefacts-syria/

For previous reports of looting in Halebiye, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0078** in **Weekly Report 15** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0098** in **Weekly Report 19**.

Pattern: Intentional performative destruction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the destruction of antiquities in the Deir ez-Zor Governorate, as well as the condition of other antiquities located in regions subject to ongoing looting and military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency

al-Arabiya News: http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/05/16/VIDEO-ISIS-destroys-ancient-artifacts-in-Deir-Ezzor.html

al-Masdar News: https://mobile.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-militants-crush-antiquities-discovered-deir-ezzor-province-video/

RT: https://www.rt.com/news/388475-isis-destroy-artefacts-syria/

Video still showing the cliffs along the Euphrates, possibly near Dura Europos (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

Video still showing inside of a building, possibly the Praetorium in Halabiye (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

Video still showing small artifacts including statues from the Middle Bronze Age, as well as modern day replicas, like the bronze lamp (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

Video still showing a stone relief, possibly from Dura Europos, in the Palmyrene style (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

Video still showing destruction of the objects (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

Video still showing destruction of the objects (Amaq News Agency; May 13, 2017)

SHI 17-0082

Report Date: May 17, 2017

Site Name: Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque (مسجد حذيفة بن اليمان)

Date of Incident: May 9, 2017

Location: Douma, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG missiles and shelling damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 17, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) released video footage of reported SARG shelling damage to Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque. The video shows explosives damage to the mosque's minaret. The shelling damage took place on May 9, 2017.

See associated report in this Monthly Report for other sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0084**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque , 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:

SNHR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcAUIpIWKRs

Shelling damage to the minaret of Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque (SNHR; May 17, 2017)

Shelling damage to Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque (SNHR; May 17, 2017)

SHI 17-0083

Report Date: May 17, 2017

Site Name: Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque (al-Zaka Mosque) (مسجد أبو بكر الصديق)

Date of Incident: May 17, 2017

Location: al-Zaka (قرية الزكاة), Hama Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Village mosque.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG shelling destroys mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 17, 2017 Step News Agency reported that SARG forces shelled the towns of al-Lataminah and Kafr Zita in Hama Governorate.[60] This shelling destroyed the local mosque in the village of al-Zaka. Photographs posted by a personal Twitter account on May 17, 2017 show the complete destruction of the mosque. The Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported the name of the mosque as Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque.[61]

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque, 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:

SNHR: May 18, 2017: http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-abo-bakr-al-sedeiq-mosque-al-zakat-village-hama-governorate-may-17/
May 19, 2017: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZiWUNpovMA

Step News Agency: http://stepagency-sy.net/archives/146300

[60] http://stepagency-sy.net/archives/146300
[61] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-abo-bakr-al-sedeiq-mosque-al-zakat-village-hama-governorate-may-17/

Photographs showing the destroyed al-Zaka Mosque, the minaret is seen laying over the rubble (Personal Twitter Account; May 17, 2017)

Photographs reporting to show the destroyed al-Zaka Mosque (Personal Twitter Account; May 17, 2017)

SHI 17-0084

Report Date: May 17, 2017

Site Name: Hamouriya Grand Mosque (مسجد حمورية الكبير) (al-Kabir Mosque/al-Qadim Mosque)

Date of Incident: May 16, 2017

Location: Hamouriya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG missiles and shelling damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 17, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG forces launched "surface-to-surface missiles" on the Hamouriya Grand Mosque in the town of Hamouriya. The strike, which occurred on May 16, 2017, damaged furniture and rendered the mosque inoperable.[62] Video released on May 19, 2017 shows the front of the mosque has been almost completely destroyed, with only one partial wall and the base of the minaret still standing. The main portion of the mosque, behind the minaret, has severe structural damage to the one side, but is still standing. The rooms are full of rubble. According to local reporting, the missiles also struck residential areas and resulted in civilian casualties.[63]

See associated report in this Monthly Report for other sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0082**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Hamouriya Grand Mosque, 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:

Orient News: http://www.orient-news.net/en/news_show/136442/0/Assad-missiles-kill-civilians-in-Damascus-Hamoriyya

SNHR:
May 17, 2017: http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/17/mosque-shelled-syrian-regime-forces-hamouriya-town-damascus-suburbs-governorate-may-16/
May 19, 2017: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQYF8Fwboig

[62] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/17/mosque-shelled-syrian-regime-forces-hamouriya-town-damascus-suburbs-governorate-may-16/
[63] https://twitter.com/SCDrifdimashq/status/864400124390387712 ; http://www.orient-news.net/en/news_show/136442/0/Assad-missiles-kill-civilians-in-Damascus-Hamoriyya

Smart News Agency: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pgr2UvdKTQM

Syrian Civil Defence - Rif Dimashq:
https://twitter.com/SCDrifdimashq/status/864400124390387712

Video still of damage to Hamouriya Grand Mosque (SNHR; May 19, 2017)

Video still of damage to the minaret of Hamouriya Grand Mosque (SNHR; May 19, 2017)

Video still of damage to Hamouriya Grand Mosque (SNHR; May 19, 2017)

Video still of damage to Hamouriya Grand Mosque (SNHR; May 19, 2017)

SHI 17-0085

Report Date: May 22, 2017

Site Name: Bayyoud Village Mosque

Date of Incident: May 19, 2017

Location: Bayyoud Village, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition forces shell mosque, rendering it inoperable.

Incident Source and Description: On May 21, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that US-led Coalition forces shelled the mosque of Bayyoud village, destroying the mosque and rendering it inoperable.[64] The damage occurred on May 19, 2017. On May 20, 2017 Sharqiya Voice published a photograph of the mosque showing its complete destruction.[65]

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**.

Pattern: Military Activity: explosives; airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Bayyoud Village Mosque, 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:

SNHR: http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/21/international-coalition-forces-shelled-mosque-bayyoud-village-raqqa-governorate-may-19/

Sharqiya Voice: https://www.facebook.com/sharqiya.voice/photos/a.1171874652897442.1073741828.116643703010787 1/1344374562314116/

[64] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/21/international-coalition-forces-shelled-mosque-bayyoud-village-raqqa-governorate-may-19/
[65] https://www.facebook.com/sharqiya.voice/photos/a.1171874652897442.1073741828.116643703010787 1/1344374562314116/

The destruction of the Bayyoud Village Mosque (Sharqiya Voice; May 19, 2017)

SHI 17-0086

Report Date: May 23, 2017

Site Name: Dar Maqsid (House of the Restricted)

Date of Incident: May 11, 2017

Location: Bab Qinnasrin, al-Jalloum Neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Historic house in the center of Aleppo.

Site Date: 1600 CE[66]

Incident Summary: An old house in Aleppo was purchased and is being dismantled for transport.

Incident Source and Description: On May 11, 2017, Qasioun News Agency reported that a Lebanese businessman had purchased a house in Bab Qinnasrin. This house lies within the UNESCO Ancient City of Aleppo World Heritage Site. It was reported that a wood paneled room inside that house was being dismantled for transport to Lebanon. The house is within the regime-controlled area. It is unknown from who the buyer purchased the house.

According to al-Akhbar, on May 12, 2017 the DGAM suspended the dismantling of the wooden room while it consulted with other officials on the rights to this house. The owner was given approval to transfer "what remains in the house from the objects and woods of Exa after being hit by missiles." The Department of Ministry of Culture was informed, and in turn informed the Director of Archaeology and Museums. The Aleppo director then stated he formed a committee that stopped the removal of the room. The purchase of the house by a foreigner, under the Syrian Law 11 of 2011 has to go through the Ministry of the Interior. However, in paperwork filed with the Aleppo Department, it is stated the owner is Syrian, not Lebanese. This means the selling of the house did not have to go through the Ministry of Interior. In a document posted by al-Akhbar, the owner was granted permission to take items from the house, including wood, by the leader of the 30th division of the Republican Guard and the head of the security and military section of Aleppo.

The Director of Antiquities and Museums states that, "The transfer of anything from Old Aleppo requires the approval of the Directorate of the protection of the Old City as the competent scientific authority." He further states he has addressed the Prime Minister, who is supposed to make a decision on this case in the near future. Comparisons are being drawn to the "Aleppo Chamber" taken from Beit Wakil and transferred to the Berlin Museum at the beginning of the 20th century.

According to Medmak, three people were arrested for a different case on the Lebanese border for selling religious monuments from Syria to Lebanon, worth over $100,000.[67]

Pattern: Reuse of ancient/historic structures (non-combatants); Theft.

[66] http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/277058
[67] http://medmak.org/ar/أخبار/رجل-أعمال-لبناني-ينقل-آثارا-من-حلب-إلى-لبنان

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation surrounding Dar Maqsid, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to redevelopment and looting threats.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Akhbar: http://www.al-akhbar.com/node/277058

Qasioun News;
http://www.qasioun.net/ar/news/show/66723/رغم حمايتها من اليونسكوأثار حلب تنقل إلى لبنان

Medmak: http://medmak.org/ar/أخبار/رجل-أعمال-لبناني-ينقل-آثارا-من-حلب-إلى-لبنان

Personal Facebook Account

Wooden doors in a room in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

Inscription in a wooden plaque in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

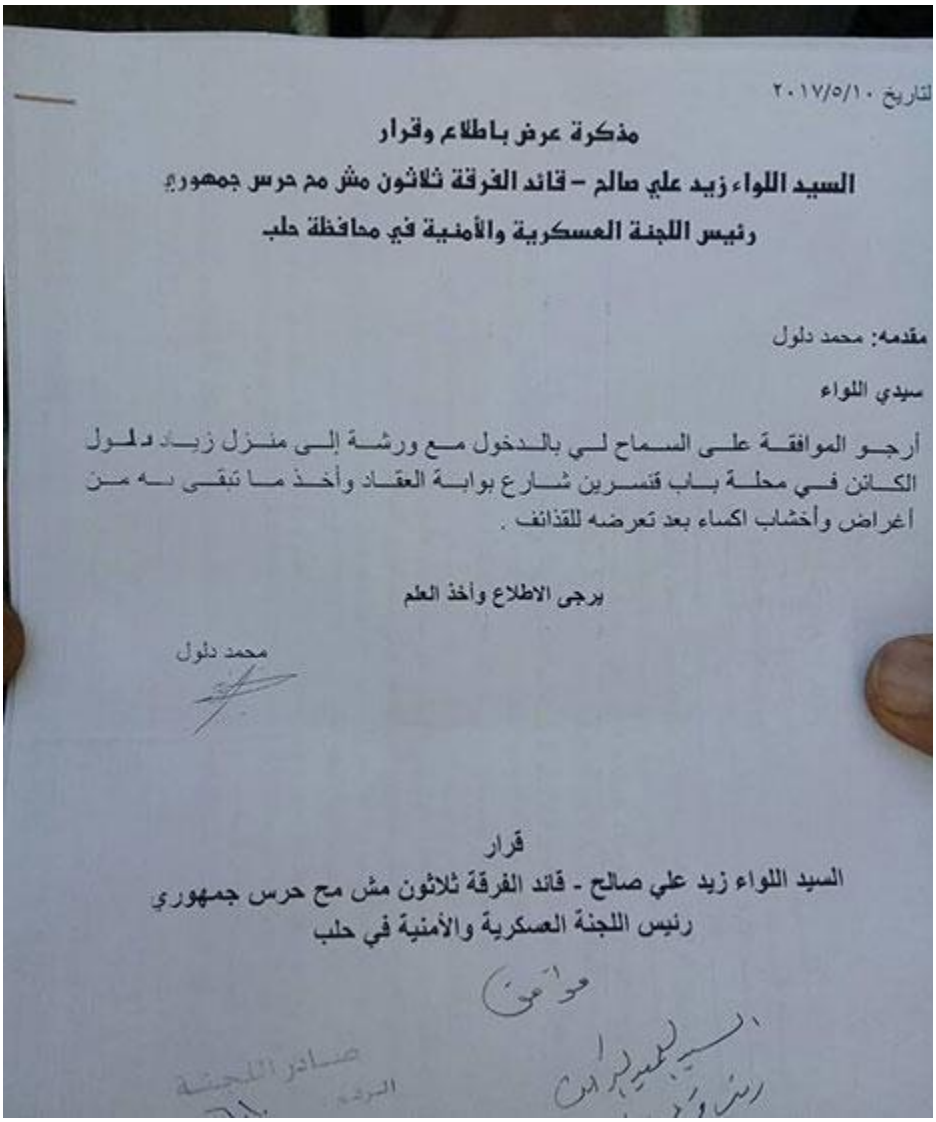
Wood paneling in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

Wood paneling in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

Wood paneling in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

Wood paneling in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)

Wood paneling in Dar Maqsid (Private Facebook Account; May 11, 2017)



لتاريخ ٢٠١٧/٥/١٠

مذكرة عرض باطلاع وقرار

السيد اللواء زيد علي صالح – قائد الفرقة ثلاثون مش مح حرس جمهوري

رئيس اللجنة العسكرية والأمنية في محافظة حلب

مقدمه: محمد دلول

سيدي اللواء

أرجو الموافقة على السماح لي بالدخول مع ورشة إلى منزل زياد دلول الكائن في محلة باب قنسرين شارع بوابة العقاد وأخذ ما تبقى به من اغراض وأخشاب اكساء بعد تعرضه للقذائف .

يرجى الاطلاع وأخذ العلم

محمد دلول

قرار

السيد اللواء زيد علي صالح - قائد الفرقة ثلاثون مش مح حرس جمهوري

رئيس اللجنة العسكرية والأمنية في حلب

موافق

صادر اللجنة

الرقم

Document pertaining to the removal of objects from the house (al-Akhbar; May 12, 2017)

SHI 17-0087

Report Date: May 28, 2017

Site Name: al-Alo Mosque (مسجد العلو)

Date of Incident: May 27, 2017

Location: al-Moroor Neighborhood, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Newly released video shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 28, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage showing damage to the al-Moroor Neighborhood in Raqqa. Amaq News Agency reported that the damage was due to US-led Coalition shelling in the area. The video shows damage to al-Alo Mosque located near the shelling site. The exterior of the mosque seems to be in relatively good condition, the dome is not damaged and the minaret is still standing. The interior of the mosque shows slight damage with panels lining the floor and missing window panes. There is slight structural damage apparent in small cracks in some of the walls.

The US Department of Defense confirmed that airstrikes took place over Raqqa on the date the video was released, however Amaq does not specify when the damage to the mosque occured. US-led Coalition airstrikes have been frequent in ISIL-held areas of Raqqa Governorate.[68] The DigitalGlobe satellite imagery narrows the date of the damage to between May 24 to May 30, 2017.

On May 29, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported the same strike, dating the incident as having occurred on May 27, 2017.[69] SNHR reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes had fired missiles near al-Alo Mosque, causing severe damage.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in the Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0080**;**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0078**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077**.

Pattern: Military Activity: airstrikes.

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

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[68] https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1196235/inherent-resolve-strikes-target-isis-in-syria-iraq/ ; https://isis.liveuamap.com/en/2017/28-may-photos-shows-destruction-after-us-led-coalition-airstrikes

[69] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/29/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-alo-mosque-raqqa-city-may-27/

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency

Live UA Map: https://isis.liveuamap.com/en/2017/28-may-photos-shows-destruction-after-us-led-coalition-airstrikes

US Department of Defense: https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1196235/inherent-resolve-strikes-target-isis-in-syria-iraq/

SNHR:
http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/29/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-alo-mosque-raqqa-city-may-27/

Video still of al-Alo Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2017)

Video still showing damage to the interior of the mosque showing slight cracks in back wall, as well as rubble on floor (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2017)

Video still showing damage to interior of the mosque with slight crack in wall, rubble on floor, and missing window panes (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2017)

Video still of damage to interior of mosque showing rubble on floor and damage to front of mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2017)

Damage to the mosque and religious materials (SNHR; May 29, 2017)

Before damage (DigitalGlobe; May 20, 2017)	Post damage to the area with the mosque still appearing intact (DigitalGlobe; May 30, 2017)

SHI 17-0088

Report Date: May 28, 2017

Site Name: Bawabat al-Yasmin (بوابة الياسمين)

Date of Incident: May 1, 2017

Location: al-Jdeideh Neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Newly published photographs show reconstruction and stabilization of Bawabat al-Yasimin.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017, an engineer working with the Aleppo City Government, posted photographs of Bawabat al-Yasmin. Local people reported to the city government that the site appeared to be collapsing. The Aleppo City government then sent out a group of engineers and directors to shore up the arch and stop the collapse. The water main that runs through the gate was also damaged, threatening the historical buildings near the arch. The engineers and water maintenance manager also fixed the line to prevent further damage to the historical area.

The al-Jdeideh neighborhood of Aleppo was severely damaged due to tunnel bombs and explosives in 2015 and 2016. See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that are being reconstructed and cleaned up around Aleppo: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0089** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0090**.

Pattern: Site Maintenance: re-construction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Bawabat al-Yasmin, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions that were recently liberated and are reconstructing heritage sites.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Private Facebook Account

Bawabat al-Yasmin before structural support was placed under the arch (Private Facebook Account; April 22, 2017)

Bawabat al-Yasmin after structural support was placed under the arch (Private Facebook Account; April 27, 2017)

SHI 17-0089

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Umayyad Mosque (جامع الأموي)

Date of Incident: May 1, 2017

Location: Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate

Site Description: Ross Burns writes,

> "The Great Mosque within the walled city of Aleppo is unjustly given second billing after the Great Mosque of the Umayyads in Damascus. While it lacks the richness of the associations with early Islam and the Roman predecessor on the Damascus site, the Aleppo Great Mosque has its own unique sense of symmetry and calm which owes much to the rebuilding of the mosque in the Ayyubid years, after a disastrous fire. It thus provides us with one of the most striking statements of the purity of form of Islamic medieval architecture.
>
> The site of the mosque was originally at the centre of the ancient city and falls partly on the ground used for the sixth century Cathedral of St Helena (the mother of Constantine). A remarkable madrasa to the west of the mosque, the Madrasa Halawiye, preserves part of the cathedral following its twelfth century conversion to serve as a madrasa. The remains of the cathedral were seized in reprisal following the unsuccessful Crusader assault on Aleppo in 1124 and their sacking of important Shi`ite shrines outside the city."[70]

Site Date: 715 CE; Reconstructed 11th century

Incident Summary: Newly released photographs show reconstruction efforts taking place at al-Umayyad Mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 an engineer working with the Aleppo City Government posted photographs of the Umayyad Mosque. Engineers as well as the Awqaf Directorate were strengthening and rebuilding columns in the courtyard of the mosque in order to get ready to reconstruct the more heavily damaged portions. Around the column, they have dug four holes in which to place reinforced steel beams in order to help stabilize the area for more heavy reconstruction later. The engineer also posted photograph of the tomb of the Prophet Zakariah, located inside the mosque, which looks to have sustained little to no damage.

For more information on the damage to the Umayyad Mosque see, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0040 in Weekly Report 9**; **SHI 14-0059**; **SHI 15-0015** in **Weekly Report 26-27**; **SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40**; **SHI 15-0085** in **Weekly Report 41**; **SHI 16-0071** in **Weekly Report 93-94**; **SHI 16-0191** in **Weekly Report 123-124**; and **SHI 16-0192** in **Weekly Report 121-122**.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that are being reconstructed and cleaned up around Aleppo: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0093**, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0090**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0088**.

Pattern: Site Maintenance: re-construction/clean-up.

[70] http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrasa-halawiye/

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reconstruction efforts at Umayyad Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions that were recently liberated and are reconstructing heritage sites.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

LA Times: http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-aleppo-mosque-20170512-story.html

Monuments of Syria: http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrasa-halawiye/

Private Facebook Account

Structural support for the column as well as four holes dug for steel beams to help reinforce the area around the damaged column (Private Facebook Account; May 1, 2017)

Detail of the hole created for the steel beam (Private Facebook Account; May 1, 2017)

Rubble in the courtyard of the mosque (Private Facebook Account; May 1, 2017)

Rubble in the courtyard of the mosque (Private Facebook Account; May 1, 2017)

Limited damage to the tomb of the Prophet Zakariah (Private Facebook Account; May 1, 2017)

SHI 17-0090

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Khan Uch Khan

Date of Incident: May 21, 2017

Location: Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Khan Uch Khan is the oldest Khan outside the old city walls of Aleppo. At the end of the Mamluk era, it was reconstructed by the Sultan Qansoh al-Ghuri.[71]

Site Date: Reconstructed ca. 1500 CE

Incident Summary: Newly released photographs show clean-up activities at Khan Uch Khan.

Incident Source and Description: On May 21, 2017 an engineer working with the Aleppo City Government, posted photographs of Khan Uch Khan. The engineer states that the Directorate of Archaeology in Aleppo and an engineer working with the directorate were removing the facade stones of the gate which had fallen off during the conflict. These stones were moved into storage until they can be reset in the gate.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that are being reconstructed and cleaned up around Aleppo: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0093**, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0089**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0088**.

Pattern: Site Management: re-construction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Khan Uch Khan, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions that were recently liberated and are reconstructing heritage sites.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Private Facebook Account

Scholarly:

Hajjar, Abdullah (Unknown) *Milestones of Aleppo*

[71] Hajjar, Abdullah (Unknown) "Milestones of Aleppo"

Damage to the facade of Khan Uch Khan (Private Facebook Account; May 21, 2017)

Damage to the facade of Khan Uch Khan (Private Facebook Account; May 21, 2017)

Engineers picking up part of the facade that has fallen from gate (Private Facebook Account; May 21, 2017)

Part of the facade with calligraphy (Private Facebook Account; May 21, 2017)

Part of the facade amidst other rubble from gate (Private Facebook Account; May 21, 2017)

SHI 17-0091

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Unnamed mosque

Date of Incident: May 25, 2017

Location: al-Tarn, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Suspected Russian airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 25, 2017 Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported a suspected Russian airstrike on the town of al-Tarn.[72] This airstrike hit an unnamed mosque, killing the imam and rendering the building inoperable. No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military Activity: airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the unnamed mosque in al-Tarn, 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:

SNHR: http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/26/suspected-russian-forces-shelled-mosque-al-tarn-village-raqqa-governorate-may-25/

[72] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/26/suspected-russian-forces-shelled-mosque-al-tarn-village-raqqa-governorate-may-25/

SHI 17-0092

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Othman Bin Affan Mosque (عثمان بن عفان)

Date of Incident: May 28, 2017

Location: al-Qouriya City, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Syrian forces reportedly shell mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 28, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that the Syrian regime fired missiles near the Othman Bin Affan Mosque in al-Qouriya, damaging it. No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military Activity: airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Othman bin Affan Mosque, 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:

SNHR: http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/28/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-othman-bin-affan-mosque-al-qouriya-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-may-28/

SHI 17-0093

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Bahramiya Mosque

Date of Incident: April 22, 2017

Location: Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Bahramiya Mosque is located near the Gate of Antioch and was established by Bahram Pasha Wali of Aleppo during the Ottoman rule in the year 988 AH (1583 CE).[73] It was reconstructed in 1698 after an earthquake.[74]

Site Date: 1583 CE

Incident Summary: Newly released photographs show reconstruction of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On April 22, 2017 an engineer working with the Aleppo City Government posted photographs of the Bahramiya Mosque. The mosque was damaged during the conflict, and local engineers and the Awqaf Directorate have begun efforts to stabilize the columns. It was reported that the engineer and contractor provided their services voluntarily with the support of the Directorate of Awqaf. The wider shots of the courtyard show a damaged fountain and rubble lining the courtyard.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that are being reconstructed and cleaned up around Aleppo: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0090**, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0089**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0088**.

Pattern: Site Management: re-construction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reconstruction efforts at the Bahramiya Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions that were recently liberated and are reconstructing heritage sites.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Ali Sariram – Personal Blog: https://alisariram.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/bearing-witness-the-destruction-of-the-great-city-of-aleppo-part-two/

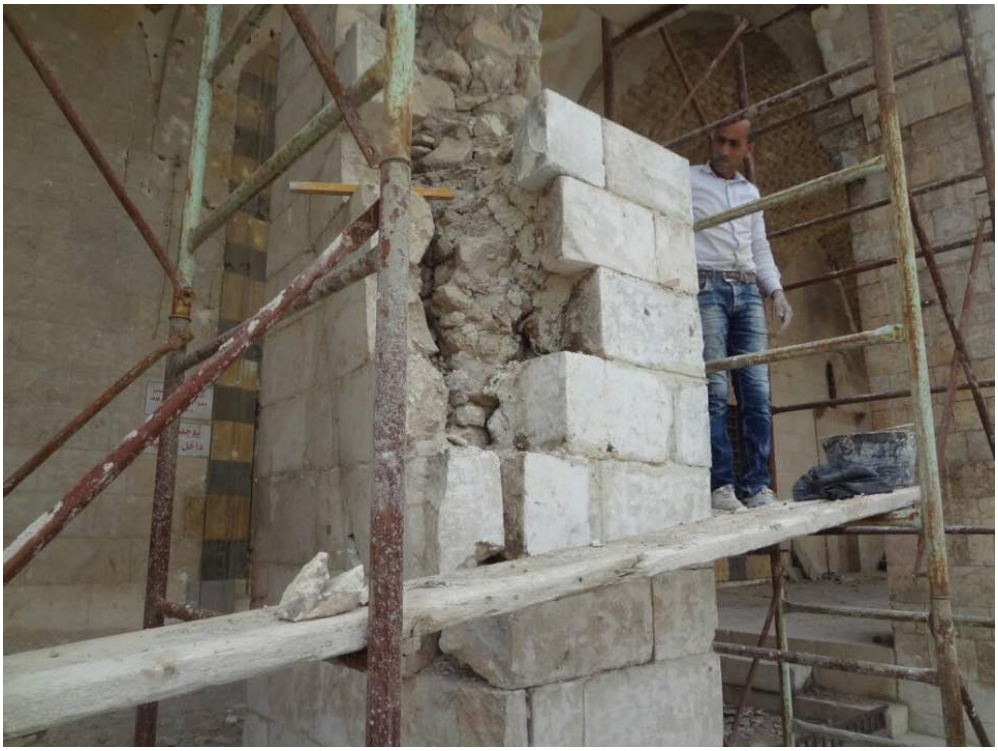
VIR Tourist: http://www.virtourist.com/asia/syria/aleppo/14.htm

Private Facebook Account

[73] https://alisariram.wordpress.com/2013/04/08/bearing-witness-the-destruction-of-the-great-city-of-aleppo-part-two/
[74] http://www.virtourist.com/asia/syria/aleppo/14.htm

Damage to the mosque, showing location of column before reconstruction (Private Facebook Account; May 31, 2017)

Scaffolding supporting a column at the entrance to the mosque (Private Facebook Account; April 22, 2017)



Reconstructing the column at the entrance to the mosque (Private Facebook Account; April 22, 2017)

The damaged fountain in the foreground with the stabilized column in the background (Private Facebook Account; April 22, 2017)

Incident Report: Iraq

IHI 17-0016 UPDATE

Report Date: May 18, 2017

Site Name: Mosul University Library; Mosul Central Public Library

Date of Incident: May 12, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosul University Library - The Mosul Central Library is a system of multiple repositories of research volumes, archives, rare books, maps, and other collections for Mosul University. The library contained 3,500 rare books dating as far back as the early 18th century. The library also contained 5000 government publications dating back to 1921.[75] The main repository is the Central Library, which holds the primary research collection for the campus. Other libraries across the university's many colleges also have specialized libraries. In 2003 the Central Library was damaged and vandalized. Between 2003-2014, the university had rebuilt the collection.

Mosul Central Public Library - The Mosul Central Public Library includes the Sunni Muslim library, the library of the 265-year-old Latin Church and Monastery of the Dominican Fathers, and the Mosul Museum Library. Among the 112,709 books and manuscripts thought lost as a result of ISIL intentional destruction are a collection of Iraqi newspapers dating from the early 20th century, as well as maps, books, and collections from the Ottoman period; some of which were registered on a UNESCO rarities list. In April 2003, the library lost a third of its collection when it was vandalized and looted following the invasion of US forces, though some of the collection was saved by Mosul's residents. The library also had its own bookbinding and maintenance department to care for its collection.

Site Date: Mosul University Library - 1967 CE; Mosul Central Public Library - 1921 CE

Incident Summary: New photographs were released of damage to libraries in Mosul.

Incident Source and Description: On May 12, 2017, ASOR CHI received photographs of the Mosul University Central Library from a contact on the ground. Local activist group Mosul Eye also posted recent photographs and video of the library. The library shows severe structural damage from ISIL intentional destruction and US-led Coalition airstrikes, as well as evidence of fire damage.[76] On February 25, 2015 reports surfaced that ISIL ransacked the library and burned 100,000 books and manuscripts.[77]

al-Fanar Media interviewed Dr. Obay al-Dewachi, President of Mosul University, who stated that almost all of the library's holdings were destroyed, as well as severe structural damage to the

[75] http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/rebuilding-mosuls-library-book-book/
[76] http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120171; https://news.vice.com/article/the-us-led-coalition-bombed-the-university-of-mosul-for-being-an-islamic-state-headquarters
[77] https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/feb/26/isis-destroys-thousands-books-libraries

building itself. The library director states that "many of the library's older manuscripts had been digitized and backed up on servers."[78] Some manuscripts were also taken home with employees.

Starting in 2017, after the liberation of eastern Mosul, several groups are collecting books to send to Mosul, for both the university and public libraries. Mosul Eye has created a depository with the help of the Director of the Central Library at Mosul University in order to store any books received until they have the facilities to store the books.[79] They are also going through the libraries and salvaging what books they can, including rare manuscripts. A French institute in Marseille has pledged to donate about 20 tons of books to the campaign.[80] Bibliotheca Alexandrina has pledged 100,000 books to the Ashurbanipal Library, the Archaeology Department's branch of Mosul University's library.[81] Basra University and Dijah University College in Iraq have offered support as well as books to help rebuild the library.[82] On May 25, 2017 a group of students organized an "eye of Mosul" arts festival in front of the library to bring attention to the library as well as let people donate books.[83]

Digitization projects to preserve what remains have also started. Many priests and imams started digitizing ancient and important manuscripts before smuggling them out of Mosul and into places like Erbil and Baghdad.[84] The amount of books destroyed has yet to be determined, as books are being returned by people who took them from the libraries to save them.[85] ASOR CHI contact stated that ISIL "probably burned all the foreign books, and books not suited for their ideology (history, geography, etc)." Our contact states that "Islamic and reference books located in these libraries may have been sold in the book market." Our contact further states that the latter books were probably purchased by the book sellers and may be easy to track down and return to the collection.

For more on previous damage to the libraries, please see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0017** in **WR 30; ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0017 UPDATE** in **WR 26-27**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0035** in **WR 30** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0035 UPDATE**

Pattern: Site Management: re-construction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reports of damage to libraries in Mosul, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to intense military activity.

Sources:

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[78] http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/rebuilding-mosuls-library-book-book/
[79] https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1252039248250908
[80] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39439657
[81] http://www.iraqinews.com/features/bibliotheca-alexandrina-launches-campaign-provide-mosul-university-library-100000-books/; http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-central-library-isis-iraq-battle-war-destroyed-books-eye-a7631956.html
[82] http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/rebuilding-mosuls-library-book-book/
[83] https://www.facebook.com/NinevehMC/videos/1841721516094890/
[84] https://aleteia.org/2017/05/12/iraqi-priest-protects-ancient-christian-manuscripts-from-isis/; http://www.hmml.org/news--media/hmml-urgently-working-to-save-manuscripts-in-iraq-hopes-for-safety-of-collections-in-syria ; https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/02/the-monk-who-saves-manuscripts-from-isis/517611/
[85] https://aleteia.org/2017/05/12/iraqi-priest-protects-ancient-christian-manuscripts-from-isis/; http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-central-library-isis-iraq-battle-war-destroyed-books-eye-a7631956.html

Online Reporting:

Aleteia
https://aleteia.org/2017/05/12/iraqi-priest-protects-ancient-christian-manuscripts-from-isis/

BBC
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39439657

Al-Fanar Media:
http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/rebuilding-mosuls-library-book-book/

The Independent http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-central-library-isis-iraq-battle-war-destroyed-books-eye-a7631956.html

Iraqi News
http://www.iraqinews.com/features/bibliotheca-alexandrina-launches-campaign-provide-mosul-university-library-100000-books/

Mosul Eye:
May 23, 2017: https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/photos/pcb.1258791937575639/1258790847575748/
May 22, 2017: https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1257827224338777
May 16, 2017: https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1252039248250908; https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/videos/1252040671584099/
February 10, 2017: https://mosuleye.wordpress.com/campaign-book-and-literature-donations-to-the-libraries-of-mosul/

Nineveh MC: https://www.facebook.com/NinevehMC/videos/1841721516094890/

The outside of Mosul University Library (ASOR CHI Sources; May 12, 2017)

The interior of Mosul University Library (ASOR CHI Sources; May 12, 2017)

One of the rooms in the Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Boxes of books stacked in a room in Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Boxes of books stacked in a hallway in Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

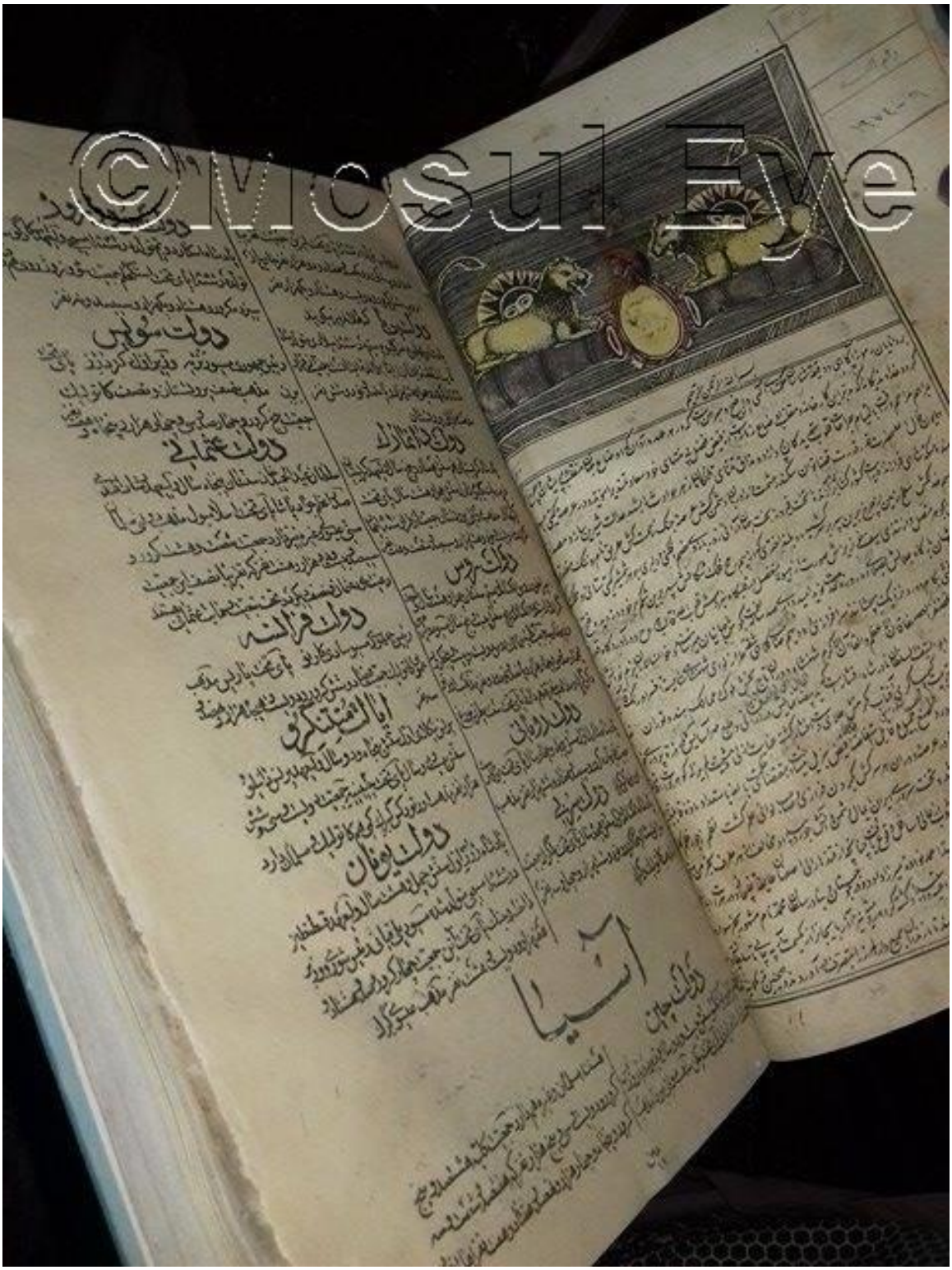
Video still of inside of Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Video still of missing portion of roof in Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Video still of damage to Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Video still of burned remains of books in Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 16, 2017)

Stacks of salvaged books from the Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 23, 2017)



Rare manuscript salvaged from Mosul University Library (Mosul Eye; May 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0024 UPDATE

Report Date: May 1, 2017

Site Name: Hatra (al-Hadr) (الحضر)

Date of Incident: March 2015

Location: Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The city of Hatra — a large fortified urban center — was built by the Seleucid Empire in the third or second centuries BCE and was later conquered by the Parthians. During the first and second centuries CE it rose to prominence as a religious center and as a major trading city along the Silk Road. Roman Emperors Trajan and Septimius Severus unsuccessfully attempted to capture the city in 116 CE and 198 CE, respectively. Hatra eventually formed an alliance with the Romans in 230 CE, during the reign of Emperor Gordian III, but the city was conquered in 241 CE and destroyed by Ardashir I (226-42 CE), founder of the Sassanid dynasty.

The surviving remains of Hatra date between the first century BCE and the second century CE. The city is approximately 2 km in diameter and was protected by two large fortification walls, separated by a wide ditch with four fortified gates. The city center is marked by a temple complex dedicated to several Greco-Roman, Mesopotamian, Canaanite, Aramean, and Arabian deities, with monumental architectural remains blending Hellenistic, Roman, and Middle Eastern traditions. The archaeological site was successfully inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. It was one of the best-preserved archaeological sites in Iraq prior to its capture by ISIL.[86]

Site Date: 3rd/2nd century BCE – 241 CE

Incident Summary: New photographs and reporting provide additional detail on damage to site.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 the BBC published an article providing new information on the condition of the ancient site of Hatra. The local head of antiquities in Iraq has stated that most buildings at the site are intact. A journalist from the Spanish news agency Efe reported that many statues at the site had been destroyed, buildings had fire damaged, and mortars had been stored in the courtyard. The reporter also reported the presence of deceased ISIL militants who had been killed at the site.[87] A Popular Mobilization Front commander described that the "exterior wall was damaged, shots fired by Daesh [ISIL] left holes in some buildings, two grand halls of the ancient palace suffered fires, and shrapnel from shells affected the western part."[88]

For previous reports on damage to Hatra, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0068** in **Weekly Report 31**; **IHI 15-0068 Update** in **Weekly Report 35**; **IHI 17-0024** in **April Monthly Report 136-140**.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional performative destruction, reuse of ancient/historic structure, gunfire/light weaponry, vehicles/heavy weaponry, occupation/militarization.

[86] http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39770395
[87] ibid.
[88] ibid.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Hatra, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in recently liberated regions.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

BBC: http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39770395

US Consulate Erbil: https://www.facebook.com/erbil.usconsulate/posts/461137880888903

Scholarly:

UNESCO: http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277

A member of the PMU stands outside the ancient site of Hatra (BBC; May 1, 2017)

Mortars seen at the ancient site of Hatra (BBC; May 1, 2017)

Damage to artifacts at Hatra (BBC; May 1, 2017)

Members of the PMU observe damage and evidence of a firing range at Hatra (BBC; May 1, 2017)

IHI 17-0025

Report Date: May 5, 2017

Site Name: al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (جامع النوري)

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Historical mosque famous for its leaning minaret.[89] The mosque is part of a complex that includes the famous al-Hadba' Minaret and a school named after the builder Nur al-Din al-Zangi Atabeg. According to World Monuments Fund, "In 1942, as part of a renovation campaign by the Iraqi Department of Antiquities, the mosque and madrassa were dismantled and reassembled according to a new plan, but the minaret remains as one of the few original elements of the medieval Nur al-Din complex."[90]

Site Date: Original complex built in 1172 CE. Rebuilt in 1942 by the Iraqi Department of Antiquities.

Incident Summary: Video shows an RPG rocket striking dome of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 5, 2017 BBC Arabic released video footage of ongoing Iraqi Security Forces efforts to recapture areas of Mosul from ISIL.[91] Video footage depicts Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) firing what appears to be an RPG on al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque, striking the dome on its southern face. The mosque appears to have been damaged, including prior damage to the dome. ISIL is rumoured to have stationed themselves inside the mosque, from which the group's leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi announced the creation of the 'caliphate'. The minaret of the mosque known as al-Hadba Minaret seems to be undamaged, however a black flag possibly belonging to ISIL has been positioned on top of the minaret. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from May 22, 2017 does not show any damage to the visible portions of the mosque and minaret.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques in Mosul that have been damaged by the recent fighting: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0031**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0030; ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0029**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque, 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:

[89] https://www.wmf.org/project/al-hadba%E2%80%99-minaret
[90] https://www.wmf.org/project/al-hadba%E2%80%99-minaret
[91] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsmzjl1gi40

BBC Arabic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsmzjl1gi40

Scholarly:

World Monuments Fund: https://www.wmf.org/project/al-hadba%E2%80%99-minaret

Video still shows an ISF member loading an RPG rocket launcher and firing on al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still shows an ISF member loading and firing on al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque from the vantage point of ISF members, showing damage to the dome (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque with a trail of smoke behind the RPG launched (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque at the time of the RPG impact (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque at the time of the RPG impact (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of smoke rising from the blast point at al-Nuri al-Kabir mosque (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of smoke rising from the blast point at al-Nuri al-Kabir mosque (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Hadba Minaret with possible ISIL flag positioned near the speakers (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

Video still of al-Hadba Minaret with possible ISIL flag positioned near the speakers (BBC Arabic; May 5, 2017)

IHI 17-0026

Report Date: May 11, 2017

Site Name: Maltai Rock Relief (Halmata Cave Reliefs)

Date of Incident: May 8, 2017

Location: Halmata Cave, Dohuk Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Malthai Reliefs are a series of four Neo-Assyrian bas-reliefs carved into the cliff-side above the village of Malthai (in the suburbs of Dohuk) on the south bank of the Rubar-e Dohuk River. Three reliefs are grouped close together while the fourth is about 50 meters to their right. Each relief is 6 meters long and 2 meters high, and the same composition of nine figures is repeated on each panel with small variations.[92] The scenes depict the king as a worshipper facing right toward a line of five deities--Assur, Ninlil, Sin, Anu (or Enlil), Shamash, Adad, and Ishtar--mounted on animals. Another figure of the king is depicted at the end of this row of deities, so that the line of divinities is flanked on either side by two identical royal images.[93] The king depicted is Sennacherib (reigned ca. 704-681 BCE), who had these and other rock reliefs carved at points along his northern canal system.[94]

All four reliefs panels have sustained recent damage. However, the site has been damaged on previous occasions. Sometime during the 1st to 3rd centuries CE, for example, large holes were cut in two of the panels to make tombs. Another panel was damaged in the 1920s when antiquities thieves cut out part of another of the reliefs. This stolen section was later recovered and is now in the National Museum of Iraq in Baghdad.[95] The small holes seen on all four reliefs are apparently due to the porosity of the rock, and are not bullet-holes or otherwise manmade as has recently been claimed.[96]

Site Date: Neo-Assyrian (ca. 680s BCE)

Incident Summary: New photographs show damage to the Maltai Reliefs.

Incident Source and Description: On May 8, 2017 Babylon FM published photographs showing damage to the Maltai Reliefs. They state that they "found the head [of one figure] drilled, and estimated that it had just happened as the dust was still in the air." ASOR CHI in-country sources also reported that this damage occurred and included the same set of photographs. On May 23, 2017 Lamia Al Galiani Werr, a Research Associate at the School of Oriental and Asiatic Studies, London reported this damage was due to people with a grudge against Assyrian Christians and had nothing to do with ISIL damaging cultural heritage.[97]

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[92] http://archmap.org/archmap_2/Site/Collection?resource=233&building_id=2689
[93] http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2014/assyria-to-iberia/blog/posts/rock-reliefs
[94] Ur 2005: 327
[95] http://archmap.org/archmap_2/Site/Collection?building_id=2689
[96] https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2016/02/23/iraq-krg-dohuk-maltai-peshmerga-destruction-false-claims/
[97] Iraqi Crisis List; May 23, 2017

On April 9, 2016 the relief was vandalized by the spray painting of a Kurdish flag. This occurred on the third and fourth panels. The new damage, including the defacement of Sennacherib, occurs on the first panel. The other damage also likely occurred on the first panel based on the stone discoloration, but an exact location has not been identified. An ASOR CHI source traveled to Maltai on May 19th, 2017 with the Director of Antiquities of Dohuk and stated that the relief was in relatively good condition. The source was not able to see the first panel, but did not record any vandalism like the erasing of faces on the other three panels. This supports the identification of the recent vandalism occurring on the first panel.

For more information of previous damage to the Maltai Reliefs, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0005** in **Weekly Report 81-82**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0011** in **Weekly Report 89-90**.

Pattern: Vandalism.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Malthai and remote sites vulnerable to vandalism in Syria, Iraq, and Libya.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Babylon FM: https://www.facebook.com/BabylonFM/posts/1299198693534152

Scholarly:

Bahrani, Zainab. “Maltai Reliefs” The Archmap Project, Iraq. Updated May 8, 2014. Columbia University.
http://archmap.org/archmap_2/Site/Collection?resource=233&building_id=2689

Malko, Helen. “Neo-Assyrian Rock Reliefs: Ideology and Landscapes of an Empire.” Metmuseum.org
http://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/listings/2014/assyria-to-iberia/blog/posts/rock-reliefs

Ur, Jason. “Sennacherib's Northern Assyrian Canals: New Insights from Satellite Imagery and Aerial Photography.” Iraq 67 (2005) pp. 317-345.
http://www.people.fas.harvard.edu/~jasonur/pdf/Ur_Iraq67_2005.pdf

The first relief at Maltai pre-damage with the damaged area outlined in red (Arch Map; May 16, 2014)

Damage to Sennacherib in the first Maltai Relief, the face has been chipped off (Babylon FM; May 8, 2017)

Damage to a relief at Malthai, probably the first relief based on stone coloring (Babylon FM; May 8, 2017)

Close-up of damage to a relief at Malthai, probably the first relief based on stone coloring (Babylon FM; May 8, 2017)

The second panel of the relief, showing no spray paint, and no further vandalism (ASOR CHI Source; May 19, 2017)

The second panel of the relief, showing very faint green spray paint below the panel, and no further vandalism (ASOR CHI Source; May 19, 2017)

The fourth panel of the relief, showing no spray paint, and no further vandalism (ASOR CHI Source; May 19, 2017)

IHI 17-0027

Report Date: May 16, 2017

Site Name: Mar Kurkees Church (كنيسة مار كوركيس) (St. George Church)

Date of Incident: August 2014 - Present

Location: Telskuf (Tesqopa), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The ancient village of Telskuf was once home to 11,000 residents, the majority of whom were Chaldean Catholic Christians.[98] The village was temporarily held by ISIL in August 2014 before the group was pushed out by Kurdish Peshmerga forces. In May 2016, ISIL attacked the town but was unable to recapture it. The village has two churches: Mar Yacob (St. Jacob) and Mar Kurkees (St. George). The ruins of a 10th Century AD monastery (St. Ephrem's Monastery) are now used as the village cemetery. The village is known for making pottery and water vats, and used to be the main supplier of such items for Mosul and surrounding villages.[99]

Site Date: Original date of the church is unknown. The church was demolished and rebuilt in 1955.[100] According to a first-hand account, the 'original' Mar Kurkees Church had a so-called 'ancient design' with three temples.[101] It is a Chaldean Catholic Church.

Incident Summary: New video footage details the condition of Mar Kurkees Church (St. George).

Incident Source and Description: On May 16, 2017 the Shlama Foundation, a humanitarian organization, released video footage of Mar Kurkees (St. George Church) during a visit to Telskuf, Iraq.[102] The church appears to have sustained minor damage, including damage to the furniture. According to the Shlama Foundation, ISIL militants occupied the church for one week. In addition, the village of Telskuf was under military occupation for more than two years following ISIL's encroachment into the Nineveh Plains. The church has now reportedly been restored and cleaned up in anticipation of residents returning to the village.

During the ISIL occupation of Telskuf, militants looted homes, destroyed buildings, removed all crosses from churches, and graffitied the walls of churches.[103] Residents who returned to the village after Peshmerga forces had recaptured it replaced the crosses, including one above Mar Kurkees Church.

Pattern: Military Activity: occupation; Site Management: re-construction/clean-up; Vandalism.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mar Kurkees Church, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to intense military activity and habitation.

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98 http://www.chaldeansonline.org/village/alqosh.html
99 http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35848.html
100 http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35848.html
101 http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35848.html
102 https://www.facebook.com/shlamafoundation/videos/1214867188624371/
103 http://www.aina.org/news/20140821042826.htm

Sources:

Online Reporting:

AINA: http://www.aina.org/news/20140821042826.htm

Forbes: https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2017/05/08/teleskof-the-new-hope-for-christians-in-the-middle-east/

Ishtar TV: http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35848.html

Al Monitor: http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/galleries/iraq-photo-of-the-day.html?displayTab=st-georges-church

Shlama Foundation: https://www.facebook.com/shlamafoundation/videos/1214867188624371/

Video still of Mar Kurkees Church as it stands today (Shlama Foundation; May 16, 2017)

Video still of Mar Kurkees Church as it stands today (Shlama Foundation; May 16, 2017)

Video still of Mar Kurkees Church as it stands today (Shlama Foundation; May 16, 2017)

Video still of Mar Kurkees Church as it stands today (Shlama Foundation; May 16, 2017)

IHI 17-0028

Report Date: May 18, 2017

Site Name: Dair Mar Elia (Monastery of Saint Elijah) (دير مار إيليا)

Date of Incident: May 15, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Dair Mar Elia was founded around 595 CE by Mar Elia (Saint Elijah). The main sanctuary of the monastery was built in the 11th century, and renovated in the 17th century.[104] In 1743 the Persians attacked the monastery, damaging the building and killing the monks. The monastery lay in ruins into the 20th century.[105] During WWI, the site was used as a place for refugees, and some buildings were rebuilt and used. In the 1970s the site became a base for the Iraqi Republican Guard.[106] In 2009, the US Army decided to try to restore the monastery.[107]

Site Date: Build in 595 CE.[108]

Incident Summary: New photographs show the current condition of Dair Mar Elia.

Incident Source and Description: On May 15, 2017 Archaeology in Iraq posted new photographs of the current condition of Dair Mar Elia to their Twitter account.[109] The photographs show the complete demolition of the site, with piles of rubble surrounding the foundation. The site was destroyed by ISIL between August 27, 2014 and September 28, 2014.[110]

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other Christian sites that were damaged by ISIL in Northern Iraq: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0034**, **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0033**.

Pattern: Site Maintenance: tourism/visitor activities.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor new information and photographs on cultural heritage sites in northern Iraq, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions that have recently been liberated.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Archaeology in Iraq: https://twitter.com/ainiraq/status/864206680254550016

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[104] http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history-archaeology/iraq-monastery.html/?c=y&page=1
[105] http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/world/middleeast/19monastery.html
[106] https://web.archive.org/web/20131103052742/http://newsblaze.com/story/20070219075916tsop.nb/topstory.html
[107] http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/world/middleeast/19monastery.html
[108] https://web.archive.org/web/20131103052742/http://newsblaze.com/story/20070219075916tsop.nb/topstory.html
[109] https://twitter.com/ainiraq/status/864206680254550016
[110] https://web.archive.org/web/20160121031241/http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2016-01-20/only-on-ap-oldest-christian-monastery-in-iraq-is-razed

The ruins of Dair Mar Elian (Archaeology in Iraq; May 15, 2017)

The ruins of Dair Mar Elian (Archaeology in Iraq; May 15, 2017)

IHI 17-0029

Report Date: May 19, 2017

Site Name: al-Mufti Mosque (مسجد المفتي)

Date of Incident: December 2014 - Present.

Location: 17 Tammoz Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Sunni Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Photographs and video footage show extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage of damage to al-Mufti Mosque. The video reported that the damage was a result of a US-led Coalition airstrike that occurred on April 30, 2017. Video footage shows that the mosque has been heavily damaged and rendered inoperable.

On May 18, 2017 Amaq News Agency released a video showing fighting around the al-Mufti Mosque. The mosque has sustained severe damage throughout the conflict, with the video showing missing walls, and rubble littering the courtyard. The dome and minaret remain intact.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques in Mosul that have been damaged by the recent fighting: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0031**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0030**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0025**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Mufti Mosque in Mosul, 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:

Amaq News Agency

Video still of extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of men praying outside of the damaged mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of damage to religious materials at al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still of damage to religious materials at al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 1, 2017)

Video still showing severe damage to al-Mufti Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 18, 2017)

IHI 17-0030

Report Date: May 1, 2017

Site Name: al-Sawaf Mosque (جامع الصواف)

Date of Incident: December 2014 - Present.

Location: ar-Rafidain Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Possibly a Sunni Mosque.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Photographs shows extensive damage to al-Sawaf Mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 local reporting group Mosul Eye posted a photograph of al-Sawaf Mosque showing damage to the site.[111] The exact cause of the damage is unknown. It is possible that the site was damaged by ongoing clashes and airstrikes during US-led Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) operations to recapture the city from ISIL.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques in Mosul that have been damaged by the recent fighting: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0031**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0029**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0025**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Sawaf Mosque, 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:

Mosul Eye: https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1238877642900402

[111] https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1238877642900402

Damage to al-Sawaf Mosque (Mosul Eye; May 1, 2017)

IHI 17-0031

Report Date: May 19, 2017

Site Name: Yehia al-Talib Mosque (جامع يحيى الطالب) (al-haj Yahya Abd al-Talib Mosque)

Date of Incident: December 2014 - Present.

Location: ar Rafa'i Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Possibly a Shia Mosque.

Site Date: 1987 CE

Incident Summary: Video footage show extensive damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 19, 2017 al-Mosuliya Channel released video footage of Yehia al-Talib Mosque showing moderate damage to the site likely caused by ongoing clashes in the area.[112] The neighborhood in which the mosque is located had recently been liberated by Iraqi Security Forces.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques in Mosul that have been damaged by the recent fighting: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0030**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0029**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0025**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Yehia al-Talib Mosque, 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:

al-Mosuliya Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEHFrZm5T4M

Mosul Atiqa: https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/posts/1456067171082427:0

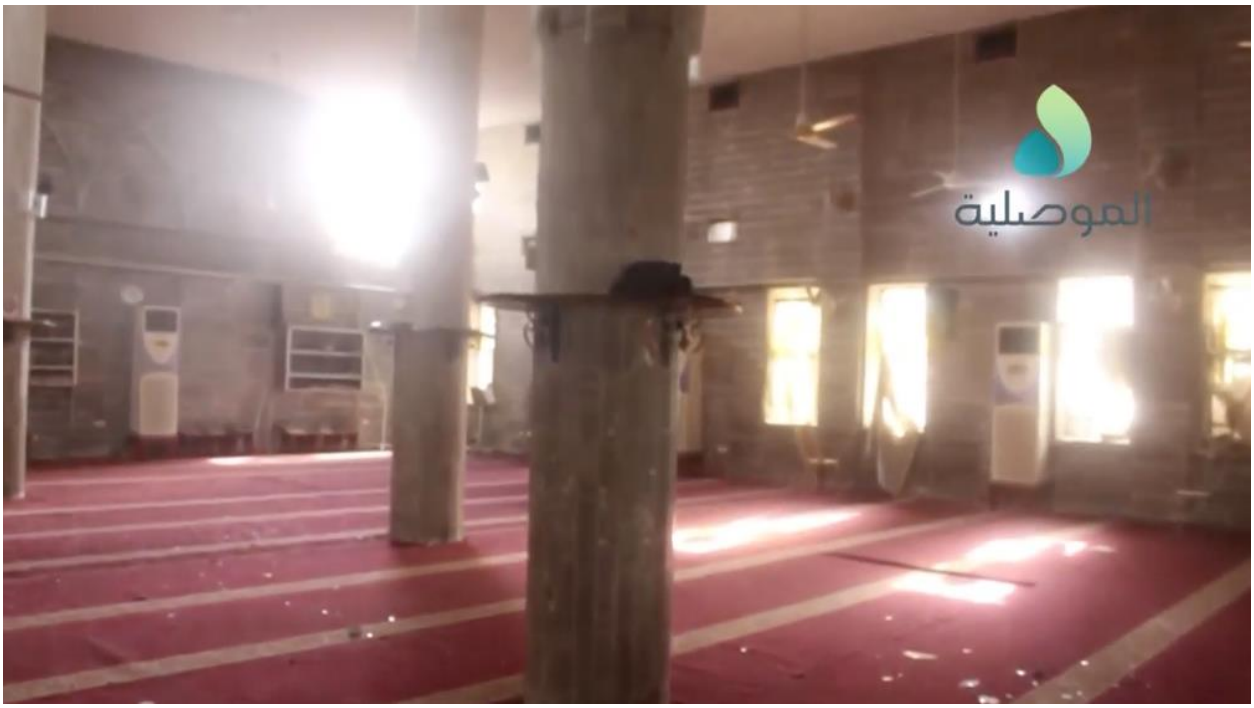
[112] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEHFrZm5T4M

Video still of Yehia al-Talib Mosque (al-Mosuliya Channel; May 19, 2017)

Video still of rubble surrounding Yehia al-Talib Mosque (al-Mosuliya Channel; May 19, 2017)

Video still of damage to Yehia al-Talib Mosque (al-Mosuliya Channel; May 19, 2017)

Video still of damage to Yehia al-Talib Mosque (al-Mosuliya Channel; May 19, 2017)



Video still of damage to Yehia al-Talib Mosque (al-Mosuliya Channel; May 19, 2017)

IHI 17-0032

Report Date: May 29, 2017

Site Name: Mosul University

Date of Incident: January 18, 2017-Present

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosul University was constructed in the 1960s, and is one of the largest educational and research centers in the Middle East, and second largest in Iraq. It was closed and reopened under ISIL command.

Site Date: 1967 CE

Incident Summary: New photographs and video show cleanup and reconstruction efforts taking place at Mosul University.

Incident Source and Description: On January 18, 2017 Mosul University was liberated from ISIL militants. The buildings were left severely damaged and hundreds of thousands of books were destroyed. Cleanup began in April 2017, and continues to today in order to open the university in September.[113] On April 5, 2017 a local Facebook group published photos of the cleanup and renovation of some buildings. On April 17, 2017 France 24 reported that the buildings that housed the law, science, and chemistry faculties had been cleaned, but over 100 buildings had been damaged in the fighting. New footage published by a personal Youtube account on April 28, 2017 shows people going through the rubble in buildings and saving administrative documents and official papers including government agreements and property ownership documents. On May 22, 2017 a Mosul professor posted photographs of the cleanup efforts, showing the College of Archaeology hallway that had sustained fire damage, as well as a cleaned hallway of another building.

For more information on previous damage to Mosul University, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0017** in **Weekly Report 30** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0026** in **Weekly Report 105-106**.

Pattern: Site Management: re-construction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the progress of cleanup and reconstruction to Mosul University, as well as the condition of other educational sites located in recently liberated regions.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

[113] http://observers.france24.com/en/20170417-students-professors-rebuild-mosul-university-even-under-rocket-fire

France 24: http://observers.france24.com/en/20170417-students-professors-rebuild-mosul-university-even-under-rocket-fire

Nineveh (Facebook Group): https://www.facebook.com/Nineveh.Iraq/posts/1292304307473891

Private Facebook Account

Personal Youtube Account: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qmBqdAhClHs

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (France 24; April 17, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (France 24; April 17, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up the gymnasium at Mosul University (France 24; April 17, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up the gymnasium at Mosul University (France 24; April 17, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (Nineveh, April 5, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (Nineveh, April 5, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (Nineveh, April 5, 2017)

Destroyed furniture and shelves outside of Mosul University (Nineveh; April 5, 2017)

Volunteers cleaning up a building at Mosul University (Nineveh, April 5, 2017)

Video still of Mosul University (Personal Youtube Account, May 2, 2017)

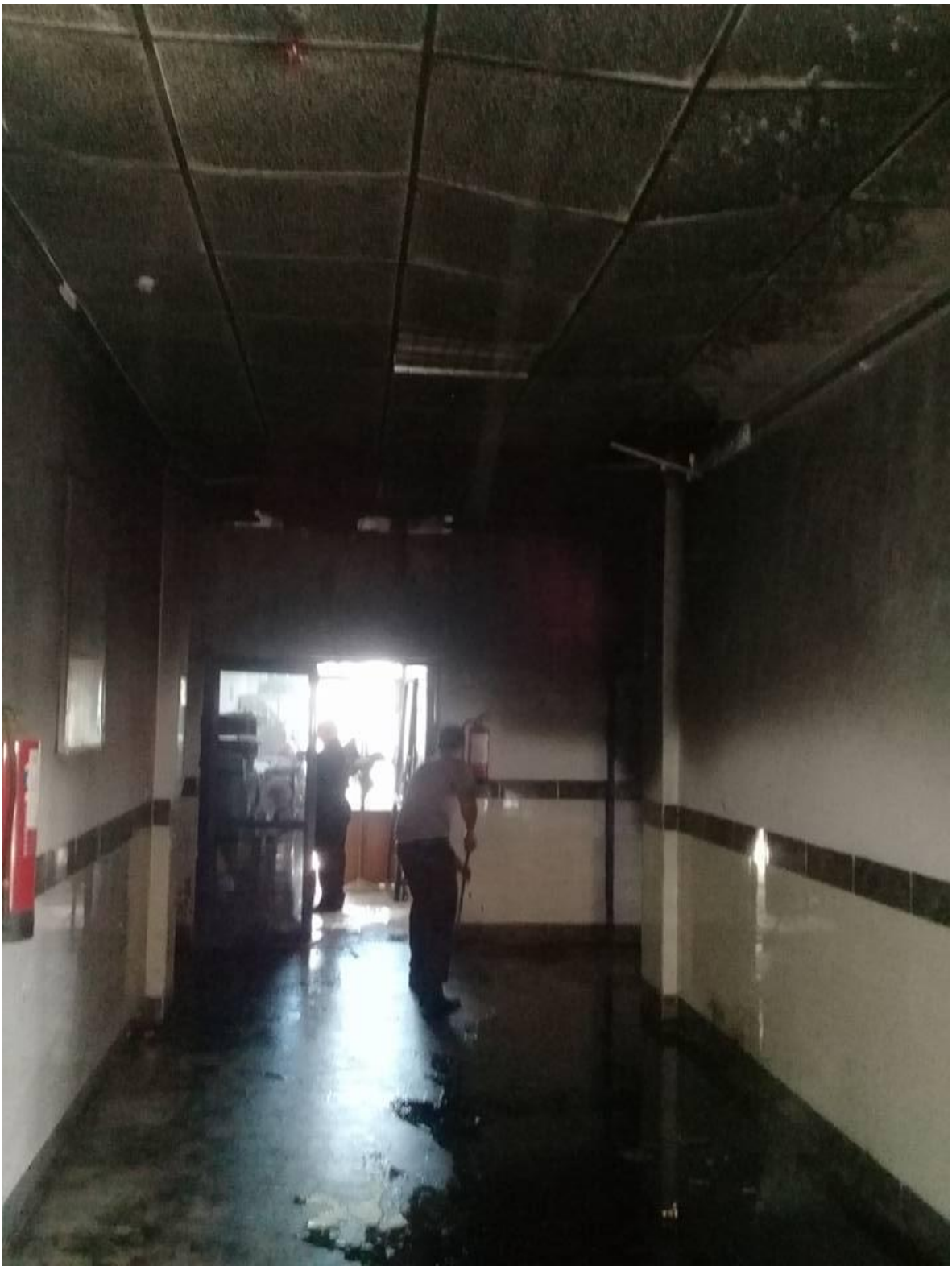
Video still of Mosul University (Personal Youtube Account, May 2, 2017)

Video still of a building Mosul University as it stands today (Personal Youtube Account, May 2, 2017)

Hallway in a cleaned building (Private Facebook Account; May 22, 2017)

Hallway in a cleaned university building (Private Facebook Account; May 22, 2017)

Fire damage to the “Cuneiform Section” (Private Facebook Account; May 22, 2017)



Cleanup in the “Cuneiform Section” (Private Facebook Account; May 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0033

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Mar Mikhael Monastery (دير مار ميخائي للسريان)

Date of Incident: June 2014–Present

Location: Hawi al-Kanisah Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mar Mikhael Monastery lies roughly 7 km northwest of Mosul near the western bank of the Tigris. The site consists of an inner and outer complex surrounded by an enclosure wall. The monastery was founded in the 4th century and partially or completely destroyed in 1743.[114] Father Romanos al-Alqushy rebuilt or renovated the complex in 1867. The monastery received additional renovation in 1956. The complex is cared for by the Chaldean Catholic Church in Iraq..

Site Date: 4th Century CE; reconstruction/renovation in 1867 and 1956

Incident Summary: Video footage and photographs show condition of and damage to Mar Mikhael Monastery.

Incident Source and Description: On May 16, 2017 al-Mosuliya Channel released video footage of Mar Mikhael Monastery.[115] The video only depicts damage to the enclosure wall of the complex and the exterior faces of the structures within. The damage appears to be the result of aerial bombardment or artillery. The northeastern corner of the monastery sustained particularly heavy damage, likely from an airstrike. Footage from a courtyard within the complex shows damage near the main entrance to the monastery. According to a translation of an interview with an officer in the 3rd Brigade, 9th Division of the Iraqi Army, ISIL used Mar Mikhael Monastery as a command center and weapons depot.[116] This officer also states that ISIL intentionally destroyed elements of the complex. The pattern of destruction is similar to patterns seen at other religious sites, particularly Yezidi and Christian, carried out by ISIL after capturing much of Ninawa Governorate.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other Christian sites that were damaged by ISIL: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0033**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0028**.

Pattern: Site management: re-construction/clean-up; Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mar Mikhael Monastery, 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:

Al-Mosuliya Channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxzEhzHY_4E

[114] http://www.aina.org/aol/syriac.htm#Mikhael
[115] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxzEhzHY_4E
[116] https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/videos/1865446117037215/

Assyrian Monasteries in Present Day Iraq: http://www.aina.org/aol/syriac.htm#Mikhael

Video still of northern enclosure wall of Mar Mikhael Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 16, 2017)

Video still of damage to northeastern corner of Mar Mikhael Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 16, 2017)

Video still of damage near main entrance to Mar Mikhael Monastery, seen from south (al-Mosuliya; May 16, 2017)

Video still of damage to facade near main entrance to Mar Mikhael Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 16, 2017)

IHI 17-0034

Report Date: May 30, 2017

Site Name: Mar Gorgis Monastery (كنيسة دير مار كوركيس) (St. George/Mar Korkis/Mar Kurkees)

Date of Incident: December 2014–Present

Location: al-Arabi Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Mar Gorgis Monastery was founded in the 10th century by the Assyrian Church of the East and was then rebuilt as a seminary by the Chaldean Catholic Church in 1846. The church is located on a hillside on the east bank of the Tigris in the northeastern section of Mosul, less than 5 km from the walls of the Assyrian site of Nineveh. The Chaldean Catholic Church, which is made up of people in Iraq who self-identify as Assyrian, uses Syriac as a liturgical language.

Site Date: 10th Century CE, rebuilt in 1931 CE

Incident Summary: Video footage and photographs show condition and damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery.

Incident Source and Description: On May 1, 2017 al-Mosuliya Channel released a video showing clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery in al-Arabi neighborhood.[117] The church has been heavily damaged and photographs show evidence of intentional destruction. The pattern of destruction is similar to patterns seen at other religious sites, particularly Yezidi and Christian, carried out by ISIL after capturing much of Ninawa Governorate. Possible explosives damage is also possible as entire floors have been destroyed. Photographs taken by Shlama Foundation show evidence of religious defacement and intentional destruction. According to one visitor to the site, the cemetery adjacent to the monastery has been destroyed.[118]

On May 29, 2017 Metro News published an article and photographs showing the re-construction and clean-up efforts.[119] These efforts were carried out by both Muslim and Christians who live in the neighborhood surrounding the church.

Mar Gorgis Monastery was the site of ISIL intentional destruction between December 2014 and March 2015. The destruction was captured on film by ISIL and released as part of the group's propaganda campaign. For more information on previous damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0050** in **Weekly Report 32**.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other Christian sites that were damaged by ISIL: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0033**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0028**.

Pattern: Site management: re-construction/clean-up.

[117] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZRrdCXn85s
[118] https://www.facebook.com/shlamafoundation/posts/1209301549180935
[119] http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/29/christian-church-destroyed-by-isis-rebuilt-by-muslim-residents-6670055/

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mar Gorgis Monastery, 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:

Metro News: http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/29/christian-church-destroyed-by-isis-rebuilt-by-muslim-residents-6670055/

al-Mosuliya: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZRrdCXn85s

Shlama Foundation: https://www.facebook.com/shlamafoundation/posts/1209301549180935

This is Christian Iraq:
May 23: https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/videos/1865446117037215
May 27: https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/posts/1867265503521943

Extensive destruction seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Extensive destruction seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Damage seen to an altar at Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Damage seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Damage seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Damage and evidence of intentional destruction seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Intentional destruction to the cemetery adjacent to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Damage and evidence of intentional destruction seen to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Shlama Foundation; May 9, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage to a courtyard at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of extensive damage at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of religious defacement at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of intentional destruction and defacement of religious articles at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Video still of clean-up efforts at Mar Gorgis Monastery (al-Mosuliya; May 1, 2017)

Volunteers behind the altar (This is Christian Iraq; March 27, 2017)

A group of volunteers cleaning a room in Mar Gorgis (This is Christian Iraq; March 27, 2017)

Volunteers restoring the cross at Mar Gorgis Monastery (This is Christian Iraq; March 27, 2017)

Volunteers in Mar Gorgis Monastery (This is Christian Iraq; March 27, 2017)

The outside of Mar Gorgis Monastery as it stands today (This is Christian Iraq; March 27, 2017)

IHI 17-0035

Report Date: May 31, 2017

Site Name: Baha'a al-Deen al-Sumaeda'e Mosque (جامع بهاء الدين الصميدعي)

Date of Incident: May 11, 2017 - May 20, 2017

Location: al-Rifa'i Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: During the offensive to retake Mosul from ISIL, multiple mosques in the city have been damaged. Between May 11 and May 20, 2017 DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows Baha'a al-Deen al-Sumaeda'e Mosque was damaged. The minaret appears to be missing some of the facade, though it is still standing. The western side of the mosque also appears to be damaged. The road dividers and the adjacent buildings also show severe damage. On May 14, 2017 three suicide bombers attacked Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in the neighborhood of al-Rifa'i. ISIL later released video showing explosions occurring in the neighborhood.[120] The neighborhood was liberated by ISF on May 18, 2017.[121]

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for mosques which were also damaged during the same offensive: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0036** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0037**.

Pattern: Military Activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Baha'a al-Deen al-Sumaeda'e Mosque, 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:

The Baghdad Post: http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source

Live UA Map: http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017

[120] http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017
[121] http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source

Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; May 11, 2017)

Damage to the mosque visible on the minaret and western side as well as the street and adjacent building (DigitalGlobe; May 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0036

Report Date: May 31, 2017

Site Name: al-Najjar Mosque (جامع النجار)

Date of Incident: May 11, 2017 - May 20, 2017

Location: al-Rifa'i Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: During the offensive to retake Mosul, multiple mosques in the city have been damaged. Between May 11 and May 20, 2017 DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to al-Najjar Mosque. The damage is concentrated on the southern and eastern sides of the mosque. The triangular curb in front of the mosque has been completely destroyed. On May 14, 2017 three suicide bombers attacked Iraqi Security Forces in al-Rifa'i neighborhood and ISIL released video showing explosions occurring in the neighborhood.[122] The neighborhood was liberated on the May 18, 2017.[123]

The mosque was reportedly damaged by Coalition Forces on March 4, 2017 but no photographs of the damage were released at that time.[124]

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for mosques which were also damaged during the same offensive. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0035** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0037**.

Pattern: Military Activity: explosives

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Najjar Mosque, 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:
The Baghdad Post: http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source

Live UA Map: http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017

[122] http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017
[123] http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source
[124] https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-launches-mosul-counter-offensive-us-airstrikes-wipe-jihadist-commanders/

al-Masdar News: https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/isis-launches-mosul-counter-offensive-us-airstrikes-wipe-jihadist-commanders/

Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; May 11, 2017)

al-Najjar Mosque with visible damage to the southern and eastern sides of the mosque (DigitalGlobe; May 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0037

Report Date: May 31, 2017

Site Name: al-Shahid Muhammed Mosque

Date of Incident: May 11, 2017 - May 20, 2017

Location: al-Rifa'i Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: During the offensive to retake Mosul from ISIL, multiple mosques in the city have been damaged. Between May 11 and May 20, 2017 DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to al-Shahid Muhammed Mosque. The roof has a small hole, likely from shelling. A nearby building was also damaged possibly causing exterior damage to the mosque. On May 14, 2017 three suicide bombers attacked Iraqi Security Forces in al-Rifa'i neighborhood and ISIL released video showing explosions occurring in the neighborhood.[125] The neighborhood was liberated on May 18, 2017.[126]

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for mosques which were also damaged during the same offensive: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0035**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0036**.

Pattern: Military Activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Shahid Muhammed Mosque, 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:

The Baghdad Post: http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source

Live UA Map: http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017

[125] http://isis.liveuamap.com/en/time/14.05.2017
[126] http://www.thebaghdadpost.com/en/story/10729/Iraqi-s-army-recaptures-Baha-a-al-Deen-Mosque-in-Mosul-security-source

al-Shahid Muhammad mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; May 11, 2017)

al-Shahid Muhammed Mosque with damage to the roof (DigitalGlobe; May 22, 2017)

Incident Report: Libya

LHI 17-0002

Report Date: May 29, 2017

Site Name: Tell B 10

Date of Incident: Between January and September 2013

Location: Silin Coast (سيلين), Tripolitania, al Khums Governorate, Libya

Site Description: This area of coast is well known for its concentration of archaeological sites, particularly the Roman Villa Silin. Tell B 10 was identified during a Department of Antiquities training survey in 2012 and on the basis of surface scatter and the presence of substantial stone blocks, it appeared to be part of the Roman settlement associated with Silin.[127]

Site Date: Unknown, likely Roman Era

Incident Summary: Tell B 10 has been destroyed and replaced by a modern villa.

Incident Source and Description: On May 29, 2017 a member of the Tripoli Office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities visited Tell B 10, and reported that the site had been destroyed. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows a new villa has been constructed on top of the site. The Silin coast, one of Libya's premier concentrations of archaeological sites and natural beauty, has been heavily developed since 2013. This development has occurred without the archaeological review mandated by Libyan law, and has often encroached upon the public lands surrounding the Roman Villa Silin.

Pattern: Development disturbance: construction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the Silin Coast for signs of ongoing destruction of archaeological sites, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing developmental threats.

Sources:

This incident has been reported by the Tripoli Office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities.

[127] ASOR CHI Sources

Tell B 10 as it appeared during the 2012 survey (ASOR CHI Sources; December 2012)

One of the massive stone blocks at Tell B 10 that suggested that more likely lay below the surface (ASOR CHI Sources; December 2012)

Outline of the former extent of Tell B 10 on an image from 9/6/2013, in which it is clear that Tell B 10 has been destroyed to make way for a modern villa (ASOR CHI Sources and DigitalGlobe; 2013)

LHI 17-0003

Report Date: May 15, 2017

Site Name: Roman Wall

Date of Incident: Early May 2017

Location: Derna, Cyrenaica, Derna Governorate, Libya

Site Description: Remains of the Roman-era fortifications guarding the mouth of Wadi Derna leading into Derna from the south.

Site Date: Roman Era

Incident Summary: Ongoing urban encroachment and excavation have damaged the Roman Wall.

Incident Source and Description: In early May, 2017, the Derna Office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities received reports that there is illegal excavation occurring at the base of the Roman Wall. As early as 2013, residents in the southern area of Derna began to remove sections of the Roman Wall in order to build new houses. Some of the stones are incorporated into the foundations of the new houses and in other cases, part of the ancient wall is being re-used as an exterior wall of a house. The wall is also being dismantled in order to create room for more houses to be developed. This construction has continued to the present.

Pattern: Development disturbance: construction; Illegal excavation.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor Derna for signs of ongoing destruction of archaeological sites, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing developmental threats.

Sources:

This incident has been reported by the Derna Office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities.

The Roman Wall with a section removed to make way for housing (ASOR CHI Sources; May 2017)

The Roman Wall with signs of recent illegal excavation at its base (ASOR CHI Sources; May 2017)

LHI 17-0004

Report Date: May 21, 2017

Site Name: Funduq al Hoji

Date of Incident: March 2017

Location: Old City Tripoli, Tripolitania, Tarabulus Governorate, Libya

Site Description: This house was one of the prominent landmarks of the Old City of Tripoli.

Site Date: Ottoman Era

Incident Summary: Private developers have torn down a historic building.

Incident Source and Description: An ASOR CHI source reported that private developers have torn down Funduq al Hoji, a historic building in the Old City of Tripoli, in order to build a new structure. In doing so, the developers have circumvented Libyan heritage law. The Old City of Tripoli is under general threat from private development, as historic structures are replaced with new buildings.

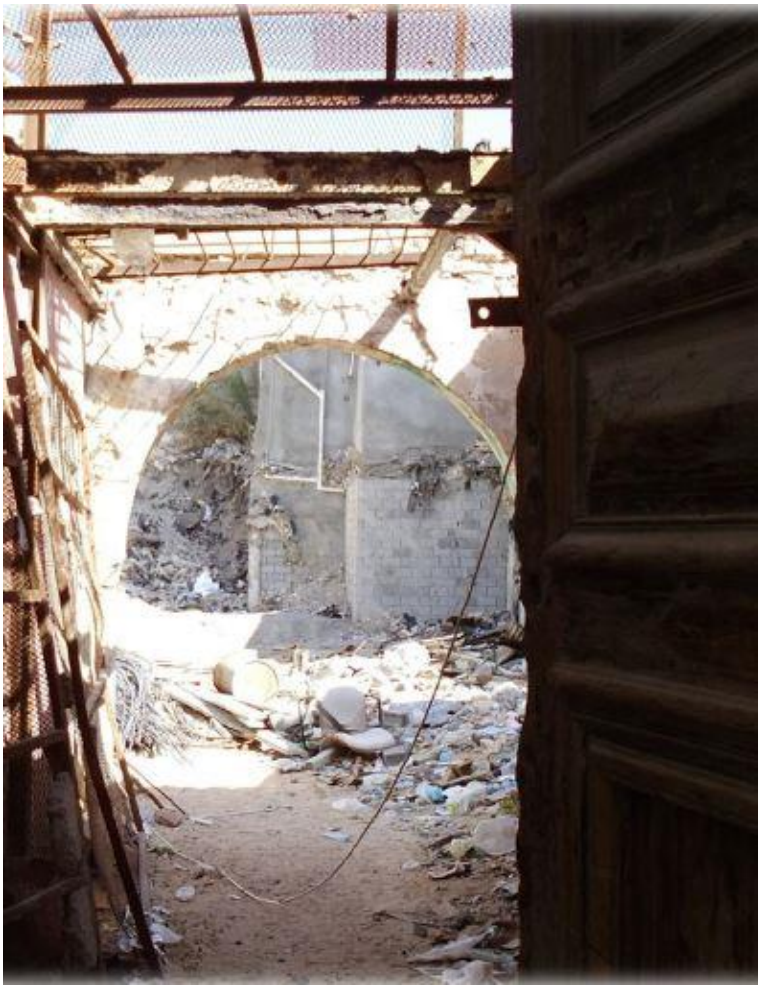
DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the new construction of a high rise building on the site of the Funduq al Hoji. This destruction and new construction occurred between February and March 2017.

Pattern: Development disturbance: construction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the Old City of Tripoli for signs of ongoing development in the historic core, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing developmental threats.

Sources:

ASOR CHI Source



The former site of Funduq al Hoji (ASOR CHI Source; May 2017)

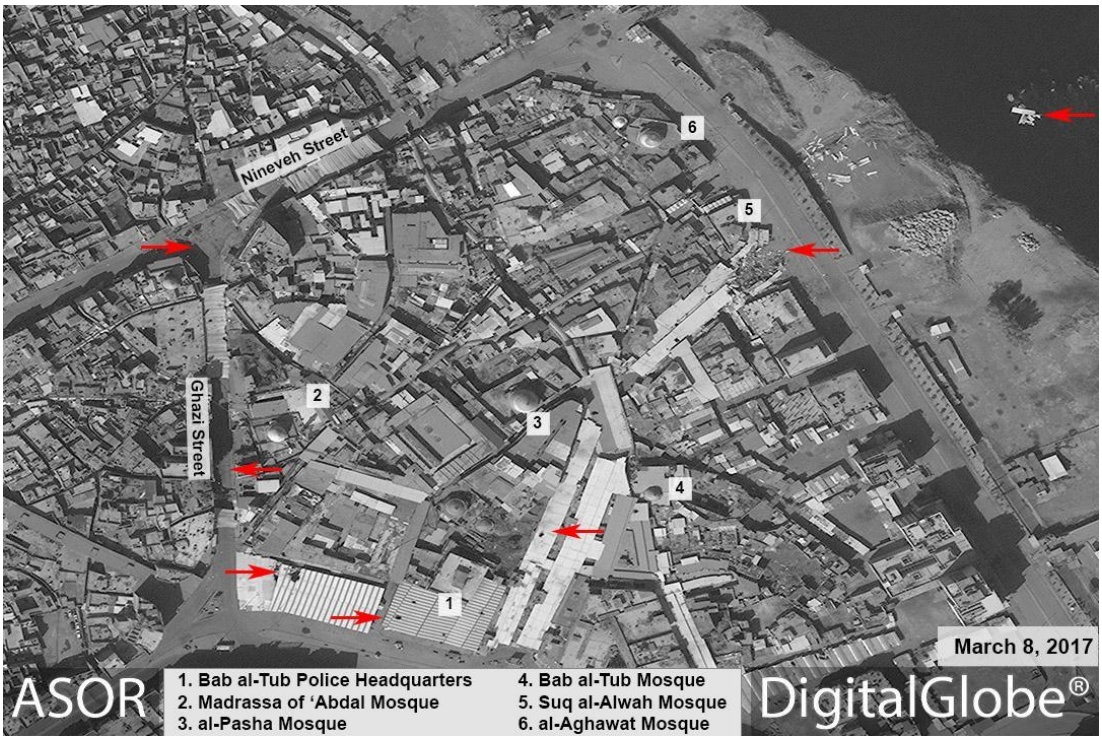
Site of Funduq al Hoji before new construction (DigitalGlobe; January 19, 2017)	New high rise buildings on the site of the Funduq al Hoji (DigitalGlobe; May 30, 2017)

Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Analysis

The city of Mosul is still at the center of the Iraqi front of the conflict, especially on the west bank in the Old City. The ongoing bombardment and street warfare continues to leave its mark on the historic and culturally significant locations within the city, none more so than the area of the souqs. Much of this damage has occurred in the last year with the largest amounts during the month of March 2017, as visible from DigitalGlobe satellite imagery. Since May 2016, the streets and courtyards of this area have been systematically covered with metal roofs, including in the final phase over Nineveh Street and Ghazi Street. Between January 16 and March 8, 2017 some of these metal roof pieces were removed and a few small holes from shelling are visible in others. During the month of March, severe aerial bombardment damaged much of the area including Bab al-Tub Police Headquarters, Suq al-Alwah Mosque, and Bab al-Tub Mosque. The damage is so severe that pieces of the metal roofing are visible floating in the Tigris River. As of May 22, 2017 the ongoing conflict has further damaged these sites as well as the al-Aghawat Mosque, al-Pasha Mosque, and the former site of the Madrasa of the 'Abdal Mosque.[128] Though this part of the city is now liberated, this small portion of the city has been irreparably damaged.

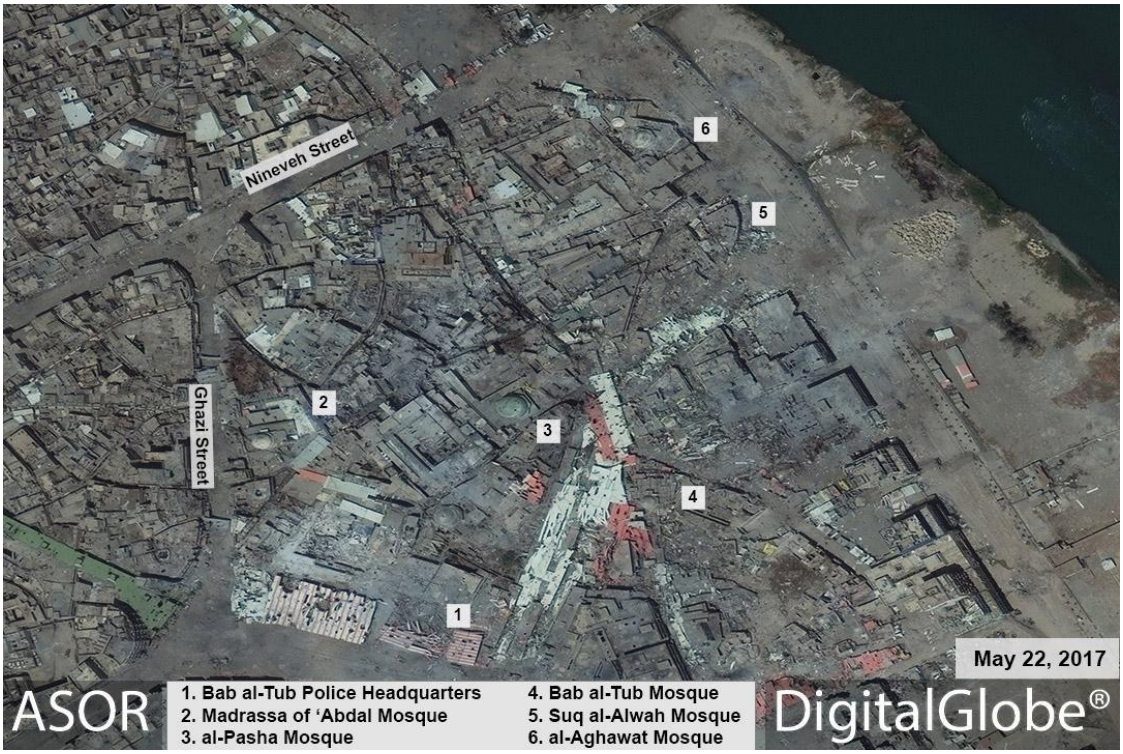
The area of the souqs in Mosul, with many previously uncovered courtyards and streets covered in metal roofing. (DigitalGlobe; May 9, 2016)

[128] The Madrasa was previously razed to the ground in an intentional destruction and new construction was built on top of it.



Minimal damage due to shelling noted with the red arrows. Some damage to the Suq al-Alwah (5) due to a nearby explosion and visible bomb impact crater (DigitalGlobe; March 8, 2017)

Severe damage over the entire area with visible damage to the Bab al-Tub Police Headquarters (1) and Bab al-Tub Mosque (4) and additional damage to the Suq al-Alwah Mosque (5) (DigitalGlobe; March 30, 2017)



Additional damage and deterioration of the area with new damage to the al-Pasha Mosque (3) (DigitalGlobe; May 22, 2017)

SNHR Vital Facilities Report:

On May 10, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) released its vital facility report for April 2017. According to SNHR, there were no less than 102 attacks against vital civilian facilities. The sites attacked include 15 mosques and one archaeological site.[129]

- April 4, 2017 reported SARG warplanes fired "a number of missiles" on al-Naasan Mosque in Eastern Ghouta, Douma City resulting in the partial destruction of the mosque and damage to the mosque's furniture. The strike also resulted in casualties. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0055** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 4, 2017 reported SARG artillery fired shells at al-Khoulani Mosque in the town of Hamouriya, Eastern Ghouta resulting in a hole in the mosque dome, as well as moderate damage of the building and its furniture.
- On April 4, 2017 suspected Russian aircraft fired a missile at al-Rawda Mosque in Salqin, Idlib Governorate resulting in high civilian casualties, partially destroying the mosque, and causing moderate damage to the furniture. As a result of the strike, the mosque was rendered inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0066** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 7, 2017 reported SARG and Russian airstrikes fired missiles at Arbin al-Kabir Mosque in Arbin, Rif Dimashq Governorate causing partial destruction to the building, heavy damage to the furniture and cladding materials, and rendering the mosque inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0056** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 7, 2017 suspected Russian airstrikes fired two missiles near al-Thahiriya Mosque, Sahl al-Rouj, Idlib Governorate. The missiles fell 50 meters from the mosque causing slight damage to the building and its furniture. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0067** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 8, 2017 reported Russian aircraft fired a missile on Hamza Bin Abd al-Mutalleb Mosque in the area of al-Mashiya, al-Gharbi Neighborhood, Jisr al-Shughour, Idlib Governorate. The strike caused partial destruction to the mosque and moderate damage to the furniture. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0069** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 12, 2017 reported SARG artillery fired shells at al-Qadim Mosque in Kafr Batna, Eastern Ghouta, causing moderate damage to the building and furniture. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0057** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 17, 2017 reported SARG artillery fired shells at an unnamed mosque in Harasta City, Rif Dimashq Governorate.
- On April 18, 2017 reported SARG and Russian missiles struck near Ali bin Abu Taleb Mosque in Darat Ezza City, Aleppo Governorate. The missiles struck a school located approximately 50 meters from the mosque, causing moderate damage to the mosque.
- On April 24, 2017 reported SARG warplanes fired a missile near the Grand Mosque City, Homs Governorate. The strike caused heavy damage to the mosque building and furniture, and the mosque was rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0063** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 25, 2017 reported SARG and Russian missiles struck Musa'b bin Umair Mosque in Tawama, Aleppo Governorate. The strike created a hole in the mosque roof and caused moderate damage to the furniture and cladding materials. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0060** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 27, 2017 reported Russian aircraft fired two missiles near Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque in al-Janoubi Neighborhood, Ma'ar Shoureen, Maaret al-Numan, Idlib Governorate. The strike killed civilians, partially destroyed one side of the mosque fence, and damaged

[129] http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/05/10/40410/

the furniture and cladding material at the mosque. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0075** in **April Monthly Report**.

- On April 28, 2017 reported SARG and Russian warplanes fired missiles on Abu Oabida Ibn al-Jarrah Mosque in Kafr Zaita, Hama Governorate causing the destruction of the mosque and rendering the building out of commission. On April 21, 2017 a SARG helicopter barrel bomb struck near the mosque. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0070** in **April Monthly Report**.
- On April 27, 2017 suspected Russian warplanes fired two missiles at al-Daraj Historical Public Bath in Sarmin, Idlib Governorate causing heavy damage to the site. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0072** in **April Monthly Report**.

Syrian Network For Human Rights Videos:

Beginning March 23, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) began publishing back-dated videos on YouTube of combat damage inflicted on schools, bakeries, hospitals, marketplaces, and other types of infrastructure and civilian sites. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the SNHR YouTube channel and archive videos that document heritage destruction. The following sites have been documented as damaged in the videos released during the current reporting period:

1. Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque, damaged by reported SARG shelling on May 17, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0083** in **May Monthly Report 2017**.[130]
2. Hamouriya Grand Mosque, damaged by reported SARG shelling on May 17, 2017. ASOR CHI Incident Report **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0084** in **May Monthly Report**.[131]
3. Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque, damaged by reported SARG shelling on May 9, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0082 in May Monthly Report**.[132]
4. Abu Obeida Ibn al-Jarrah Mosque, damaged by reported SARG-Russian shelling on April 28, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0074** in **May Monthly Report**.[133]
5. Hammam al-Daraj al-Qadim, damaged by reported Russian airstrikes on April 27, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0072** in **April Monthly Report**.[134]
6. al-Kabir Mosque, damaged by suspected SARG missiles on April 7, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0056** in **April Monthly Report**.[135]
7. Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque, damaged by US-led Coalition airstrike on March 16, 2017. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0038** in **March Monthly Report**.[136]
8. al-Rais Mosque (al-Omari Mosque), damaged by reported SARG shelling on January 3, 2014.[137]

[130] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FZiWUNpovMA
[131] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQYF8Fwboig ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZ-jK7qcX9c
[132] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcAUIpIWKRs
[133] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VwruC2pY-aQ ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MHN5sjIQD7w
[134] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppHUUSiLTH8 ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_bm1pqp5jg
[135] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v083v2p5Vkc
[136] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sss0Lq4jA3A
[137] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJdBT4XygOI ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fhwYy1JnkM

Heritage Timeline

May 31, 2017

Wall Street Journal published an article titled "**Prominent Art Family Entangled in ISIS Antiquities-Looting Investigations**" (by Benoit Faucon and Georgi Kantchev). An arrest was made in an antiquities trafficking case that leads to the Aboutaam family who are under investigation for their connections with ISIL looting. The WSJ also published a video report on ISIL looting and antiquities trafficking featuring commentary by ASOR CHI Principal Investigator and Academic Director Dr. Michael Danti.
https://www.wsj.com/articles/prominent-art-family-entangled-in-investigations-of-looted-antiquities-1496246740

- *Mosul Eye* published a video titled "**Tremendous destruction in the Old City of Mosul.**" Drone footage of the eastern bank of Mosul shows severe damage to the neighborhoods.
https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/videos/1267067693414730/?hc_ref=NEWSFEED

May 30, 2017

Artnet published an article titled "**A Monumental Loss: Here are the Most Significant Cultural Heritage Sites that ISIS has Destroyed to Date**" (by Alyssa Buffenstein). Damage to Aleppo, Raqqa, Palmyra, Hatra, Mosul, Nimrud, and Nineveh are discussed, and ASOR CHI Project Coordinator Marina Gabriel is interviewed.
https://news.artnet.com/art-world/isis-cultural-heritage-sites-destroyed-950060

May 29, 2017

Metro published an article titled "**Christian Church destroyed by ISIS rebuilt by Muslim residents**." Mar Georges was cleaned and restored by both Muslim and Christians living in Mosul.
http://metro.co.uk/2017/05/29/christian-church-destroyed-by-isis-rebuilt-by-muslim-residents-6670055/

- *Middle East Eye* published an article titled "**War in Iraq: Why looting should be treated as a crime**" (by Judit Neurink). The article discusses the history of looting in Iraq, and how the people who loot must be punished in order for the culture of looting to stop.
http://www.middleeasteye.net/columns/war-iraq-why-looting-should-be-war-crime-747322727

May 28, 2017

al-Monitor published an article titled "**Iraq fears famed marshes could be pulled from World Heritage List**" (by Hasan al-Shanoun).
http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/unesco-iraq-marshes-ahwar-world-heritage-list.html#ixzz4ihnDwKmy

May 27, 2017

India Times published an article titled "**Aleppo Lights up with a Group of Tourists for the First Time Since Start of the Civil War in 2012**" (by Shreya Karla). Local travel agencies brought 300 students, children, and pensioners from around Syria to Aleppo to tour the

sites. http://www.indiatimes.com/news/world/aleppo-lights-up-with-a-group-of-tourists-for-the-first-time-since-start-of-the-civil-war-in-2012_-322536.html

May 26, 2017

NRT TV published a video titled "پرۆفیسۆرێکی ئەمریکی لەگەڵ تیمێکی شوێنەوارناسی لە گۆرستانێکی هەولێردا کنەوپشکنین دەکەن **(An american professor along with a team of archaeologists are carrying out excavations in an Erbil cemetery).**" This video focuses on the Johns Hopkins University excavations at Kurd Qabristan outside Erbil. http://www.nrttv.com/Details.aspx?Jimare=72925

- *The Aleppo Project* published a report titled "**Housing Returnees in Eastern Aleppo**" (by Ballint Nemeth). With stability in Aleppo, people are looking to return to their homes, but this brings its own challenges. This report details the challenges and possible solutions. http://www.thealeppoproject.com/papers/housing-returnees-eastern-aleppo/

- *al-Fanar Media* published an article titled "**Rebuilding Mosul's Library Book by Book**" (by Gilgamesh Nabeel). The campaign to restore Mosul University's Library has been met by an enthusiastic response both inside and outside of Iraq. http://www.al-fanarmedia.org/2017/05/rebuilding-mosuls-library-book-book/

May 25, 2017

NinevehMC published a video titled "مهرجان "ليخرج من الرماد كتاب" في جامعة الموصل **(Festival "To rise from the book ashes" at the University of Mosul).**" A group of students organized an arts festival outside the Central Library of Mosul University to raise awareness for the destroyed library, as well as give local people the opportunity to donate books. https://www.facebook.com/NinevehMC/videos/1841721516094890/

May 24, 2017

DGAM published a video titled "**The Role of Museums in Societies Today**." This video brings together various people working in museums around the world, discussing what makes museums relevant, and how to bring in visitors. http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2284

- *UN News Center* published an article titled "**Preserving cultural heritage, diversity vital for peacebuilding in Middle East-UNESCO Chief.**" At the Madrid Conference Irina Bokova called for the protection of cultural diversity in the Middle East. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56836#.WS2dvOvyuHs

May 23, 2017

Apollo published an article titled "**Hatra's embattled history, from the Romans to ISIS**" (by Christopher Jones). The article discusses the history of Hatra from the Roman period until its recent liberation by

Iraqi forces. https://www.apollo-magazine.com/hatras-embattled-history-from-the-romans-to-isis/

- *BBC* published an article titled "**Mosul from above: The fight against the Islamic State group from the sky in 360 video**" (by Joe Inwood). A 360 video shows what Mosul looks like from the air. http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/mosul_from_above_360

- *Hyperallergic* published an article titled "**A Digital Database for Threatened Archaeological Sites in the Middle East and North Africa**" (by Claire Voon). The Universities of Oxford, Leicester and Durham published an online database called Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) which can be accessed here:
http://eamenadatabase.arch.ox.ac.uk/index.htm
https://hyperallergic.com/380860/a-digital-database-for-threatened-archaeological-sites-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa/

May 22, 2017

DGAM published an article titled "**Updating the interactive map of the conflicted archaeological sites and monuments.**" The interactive map provided by the DGAM has been updated mainly with condition assessments from 2016 and 2017.
http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2280

- *Medmak* published an article titled تفاؤل سوري "رسمي" بمستقبل الآثار في البلاد" **(Syrian Official Optimistic for the Future of Archaeology in the Country).**" Abdel-Karim, Director-General of Antiquities and Museums of Syria, gave a lecture at the University of Budapest on the extent of destruction and damage to Syrian monuments.
http://medmak.org/ar/أخبار/تفاؤل-سوري-رسمي-بمستقبل-الآثار-في-البلاد

- *Medmak* published an article titled "رجل أعمال لبناني ينقل آثاراً من حلب إلى لبنان **(A Lebanese Businessman Carrying Traces from Aleppo to Lebanon)**." A Lebanese businessman purchased a house in Bab Qinnasrin in Aleppo. The area is part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Old Aleppo. A wooden room in the house is being dismantled and shipped across the border into Lebanon. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0086**
http://medmak.org/ar/أخبار/رجل-أعمال-لبناني-ينقل-آثارا-من-حلب-إلى-لبنان

- *al-Monitor* published an article titled "**Syria's reconstruction plans take shape**" (by Tom Rollins). Though an end to Syria's conflict is not in sight, plans for reconstruction projects by the Syrian regime and international aid organizations are underway. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/syria-war-reconstruction-process-regime-opposition.html#ixzz4hr0twI5a

- **ASOR** published a media note titled "**ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives: Safeguarding the Heritage of the Near East Initiative**

	Collaborative Service Award." ASOR CHI was granted a $900,000 cooperative agreement by the U.S. Department of State, continuing the mission to preserve and protect the cultural heritage of Syria and Iraq, and extending the scope of work to include Libya. http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org/press-release-2017-05-22/
May 21, 2017	**The U.S. Consulate General in Erbil** published new photographs of Hatra. https://www.facebook.com/erbil.usconsulate/posts/461137880888903
●	*al-Monitor* published an article titled "**Iraq's Christians demand reconstruction of religious sites**" (by Wassim Bassem). Iraqi Christians demand the reconstruction of the Mar Mattai and Mar Behnam monasteries in the Ninevah Plains. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/iraq-christians-mar-mattai-mar-behnam-monasteries-ninevah.html
May 20, 2017	Various ASOR CHI contacts in Iraq have published posts stating that an agreement was reached between the Sunni Endowment and the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq that allows for the study of the Assyrian Reliefs and artifacts uncovered by ISIL on Nebi Yunus before reconstruction of the mosque. https://www.facebook.com/culture2.press/posts/1457044734317746
May 18, 2017	The *LA Times* published an article titled "**Death by stoning: Battered Syrian city offers a window into life under the thumb of Islamic State militants**" (by Patrick McDonnell). The liberation of Tadmor has shed light on life under ISIL as well as damage to mosques in the town. https://theantiquitiescoalition.org/culture-in-crisis-preserving-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-zones
May 19, 2017	**The Antiquities Coalition** published a book titled "**Culture in Crisis: Preserving cultural heritage in conflict zones**." This book is a joint project between the Coalition and the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins. A graduate student capstone course on conflict management provided the research for this book. https://theantiquitiescoalition.org/culture-in-crisis-preserving-cultural-heritage-in-conflict-zones
●	*Reuters* published an article titled "**New convention targets illicit trade in artifacts from war zones**." Armenia, Cyprus, Greece, Portugal, San Marino, and Mexico signed a convention to standardize criminal law against the excavation, importation and exportation, acquisition and placing of artifacts on the market. http://www.reuters.com/article/us-archaeology-conflict-smuggling-idUSKCN18F1RJ

http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/news-2017/-/asset_publisher/StEVosr24HJ2/content/illicit-trafficking-and-destruction-of-cultural-property-council-of-europe-s-new-criminal-law-treaty-opened-for-signature

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/20/c_136299474.htm

- **UNESCO** published an infographic titled "**Save Culture, End Trafficking.**" This graphic shows how cultural objects are trafficked, how they influence the global economy, what laws are in place to prevent trafficking, and urges people to help stop the trafficking.
http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/pdf/FINAL_EN_03.jpg

http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d= 314&id=2282

May 17, 2017

DGAM published an article titled "**Declaration of Intent Between the Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums and the National Museum of Czech Republic**." This declaration is focused on protecting cultural heritage, developing relationships, exchanging experience between the nations, and sharing knowledge of conservation and preservation.
http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2278

http://www.praguemonitor.com/2017/05/16/prague-national-museum-help-syria-restore-ancient-artefacts

http://www.radio.cz/en/section/panorama/czechs-sign-up-to-help-save-syrian-cultural-heritage

- The **Iraqi Institute for the Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage** published a photograph album titled " مشروع انقاذ اثار النمرود / نينوى **(Project of the rescue of Nimrod / Ninewa).**" The photographs show the training of Iraqis under the Smithsonian/Directorate of Antiquities project, for the protection of Nimrud and other archaeological sites.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/Iraqiinst/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1634314969930163

- *Architectural Digest* published an article titled "**A momentous inheritance: Archaic, the national pavilion of Iraq at the 57th International Art Exhibition of Venice.**" The art show, Archaic, exhibits eight modern artists from Iraq as well as 40 artifacts on loan from the Iraq Museum.
https://www.architecturaldigest.in/content/momentous-inheritance-archaic-national-pavilion-iraq-57th-international-art-exhibition-venice/

- **UNESCO** published a video titled "**End Trafficking, Save Culture**." The video is about antiquities trafficking in Syria, how they are trafficked, and urges people to help stop the trafficking. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-WDjZvvyD4&feature=youtu.be

- *Financial Tribune* published an article titled "**Funds to Restore Iranian Heritage Sites Abroad**." This article states Iran has provided $2.4 million to help reconstruct and protect their heritage sites abroad. This money could be used to help Taq Kasra (Archway of Ctesiphon) or the burial place of Amir Kabir in Karbala. https://financialtribune.com/articles/travel/64581/funds-to-restore-iranian-heritage-sites-abroad

- *NieuwsBlog* posted new photographs showing the site of Palmyra. https://twitter.com/nieuwsblog/status/864821865025613826

May 16, 2017

al-Monitor published an article titled "**Iraq's Hatra retaken from IS militants, but still vulnerable"** (by Adnan Abu Zeed). Iraqi officials are assessing the rehabilitation needs of Hatra. Faleh al-Shammari said ISIL took small artifacts, but the larger ones were only slightly damaged. http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/05/hatar-iraq-heritage-unesco-tourism.html

- *Bas News* published an article titled "**Graves Belonging to Jews Found in Soran, Kurdistan**." Recent floods in the Soran district of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have uncovered Jewish graves. The Director of Antiquities of the region, Abdulwahhab Soleiman, says there are plans to study these graves before reburial. http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/350776

- *Prague Daily Monitor* published an article titled "**National Museum to help Syria restore ancient artefacts**." The National Museum in Prague will help restore artifacts in Syria as per the declaration signed May 15, 2017. http://www.praguemonitor.com/2017/05/16/prague-national-museum-help-syria-restore-ancient-artefacts

May 15, 2017

Russia Today published an article titled "**ISIS destroys ancient artefacts as campaign against Syrian heritage sites continues**." Amaq News Agency released a video showing a man destroying artifacts from the Deir ez-Zor Governorate. https://www.rt.com/news/388475-isis-destroy-artefacts-syria/

- *Daily Mail* published an article titled "**Thousands of years of history wiped out by ISIS: Shocking new pictures show how the terror group has obliterated Syria's ancient treasures**" (by Gareth Davies). This article recaps the cultural heritage destruction in Syria, with photographs from the past interspersed with photographs from 2014-2016.

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4500266/Thousands-years-history-wiped-ISIS.html

- *The Libya Observer* published an article titled "**Libyan authorities issue international circular on looted antiquities from Libya"** (by Safa Alharathy). The Looted and Smuggled Antiquities Office of the Libyan Antiquities Authority prepared a list of objects looted from Libyan museums. https://www.libyaobserver.ly/culture/libyan-authorities-issue-international-circular-looted-antiquities-libya

- The *LA Times* published an article titled "**'There are no words that can describe my sadness.' Syrians return to Aleppo to find their beloved mosque destroyed**" (by Patrick J. McDonnell). People returning to Aleppo are saddened to see the status of the Umayyad Mosque.
http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-aleppo-mosque-20170512-story.html

May 14, 2017

Channel 4 News published a video titled "**Destroyed by Terrorists, Rebuilt by Craftsmen.**" The video shows the Samarra Shrine in Iraq now almost fully restored.
https://www.facebook.com/Channel4News/videos/10154839379736939/

May 13, 2017

UNESCO published an article titled "**Key Libyan and international partners unite to adopt an action plan for Libya's heritage.**" UNESCO, ICCROM, the US Embassy in Libya, and the Department of Antiquities of Libya as well as several Libyan institutions met at the "Safeguarding Libyan Cultural Heritage" meeting and formed a plan to address emergency and short term interventions for Libya's cultural heritage.
http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1496

May 12, 2017

Aleteia published an article titled "**Iraqi priest protects ancient Christian manuscripts from ISIS**" (by Zelda Caldwell). Fr. Najeeb Michaeel is digitizing a collection of ancient manuscripts in his collection. This collection was added to when he smuggled texts out of Mosul and Qaraqosh. https://aleteia.org/2017/05/12/iraqi-priest-protects-ancient-christian-manuscripts-from-isis/

- *SMART News Agency* published an article titled "**'** الإدارة الذاتية 'تبدأ ورشة للتعريف بآثار محافظة الحسكة **('Self-Management' begins a workshop to identify the effects of the province of Hasakah)**" (by Heba Dabbas). The Director General of the Antiquities Authority of the Kurdish Self-Administration said they started a workshop to train students on how to survey and protect archaeological sites in Hasakah.
https://smartnews-agency.com/ar/wires/230151/-الإدارة-الذاتية-تبدأ-ورشة-للتعريف-بآثار-محافظة-الحسكة

- *BBC News* published an article titled "**Safeguarding Islam's past for future generations**" (by Sylvia Smith). A conference in Bahrain brought together Islamic archaeologists to discuss how to preserve Muslim heritage. http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-39884775

May 11, 2017

Iraqi News published an article titled "**Bibliotheca Alexandrina launches campaign to provide Mosul University library with 100,000 Books**" (by Nehal Mostafa). The Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt has launched a campaign to provide the Ashurbanipal Library at Mosul University with 100,000 Books.
http://www.iraqinews.com/features/bibliotheca-alexandrina-launches-campaign-provide-mosul-university-library-100000-books/

May 10, 2017

Sputnik published an article titled "**UNESCO May Become Catalyst in Process of Syria's Palmyra, Aleppo Demining**." The Russian delegation to UNESCO stated that UNESCO has no authority for demining activities in Syria and that Russian specialists are being included in the demining activities at Palmyra.
https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705051053300828-unesco-syria-palmyra/

- The University of Leiden is hosting a lecture titled "**Exchanges on the Middle East: Heritage for Citizenship in Times of Conflict**." The panel includes ASOR-CHI Senior Advisor Amr al-Azm, May al-Ibrashy, and Cynthia P. Schneider.
https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/events/2017/05/exchanges-2.0

- *Cultural Heritage Lawyer* published an article titled "**Exploring a New Way to Find Smuggled Artifacts: K-9 Artifact Finders**" (by Rick St. Hilaire). The University of Pennsylvania Museum is partnering with the Penn Vet School and Red Arch Research are training dogs to sniff out antiquities. ASOR CHI's Michael Danti helped to design the project.
http://culturalheritagelawyer.blogspot.com/2017/05/exploring-new-way-to-find-smuggled.html

May 9, 2017

Babylon FM published photographs of damage to a cultural heritage site in Halamata Cave, Dohuk, Iraq also known as the Maltai Rock Reliefs.
https://www.facebook.com/BabylonFM/posts/1299198693534152

- *World Politics Review* published an article titled "**Can 'Blue Helmets of Culture' Save the World's Imperiled Heritage**" (by Frederick Deknatel). The article discusses what is to be done with damaged heritage in Syria and Iraq.
http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/22105/can-blue-helmets-of-culture-save-the-world-s-imperiled-heritage

May 7, 2017

Libya Herald published an article titled "**Municipalities at World heritage sites establish support association**." Libyan mayors of Ghadames, Ghat, Khoms, Sabratha, and Shahat created an Association of Municipalities of Libyan World Heritage Sites.
https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/05/07/municipalities-at-world-heritage-sites-establish-support-association/

https://www.libyaobserver.ly/culture/libyan-mayors-announce-union-libyan-world-heritage-municipalities

- *al-Hurra* published a video titled "البعثة الآثارية العراقية-الأمريكية للتنقيب في مدينة أور**. (The Iraq-US archaeological expedition to explore the city of Ur.)**." The joint Stony Brook-Iraq project at Ur in Southern Iraq just finished its second season.
https://www.facebook.com/abdulamir.hamdani/videos/10212787469058474/

May 5, 2017

The Washington Diplomat published an article titled "**Destruction, Looting of Antiquities Robs Nations of their Heritage, Bankrolls Terrorism**" (by Karen Zeitvogel). The article discusses damage and destruction in the Middle East, North Africa, and Yemen, as well as what is being done to combat looting, damage, and the antiquities market.
http://www.washdiplomat.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15257:destruction-looting-of-antiquities-robs-nations-of-their-heritage-bankrolls-terrorism

May 4, 2017

NRT published an article titled "**Damascus Museum Shows Ancient Treasures Rescued from War**." The Damascus National Museum is displaying a range of artifacts recovered from Palmyra.
http://www.nrttv.com/en/Details.aspx?Jimare=14284

- *Federal News Radio* published an interview titled "**Mark Taplin and Andrew Cohen: State Dept. project aims to protect antiquities**" (by Tom Temin). The interview discusses the Smithsonian project to help preserve and protect the site of Nimrud.
https://federalnewsradio.com/federal-drive/2017/05/mark-taplin-andrew-cohen/

May 3, 2017

DGAM published an article titled "**Restoration and Rehabilitation of Old Markets in Homs**." The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in cooperation with Homs Governorate authorities and under the supervision of the DGAM, began a project to restore the Homs old markets, which include about 800 shops.
http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2274

- **DGAM** published an article titled "**DGAM inaugurated Exhibition entitled Treasures of Syrian Heritage**." A new exhibition titled "Exhibition Treasures of Syrian Heritage: "Rescue - Protection and

Documentation," was inaugurated in the Damascene Hall at the National Museum in Damascus. http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2276

- *Council of Europe* published an article titled "**Combating illicit trafficking and destruction of cultural property: Council of Europe adopts new convention**." The Council of Europe adopted a new criminal law convention to prevent and combat the illicit trafficking and destruction of cultural property. http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/combatting-illicit-trafficking-and-destruction-of-cultural-property-council-of-europe-adopts-new-convention

- *The Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society* of the University of Chicago hosted a conference titled "**Antiquities as Global Contraband: What do we know, and what can we do?**" The conference focused on systematic looting of archaeological sites and how to stop it. ASOR CHI Principal Investigators Michael Danti and Amr al-Azm were presenters. http://neubauercollegium.uchicago.edu/events/uc/antiquities_as_global_contraband_what_do_we_know_and_what_can_we_do/

May 2, 2017

The National published an article titled "**Ghosts of lost Iraqi artefacts return at the hands of Michael Rakowitz**" (by India Stoughton). Michael Rakowitz recreates artifacts looted or destroyed during the Iraq War and, more recently, by ISIL with food wrappers and newspapers. A large 14-foot lamassu will be displayed at Trafalgar square from 2018-2020. http://www.thenational.ae/arts-life/art/ghosts-of-lost-iraqi-artefacts-return-at-the-hands-of-michael-rakowitz

May 1, 2017

BBC published a video report titled "**Inside the Iraqi Christian ghost town**." A video report taken from inside Qaraqosh (Bakhdida) shows damage to al-Tahira Church and the rest of the village which remains empty of residents. http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-39752146/inside-the-iraqi-christian-ghost-town

- *BBC* published an article titled "**Hatra: IS damage to ancient Iraqi city less than feared**." Forces from the Popular Mobilization Units (PMUs) captured the ancient site of Hatra from ISIL in April 2017. According to the local head of antiquities, the site was not as heavily damaged as anticipated, and most of the site's buildings remain. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-39770395

- *The Guardian* published an article titled "**In the field with Iraq's archaeologists of the future**" (by Mary Shepperson). The British Museum, funded by the Cultural Protection Fund, is training Iraqi archaeologists in London and in the field at one of two field projects in Iraqi Kurdistan. https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/may/01/training-

fieldwork-iraqi-archaeologists-of-the-future-qalatga-darband

- *al-Akhbar Syria* published an article titled,
"بالتعاون بين تلفزيون الخبر ومديرية آثار حلب.. استعادة لوحة أثرية اختفت من باب المقام"
("**In cooperation with al-Khobar TV and Aleppo Archaeology Directorate…restoration of an antique plaque that disappeared from Bab al-Maqam**"). A plaque from Bab al-Maqam, reported to have been stolen, was found and restored in the Old City of Aleppo.
http://alkhabar-sy.com/بالتعاون-بين-تلفزيون-الخبر-ومديرية-آث/