



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

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June 2017 Monthly Report - Appendices

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

Other Key Points

- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows destruction of the Abbasid Palaces in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate with heavy machinery. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0094**
- Reported SARG and Russian airstrikes damaged Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in al-Jwaim, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0095**
- Reported SARG airstrikes damaged Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in Theiban, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0096**
- Photographs show the use of archaeological remains as a source for building materials and the construction of modern buildings on archaeological sites in Jabal al-Zawia, Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0097**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrikes landed in the vicinity of the Raqqa Museum in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0098**
- A photograph shows heavy damage to the Tabqah Cultural Center in al-Tabqah, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0099**
- A car bomb damaged Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq Mosque in ar-Rastan, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0100**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damaged al-Subaiha Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101**
- SARG helicopters damaged al-Omari Mosque in Daraa, Daraa Governorate with incendiary barrel bombs. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0102**
- Reported SARG airstrike hit the Western Mosque (al-Kabir Mosque) in Jadeed Ekidat, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0103**
- Ongoing aerial bombardment has damaged al-Nur Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0104**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damaged Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque in Mehamda, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0105**
- Satellite imagery revealed damage to Heraqla in Raqqa Governorate, concurrent with its recapture from ISIL by the SDF. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0106**
- Satellite imagery revealed unreported damage to an unnamed mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0107**
- An unnamed mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate was damaged by possible airstrikes or shelling. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0108**
- The Syrian Democratic Forces have reached the Old Walls of Raqqa and Bab Baghdad in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0109**
- Residents in Raqqa are reportedly using the courtyard near the al-Qadim Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate as a cemetery. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0110**
- Residents of Raqqa are reportedly using the site of Qasr al-Banat in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate as a cemetery. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0111**
- Islamic factions are firing on YPG forces from Qala'at Simeon in Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0112**
- Reported SARG airstrike damaged al-Shohada Mosque in Deir ez-Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0113**
- Reported SDF shelling damaged the minaret of al-Kabir Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0114**
- An explosion damaged al-Omari Mosque in Idlib, Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0115**
- There was an attempt to steal the Luwian inscription from the al-Qiqan Mosque in Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0116**

- SARG forces recaptured Resafa in Raqqa Governorate from ISIL control. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0117**
- SARG bombardment damaged ar-Rahman Mosque in al-Naimah, Daraa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0118**
- US-led Coalition airstrike destroyed Zubair bin Awam Mosque in Kasrat al-Faraj, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0119**
- SARG airstrikes damaged Harweil Mosque in Deir ez-Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0120**
- US-led Coalition airstrike damaged al-Hinni Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0121**
- New photographs show damage to Mariam al-Azra Church on January 29, 2017 in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0038**
- Caches of artifacts were discovered in houses in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0039**
- The Mar Ephraim Church in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate was repurposed as a prison for Yezidi women and girls. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0040**
- Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damaged al-Taqwa Mosque in Tal Afar, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0041**
- Mosul museum, in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, was damaged in recapture of neighborhood. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0042**
- Explosion occurred inside of Behesht Mosque in Sulaymaniya, Sulaymaniya Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0043**
- Newly released video shows the condition of al-Imam Mushin Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0044**
- ISIL intentional destruction of Al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0045**
- Newly released video footage shows damage to Church of Sham'oon al-Safa in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0046**
- Newly published video shows damage to Church Mar Thom in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0047**
- Newly released photographs show condition of al-Zewani Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0048**
- Iraqi Security Forces liberated the Meskanta Church in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0049**
- Newly released footage shows condition of the Church of the Virgin Mary Chaldaeans in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0050**
- Satellite imagery and news reports confirm damage to Souq al-Hout in Benghazi, Cyrenaica. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0005**
- Ottoman hilltop fortification of Derna, Cyrenaica that had been reoccupied by ISIL was destroyed. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0006**

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 residents in the city of Raqqa reported instances, which suggested that US-backed Coalition forces have used “munitions loaded with white phosphorus, the use of which is prohibited under international law.”²
 - On June 6, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) launched an offensive to recapture the ISIL-held city of Raqqa. A local reporting group reported clashes occurred in an eastern district of the city and at a military base located in the northern outskirts of the city.³
 - On June 8, SARG airstrikes targeted ISIL positions west of the city of Raqqa. State-run news agency SANA reported that the strikes had destroyed ISIL positions and armored vehicles.⁴
 - On June 10, the SDF announced that they had opened a second military front inside the city of Raqqa. The US-backed group has reportedly captured the western half of al-Sahabiya neighborhood and are carrying out reinforcement activities. Fighting continued in the neighborhood of al-Romaniya.⁵
 - On June 12, the SDF reached the walls of Raqqa’s Old City. According to residents, the Old City was being “shelled intensely.” The SDF also recaptured areas north of the city, including a sugar factory complex.⁶
 - On June 13, Hezbollah’s media unit reported that SARG forces had advanced against ISIL west of Raqqa capturing seven villages.⁷
 - On June 14, UN war crimes investigators reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes against ISIL militants in the city of Raqqa had killed around 600 civilians between March and May 2017.⁸

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/10/world/middleeast/raqqa-syria-white-phosphorus.html> ; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN1952TT>

³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40171406> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-40179561/raqqa-last-stronghold-for-islamic-state> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN18W29P> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40191718> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/the-campaign-for-ar-raqqa-city-june-6.html> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1203944/sdf-begins-raqqa-offensive-progress-continues-in-mosul/source/GovDelivery/> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1204994/syrian-democratic-forces-backed-by-coalition-launch-battle-to-liberate-raqqa/source/GovDelivery/>

⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-strikes-idUSKBN18Z0U5>

⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40234251>

⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN19329F> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/on-syria-fronts-us-backed-forces-probe-raqqa-defenses-as-iran-allied-fighters-gain-key-foothold/2017/06/13/dc9f7cdc-4fa1-11e7-b74e-0d2785d3083d_story.html

⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-army-idUSKBN194100>

⁸ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40271450> ; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-warcrimes-idUSKBN195110> ; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN1952TT>

- On June 18, the US-led Coalition shot down a Syrian Su-22 after the warplane reportedly fired on US-backed Syrian opposition forces near the town of Tabqa. Russia later warned the US-led Coalition that it now views their aircraft “operating west of the Euphrates river”, as targets.⁹
- On June 28, US Special Envoy to the US-led Coalition Brett McGurk visited Syria and met with the Raqqa Civil Council, the group expected to take control of Raqqa once it is recaptured from ISIL.¹⁰

2. Homs Governorate:

- During the reporting period, SARG and pro-regime forces continued to advance through ISIL-held desert territory in a reported attempt to “link up with state-sanctioned militias” on the other side of the Syrian border with Iraq.¹¹
- On June 6, a US warplane bombed an Iranian-backed pro-regime militia, numbering around 60 fighters, tanks, and anti-aircraft weaponry that had reportedly entered a “no-go zone” near a US garrison.¹²
- On June 8, a US warplane shot down a “pro-Syria regime” drone that had “dropped a munition” near US-backed Syrian opposition forces who were accompanied at the time by US-led Coalition advisors.¹³
- On June 9, SARG and pro-regime forces reportedly reached the Iraqi border with Syria, near the al-Tanf military base, where US forces are training Syrian opposition forces.¹⁴
- On June 14, reports surfaced that US forces had moved a “new truck-mounted, long-range rocket launcher” from Jordan to a US base in al-Tanf.¹⁵
- On June 20, the US-led Coalition announced that it had “shot down an armed pro-Syrian drone” that had displayed “hostile intent” against coalition forces in southeastern Homs Governorate.¹⁶

⁹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40329036> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN19A21A> ; http://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/NEWS-ARTICLES/News-Article-View/Article/1217917/coalition-defends-partner-forces-from-syrian-fighter-jet-attack/utm_campaign/b5124c3427-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_06_23/utm_medium/email/utm_term/0_d84f3fd103-b5124c3427-117390333/mc_cid/b5124c3427/mc_eid/bc328872a6/

¹⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-raqqa-coalition-idUSKBN19J1LB> ; <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/29/seven-days-a-gun-and-a-prayer-the-pentagons-plan-to-pacify-raqqa/>

¹¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/opposition-activists-syria-intensifies-attacks-on-daraa/2017/06/12/cf973774-4f5a-11e7-b74e-0d2785d3083d_story.html

¹² <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/06/u-s-bombs-iranian-militia-in-syria-as-fight-for-raqqa-begins/> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1205056/coalition-strikes-at-pro-regime-forces-in-syria-deconfliction-zone/source/GovDelivery/> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html>

¹³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/world/middleeast/syria-drone-shot-down.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-syria-idUSKBN18Z2CP> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1208214/us-shoots-down-unmanned-aircraft-that-fired-on-coalition-troops-in-syria/source/GovDelivery/>

¹⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-border-idUSKBN1902MH>

¹⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-idUSKBN1952C7> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40296879>

¹⁶ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-drone-idUSKBN19B20R> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40344534>

- On June 21, US officials reported that Iran had built a “drone airfield” near Palmyra. The airfield may be the place of origin for the drones that the US-led Coalition has targeted during the reporting period.¹⁷
- 3. Daraa Governorate:
 - During the reporting period, the Syrian army and Iranian-backed pro-regime forces increased their attacks against opposition-held parts of the city of Daraa. According to opposition forces and residents of the city, the Syrian Air Force has escalated aerial bombardment over the area using barrel bombs and has fired so-called surface-to-surface ‘elephant rockets’ on the city’s old quarter and former refugee camp. In addition, pro-regime militias and Hezbollah forces have been deployed to the city from areas near Damascus to support of these operations.¹⁸
 - On June 17, the Syrian army announced that it would halt combat operations in Daraa for 48 hours pending “reconciliation efforts,” but on June 20 SARG air and artillery bombardment again targeted opposition-held areas of Daraa including the old quarter.¹⁹
- 4. Aleppo Governorate:
 - On June 3-4, pro-regime forces captured more than 20 villages and the town of Maskanah in eastern Aleppo Governorate, following the withdrawal of ISIL militants and local civilians. Activists reported that Hezbollah forces and forces from the Iraqi Shia militia ‘Harakata a-Nujuba’ executed at least 50 civilians and detained dozens more.²⁰
 - On June 11, clashes broke out between Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces in the town of al-Bab, resulting in casualties.²¹
 - On June 27-28, Turkish and YPG forces exchanged fire in the area of Maranaz.²²
- 5. Idlib Governorate:
 - During the reporting period, clashes broke out between Islamist opposition groups in the town of Maaret al-Numan.²³
 - On June 1, Syrian opposition group Liwa Shuhad al-Islam reported that the US, Turkey, and other Gulf Arab states had formed a new organization called the “Northern Front Operations Room” in Idlib Governorate, which includes at least 17 Syrian opposition groups.²⁴
 - On June 15, an unknown assailant targeted Saudi cleric Abdullah al-Muhaysini in an assassination attempt. The cleric, who is a member of the Sharia council for Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, survived the attack.²⁵

¹⁷ <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/iran-has-drone-base-near-u-s-troops-syria-n774811>

¹⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-deraa-idUSKBN19305V> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html> ; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=68137> ; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=68175> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/opposition-activists-syria-intensifies-attacks-on-daraa/2017/06/12/cf973774-4f5a-11e7-b74e-0d2785d3083d_story.html

¹⁹ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-south-idUSKBN19B0QS>

²⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html> ; <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/syria-regime-aleppo-raqqah-isis.html>

²¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idUSKBN19215I>

²² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN19I2YM>

²³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idUSKBN19215I>

²⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html>

²⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-assassination-idUSKBN1972AI>

- On June 22, Turkish broadcasters quoted President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman as stating that Turkish and Russian personnel would be deployed in Idlib Governorate as a part of a Russia-brokered de-escalation agreement.²⁶
- On June 24, a car bomb in the town of al-Dana killed at least 10 people and wounded 30 more. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack.²⁷
- 6. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
 - On June 5, Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated Jaish Asour al-Sharqiya reported that they had downed a SARG fighter jet near Tel Dakwa, killing the pilot on board.²⁸
- 7. Hasakah Governorate:
 - On June 1, activists reported that Iraqi Popular Mobilization Front (PMF) forces had crossed the Syria-Iraq border, capturing two ISIL-held villages. A PMF spokesman denied these claims.²⁹
- 8. Hama Governorate:
 - On June 23, the Russian Defense Ministry announced that cruise missiles fired from two Russian submarines targeted ISIL command posts and large arms depots near the town of Akerbat.³⁰
 - On June 28-29, SARG aerial bombardment targeted northern and western areas of Hama Governorate despite those areas being included in so-called de-escalation zones.³¹
- 9. Deir ez Zor Governorate:
 - On June 16, US-led Coalition forces killed Fawaz Muhammad Jubayr al-Rawi, ISIL's financial facilitator, on a strike in Abu Kamal.³²
 - On June 18, Iran launched missiles against ISIL targets in Deir ez Zor Governorate. Iranian officials stated the attack was in retaliation for the June 7 attack in Tehran.³³
 - On June 27, US-led Coalition airstrikes on an ISIL-run prison near Mayadin, reportedly killed 42 prisoners and 15 militants. According to local news reports, the prison facility was housing dozens of civilians and Syrian opposition forces at the time of the strike.³⁴
 - On June 28, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that an airstrike of unknown origin struck the village of al-Dablan, killing at least 30 civilians and injuring dozens more. The BBC later reported that cluster bombs were used in the strike, suggesting that SARG warplanes were behind the attack.³⁵

²⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-russia-idUSKBN19D1WI>

²⁷ <http://www.arabnews.com/node/1120216/world>

²⁸ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html>

²⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/syria-situation-report-june-1-8-2017.html>

³⁰ <http://tass.com/defense/952980>

³¹ http://qasioun.net/en/news/show/79169/Syrian_Regime_Bombardment_Northern_Hama_Threatens_De_Escalation_Zones_Agreement

³² <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1227137/coalition-forces-kill-isis-financial-facilitator/source/GovDelivery/>

³³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN19A21A> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-iran-idUSKBN1990WI>

³⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40416725>

³⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-airstrike-idUSKBN19J16S> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40430120>

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Deir ez Zor, Hasakah, Mayadeen, Palmyra, Raqqa, Shaddadi, Tabqa, and Tanf.³⁶
- On June 20, Australian officials announced that they had suspended airstrikes over Syria as a “precautionary measure.” The move comes following the US-led Coalition downing of a SARG warplane near Raqqa and subsequent threats by Russia against Coalition aircraft.³⁷
- During the reporting period, the White House warned the Syrian regime against carrying out another chemical weapons attack, threatening to retaliate if civilians were targeted.³⁸

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

1. Ninawa Governorate:

- During the reporting period, accounts appeared of ISIL militants targeting civilians as they attempted to flee Mosul. Al Jazeera reported that 163 civilians were killed in one day as a result of targeted shooting by ISIL militants.³⁹
- During the reporting period, reports surfaced of summary executions taking place near Mosul, raising fears of retributive violence.⁴⁰
- On June 4, Iraqi Shia militias captured the town of Baaj after ISIL militants abandoned the area. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi once used the town as a hideout.⁴¹
- On June 10, Shia PMUs concluded operations in Ninawa Governorate after recapturing “most of the populated areas of the Ninewa desert.”⁴²
- On June 13, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) reported that they had captured the Zanjili neighborhood, located just north of Mosul’s Old City.⁴³
- On June 14, 25 ISIL militants, along with several car bombs, broke through Iraqi police lines and attacked the previously secured Mosul neighborhoods of Dawasa and Dendan. The areas were recaptured the same day.⁴⁴

³⁶ See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1200604](#), [1201794](#), [1201992](#), [1202684](#), [1203933](#), [1205635](#), [1207215](#), [1207215](#), [1208815](#), [1210258](#), [1210346](#), [1210511](#), [1210346](#), [1211775](#), [1213582](#), [1214973](#), [1217857](#), [1217989](#), [1219492](#), [1223752](#), [1216217](#), [1217804](#), [1225374](#), [1226539](#), [1228150](#), [1228464](#), [1228587](#), [1232817](#), [1234242](#)

³⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-australia-idUSKBN19B0GY>

³⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-idUSKBN19K17Q> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-40435110> ; <http://news.sky.com/story/activity-at-site-where-syria-launched-gas-attack-pentagon-10929152>

³⁹ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/isil-kills-163-people-mosul-day-170606101720658.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40146724> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40200008> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1208450/coalition-progresses-in-mosul-raqqa-to-defeat-isis-spokesman-says/source/GovDelivery/> ; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-us-air-strike-civilian-deaths-toll-bombing-a7782071.html> ; <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/06/iraq-civilian-casualties-mount-west-mosul>

⁴⁰ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/05/iraq-dozens-found-handcuffed-executed-around-mosul> ; <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/050620171>

⁴¹ <http://www.newsweek.com/isis-surrenders-baaj-one-leader-abu-bakr-al-baghdadis-hideouts-620649> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-paramilitary-iraq-idUSKBN18V0C6>

⁴² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/06/iraq-control-of-terrain-map-june-16-2017.html>

⁴³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19417G>

⁴⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/dozens-of-islamic-state-militants-in-suicide-vests-launch-major-mosul-counterattack/2017/06/14/6b8d0040-50dd-11e7-91eb->

- On June 15, ISF announced the capture of Bab Sinjar, north of the Old City, almost completing the encirclement of the area.⁴⁵
 - On June 18, Iraqi forces announced the “final chapter” of the offensive against Mosul. Iraqi Counterterrorism Forces, army, and federal police forces attacked the Old City from all sides. ISIL militants are reportedly holding as many as 100,000 civilians in the Old City neighborhoods as human shields.⁴⁶
 - On June 20, Iraqi forces announced that they had recaptured al-Shifa neighborhood as they advanced into the Old City.⁴⁷
 - On June 25, ISIL sleeper cells carried out “sporadic suicide bombings” in Mosul, attempting to recapture three districts but were prevented by the ISF.⁴⁸
 - On June 26, ISF captured the neighborhood of al-Faruq, directly across from al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque.⁴⁹
 - On June 29, ISF announced that it had recaptured the now destroyed al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque from ISIL, and declared an end to the so-called Islamic Caliphate.⁵⁰
2. Al Anbar Governorate:
- On June 7, a suicide bombing struck a central market in the town of Hit, killing at least seven civilians.⁵¹
 - On June 18, SARG troops and allied militias met with Iraqi forces at the al-Waleed Border Crossing (aka al-Tanf) between Syria and Iraq after Iraqi forces pushed out ISIL militants from the area.⁵²
 - On June 25, a suicide bomber reportedly attacked an ISIL meeting in the Qaim District, killing or wounding several members of the group.⁵³
3. Karbala Governorate:
- On June 9, a female suicide bomber blew herself up in the town of Musayab, east of the city of Karbala. The attack, which took place either at a market or bus station, killed at least 30 people and wounded dozens more. ISIL later claimed responsibility for the attack.⁵⁴

9611861a988f_story.html ; http://www.shafaaq.com/ar/Ar_NewsReader/d4efac99-1c65-4d1e-b384-9fe727d40e28

⁴⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN1961Z9>

⁴⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40330459> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40307827> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19906N> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19A1PH>

⁴⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19B1PI>

⁴⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19I1AT>

⁴⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19H128> ; <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-forces-retake-mosuls-old-city-area-repel-attack/>

⁵⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19K0YZ> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40441936> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/iraqi-forces-recapture-iconic-mosul-mosque-now-little-more-than-rubble/2017/06/29/a12a112c-5cb1-11e7-9fc6-c7ef4bc58d13_story.html

⁵¹ <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/suicide-bombing-hits-central-heet-anbar/> ; <http://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world-iraq-7-killed-3-injured-in-suicide-bomb-attack-385090>

⁵² <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/aid-convoy-besieged-area-fire-syria-48113443> ; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-syria-idUSKBN19807Y>

⁵³ <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/suicide-bomber-attacks-leaders-meeting-near-anbar/>

⁵⁴ <http://www.independent.co.uk/News/world/middle-east/baghdad-suicide-bombing-11-killed-isis-a7781316.html>

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Beiji, Fallujah, Huwajjah, Kirkuk, Kisik, Mosul, Qaim, Rawah, Samarra, Tal Afar, and Tuz.⁵⁵
- On June 5, Iraq's Supreme Judicial Court announced that they would be opening a "special judicial body to investigate" crimes committed against Yezidis.⁵⁶
- On June 28, Turkish airstrikes targeted PKK shelters and gun positions in the northern area of Iraq, killing seven YPG members reportedly planning an attack on Turkish border outposts.⁵⁷

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

1. Jufra Governorate:
 - On June 1, the Libyan National Army (LNA) conducted heavy airstrikes over the region of Jufra in an ongoing offensive to recapture the region from rival Libyan groups.⁵⁸
 - On June 3, the Libyan National Army (LNA) announced that they had recaptured the strategic military base of Jufra following the withdrawal of the Benghazi Defense Brigades (BDB).⁵⁹
2. Tripoli Governorate:
 - On June 1, the UN-backed Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) relocated to the secured Tripoli airport, which has remained closed since 2014.⁶⁰
 - On June 28, unidentified gunmen fired on a UN convoy on "a coastal road" west of Tripoli.⁶¹

Other Key Points:

- On June 9, a UN report revealed that "covert Emirati assistance" supplied the air power needed for the eastern-based Libyan National Army (LNA) to "gain the upper hand" since 2016 in the ongoing fighting between Libyan rival groups. The Emirati assistance violates the UN arms embargo that has been in place since 2011.⁶²
- On June 11, Abubaker Sadiq Brigade, an armed group in western Libya, released the son of Muammar Gadhafi, Saif al-Islam Gaddafi. An amnesty law "passed by a parliament based in eastern Libya" resulted in Gadhafi's release in the town of Zintan. Gadhafi has relocated to an undisclosed location and remains wanted by the ICC.⁶³

⁵⁵ See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1200604](#), [1201794](#), [1201992](#), [1202684](#), [1203933](#), [1205635](#), [1207215](#), [1207215](#), [1208815](#), [1210258](#), [1210346](#), [1210511](#), [1210346](#), [1211775](#), [1213582](#), [1214973](#), [1217857](#), [1217989](#), [1219492](#), [1223752](#), [1216217](#), [1217804](#), [1225374](#), [1226539](#), [1228150](#), [1228464](#), [1228587](#), [1232817](#), [1234242](#)

⁵⁶ <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/12062017>

⁵⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN19I2YM>

⁵⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN18T2MI>

⁵⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN18U0MA>

⁶⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-tripoli-security-airport-idUSKBN18S6B1>

⁶¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN19J2N9>

⁶² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN1902K0>

⁶³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-saif-idUSKBN192092> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40278385>

Other significant political and military events during the reporting period:

- On June 3, London was hit by another terror attack in which a van ran down pedestrians on London Bridge. Three men then emerged from the van and attacked people with knives at Borough market. The attack was claimed by ISIL, but no direct connection has been proven. Eight people were killed in the attack and at least 48 people were injured.⁶⁴
- On June 7, ISIL-linked militants attacked the parliament building and Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran, Iran. The attack involved four gunmen and a suicide bomber. At least 13 people were killed and 43 wounded in the attack.⁶⁵
- On June 14, ISIL militants in Afghanistan captured Tora Bora, the former 'fortress' of Osama Bin Laden.⁶⁶
- On June 15, ISIL in Afghanistan claimed responsibility for an attack on the al-Zahra Mosque in Afghanistan's capital Kabul. The suicide bombing killed four people, including the mosque's founder.⁶⁷

⁶⁴ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/40149168>

⁶⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/attacks-reported-iran-parliament-mausoleum-170607063232218.html>

⁶⁶ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/14/world/asia/isis-captures-tora-bora-afghanistan.html>

⁶⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40296509>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 17-0094

Report Date: June 2, 2017

Site Name: Abbasid Palaces

Date of Incident: Between February 3, 2017 and May 20, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Archnet states,

"The palaces of al-Raqqa were built by the successive Muslim caliphs of the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties. The location served both dynasties as a summer oasis capital (known at the time as al-Rusafa) for its position as a desert city on the Euphrates between Damascus and Baghdad. There are clear written accounts of the two Umayyad palaces built by the Caliph Hisham bin Abd al-Malek to the south of al-Raqqa, but the physical remains are still in the process of excavation. Two more Abbasid palaces have been uncovered in recent excavations just outside al-Raqqa's old city walls; one which was founded by Haroun al-Rashid and the other by the Caliph al-Ma'mun."⁶⁸

The East Palace was excavated by the Germans between 1944 and 1970, and again between 1982 to 1992. The 70 x 40-meter East Palace consisted of a central three-story hall with a courtyard on the south side and a courtyard with adjoining rooms in the north. At this palace the walls were preserved to a height of 1.5 meters.⁶⁹ The site consists of the reconstructed mud-brick East Palace and several other excavated palaces.

Site Date: Constructed 796 CE⁷⁰

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows evidence of heavy machinery damage to site.

Incident Source and Description: In recent DigitalGlobe satellite images from May 20, 2017 the area of the Abbasid Palaces in Raqqa has been destroyed with heavy machinery. The entire area of the visible remains of the West Palace has been destroyed, while the reconstructed East Palace is still intact. While the exact reason for this destruction is unknown, the area has been under ongoing urban development since before 2011, especially in the areas to the north and west.

Pattern: Development disturbances.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Abbasid Palace, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to development threats.

⁶⁸ <https://archnet.org/sites/3501>

⁶⁹ Hillenbrand, 1985.

⁷⁰ <https://archnet.org/sites/3501>

Sources:

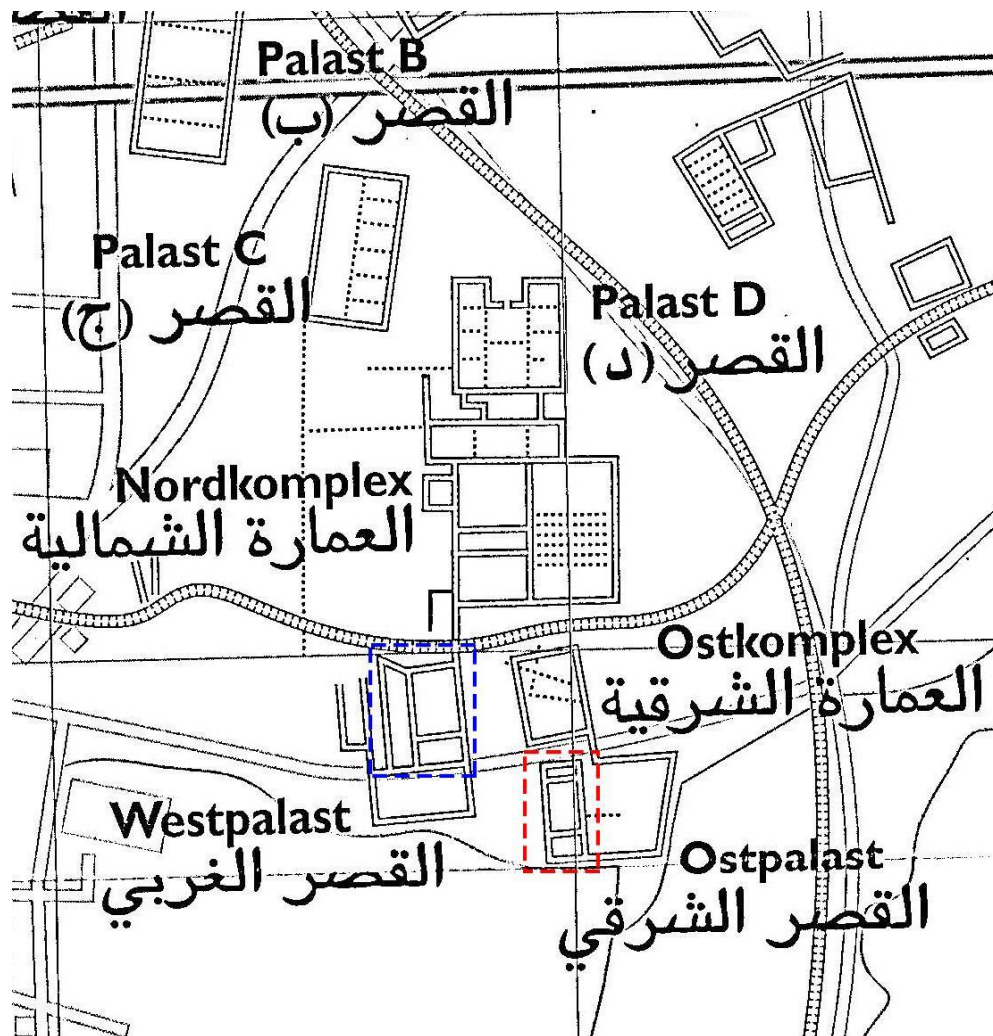
Scholarly:

Burns, Ross. 1992. *Monuments of Syria*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co Ltd., 199-201.

Heidemann, Stefan and Andrea Becker. 2003. *Die Islamische Stadt*, edited by Stefan Heidemann and Andrea Becker. Volume II. Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern. pp. 261-265.

Hillenbrand, Richard. 1985. *Eastern islamic influences in Syria: Raqqa and Qal'at Ja'bar in the later 12th century*. In: Julian Raby (Hrsg.): *The Art of Syria and the Jazīra. 1100–1250*. Oxford University Press, Oxford

Rihawi, Abdul Qader. 1979. *Arabic Islamic Architecture in Syria*. Damascus: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.



Plans of the Abbasid Palaces in Raqqa with the previously preserved East and West Palaces seen in blue and red outlines (Heidemann, 2003 Karten:Topographie von ar-Raqqa insert)



The remains of the West Palace (blue) and the reconstructed East Palace (red) which are surrounded by urban development (DigitalGlobe NextView License; February 3, 2017)



The area of the West Palace and north of the East Palace were destroyed with heavy machinery (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 30, 2017)

SHI 17-0095

Report Date: June 5, 2017

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

Date of Incident: June 2, 2017

Location: al-Jwaim, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Sunni Mosque⁷¹

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG and Russian airstrikes damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 2, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG and Russian airstrikes heavily damaged Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in al-Jwaim.⁷² A photograph of the mosque shows fragments of the building lying on the floor.

Pattern: Military activity: explosions - airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq 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/2017/06/02/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-abo-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-al-jwaim-village-aleppo-governorate-june-2/>

⁷¹ ASOR CHI Source

⁷² <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/02/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-abo-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-al-jwaim-village-aleppo-governorate-june-2/>



Damage to the interior of Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque (SNHR; June 2, 2017)

SHI 17-0096

Report Date: June 5, 2017

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

Date of Incident: June 2, 2017

Location: Theiban, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Sunni Mosque⁷³

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrikes damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 2, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG aircraft fired missiles at Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in the town of Theiban.⁷⁴ The photograph provided by SNHR shows damage to the top of the mosque. SNHR stated that the strike rendered the mosque “inoperable.”

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0103; SHI 17-0105; SHI 17-0113; and SHI 17-0120.**

For more information on previous damage to Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0079** in **Weekly Report 95-96.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives-airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq 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/2016/06/03/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-thebian-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-2/>

⁷³ ASOR CHI Source

⁷⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/03/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-thebian-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-2/>



Damage to the roof of Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque (SNHR; June 2, 2017)

SHI 17-0097

Report Date: June 2, 2017

Site Name: Dead Cities of Jabal al-Zawia (جبل الزاوية)

- Bara (بارة)
- Majleya (مجليا)
- Bashila (بشيلة)
- Ba'u'de (بعودا)
- Serjilla (سيرجيلة)

Date of Incident: Spring 2017

Location: Region of Jabal al-Zawia, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Jabal al-Zawia, a mountainous region located northwest of Ma'arat al-Nu'man, is home to a number of the Dead Cities, a collection of around 40 settlements that largely date from the first millennium CE. The majority of the settlements were abandoned between the 8th to 10th centuries CE.⁷⁵ In 2011, UNESCO inscribed these settlements on the World Heritage List under the name "Ancient Cities of Northern Syria."

Site Date: First millennium CE, concentrated around the 8th to 10th centuries CE

Incident Summary: Photographs show the use of archaeological remains as a source for building materials and the construction of modern buildings on archaeological sites.

Incident Source and Description: On June 2, 2017 the DGAM posted photographs that show the quarrying of archaeological sites in the region of Jabal al-Zawia for building material, the use of that material in new structures, and the construction of modern buildings on the grounds of archaeological sites.⁷⁶ DGAM identifies the sites affected as "Bara, Maglia, Bashila, Bouda, Sergila, etc."

Pattern: Reuse of ancient/historic building materials (non-combatants); Development disturbances.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Dead Cities of Jabal al-Zawia, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in rural regions subject to illicit excavation, construction, and reuse of historical materials.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2287>

Scholarly:

UNESCO: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348>

⁷⁵ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348>

⁷⁶ <http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2287>



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of reuse of ancient building materials and recent construction on an archaeological site, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjila (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)



Photograph of quarrying an archaeological site for building materials, possibly Bara or Serjilla (DGAM; June 2, 2017)

SHI 17-0098

Report Date: June 7, 2017

Site Name: Raqqa Museum

Date of Incident: June 6, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: According to the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI):

"The Museum of Raqqa, founded in 1981, is dedicated to the preservation and exhibition of the cultural heritage of the Ar-Raqqah province. This museum notably curates large collections gathered from the excavation researches led in the region: Tell Sabi Abyad, Tell Bi'a, Tell Chuera, Tell Munbaqa, and various artefacts dating back to Roman and Byzantine times, as well as more recent objects from the Islamic period (notably the epoch of Haroun al-Rachid) and from the time of the bedouin domination."⁷⁷

The museum is located in a historical building built in 1861 as a Seray Building (government building).

Site Date: 19th-century CE

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrikes land in the vicinity of the museum.

Incident Source and Description: On June 6, 2017 multiple sources reported that the US-led Coalition had conducted airstrikes in the vicinity of the Raqqa Museum. Photographs and satellite imagery demonstrate that the strikes hit buildings situated two blocks south of the Museum. Only one photograph shows the Museum, which is visible in the background.⁷⁸ No damage to the Museum is discernible in this photograph or in the satellite imagery.

For more information on previous damage to the Raqqa Museum, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0013**; **SHI 14-0090** in **Weekly Report 16-17**; **SHI 15-0149** in **Weekly Report 67-68**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Private Facebook Account:

<https://www.facebook.com/khalilfrai7/posts/463060077394037>

⁷⁷ http://cdli.ucla.edu/collections/syria/raqqa_en.html@section=3.html

⁷⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1574311632580082> ; <https://www.zamanalwsl.net/news/79296.html> ; https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=841450319364788&id=802094699967017

Al-Raqqa News:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=841450319364788&id=802094699967017

Raqqa Post:

June 6, 2017: <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/872130264352399361> ; <http://www.raqqa-post.com/26769/2017/06/06>

RBSS: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1574311632580082>

Zaman al-Wasl: <https://www.zamanalwsl.net/news/79296.html>

Scholarly:

CDLI: http://cdli.ucla.edu/collections/syria/raqqa_en.html@section=3.html



Damage to structures near the Raqqa Museum. The museum is the building with arched windows visible in the top right of the image (Private Facebook Account; June 7, 2017)



Damage to structures near the Raqqa Museum (Private Facebook Account; June 7, 2017)



Damage from airstrikes near the Raqqa Museum (RBSS; June 6, 2017)



The museum, outlined in black (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 30, 2017)



Damage to the south of the museum (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)

SHI 17-0099

Report Date: June 10, 2017

Site Name: Tabqah Cultural Center (المركز الثقافي)

Date of Incident: June 7, 2017

Location: al-Tabqah, Raqqah Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Tabqah Cultural Center consists of a two-story building behind an enclosure wall.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A photograph shows heavy damage to the Tabqah Cultural Center.

Incident Source and Description: On June 7, 2017 Raqqah is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) posted a photograph on Facebook that shows damage to multiple parts of the Tabqah Cultural Center.⁷⁹ The damage appears to be the result of airstrikes and/or artillery. The date of the damage is unknown, but it may have occurred during the capture of al-Tabqah from ISIL by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) between April and early-May 2017.

Pattern: Military activity: airstrikes-airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Tabqah Cultural Center, 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:

Raqqah is Being Slaughtered Silently:

<https://www.facebook.com/Raqqah.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1575410372470208/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqah.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1575410372470208/>



Tabqah Cultural Center with heavy damage to multiple parts of the building (RBSS; June 7, 2017)

SHI 17-0100

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq Mosque (مسجد ابو بكر الصديق)

Date of Incident: June 7, 2017

Location: Ar-Rastan (الرستن), Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Sunni Mosque⁸⁰

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A car bomb damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 8, 2017 SMART News Agency released a video that shows the aftermath of a car bomb in front of a mosque.⁸¹ A separate report by the Syrian Democratic Union (SDU) identified the mosque as Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq Mosque.⁸² The mosque received only light damage. There is a low screen wall between where the car bomb occurred and the mosque itself.⁸³

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Abu Bakr al-Siddeeq Mosque, as well as the condition of other religious sites located in regions subject to ongoing military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

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

Syrian Democratic Union: <http://sdusyria.org/?p=57606>

⁸⁰ ASOR CHI Source

⁸¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRIc_bDiuYI

⁸² <http://sdusyria.org/?p=57606>

⁸³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRIc_bDiuYI



Video still of the car burning in front of the mosque (SMART News Agency; June 7, 2017)



Video still of the destroyed car in front of the mosque (SMART News Agency; June 7, 2017)

SHI 17-0101

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: al-Subaiha Mosque (جامع السباهية)

Date of Incident: June 8, 2017

Location: Sabahiya Neighborhood, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Unknown

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

Incident Source and Description: On June 8, 2017 Raqqa 24 reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes had damaged al-Subaiha Mosque.⁸⁴ Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) released a photograph of the airstrike that caused the damage.⁸⁵ The photograph is likely a video still taken from drone footage.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to al-Subaiha Mosque sustained between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017. There are multiple holes in the roof and in the dome likely from shells or airstrikes.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other mosques that were damaged in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0104; SHI 17-0107; SHI 17-0108; SHI 17-0114; SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Raqqa 24: <https://twitter.com/24Raqqqa/status/872910629635575808>

RBSS:

<https://www.facebook.com/Raqqqa.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1576490289028883/>

RT Arabic: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZ2v_tIB03w

⁸⁴ <https://twitter.com/24Raqqqa/status/872910629635575808>

⁸⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqqa.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1576490289028883/>

Ruptly: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3l_m5Kvvh8

Step News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fiFDG0jPo9Y>

 ASOR ©2017 DigitalGlobe NextView License	 ASOR ©2017 DigitalGlobe NextView License
Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 31, 2017)	Mosque with damage to the roof and dome (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)



The airstrike that struck and damaged al-Subaiha Mosque (RBSS; June 8, 2017)



Video still showing damage to al-Subaiha Mosque (Step News Agency; June 12, 2017)



Video still showing damage to al-Subaiha Mosque (Step News Agency; June 12, 2017)



Video still showing damage to al-Subaiha Mosque (RT; June 22, 2017)



Video still showing damage to the interior of al-Subaiha Mosque (Ruptly; June 16, 2017)



Video still showing damage to the interior of al-Subaiha Mosque (Ruptly; June 16, 2017)



Video still showing damage to the interior of al-Subaiha Mosque (Ruptly; June 16, 2017)

SHI 17-0102

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: al-Omari Mosque (الجامع العمري)

Date of Incident: June 9, 2017

Location: Daraa al-Balad District, Daraa, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Al-Omari Mosque is located in the old city center of Daraa, across a narrow street from the remains of the Roman Theater. The minaret (located at the northwestern corner) and part of the mosque date to the 8th century CE, but the complex has since been enlarged and modified.

Site Date: 8th-century CE; later modifications

Incident Summary: Reported SARG helicopters damage mosque with incendiary barrel bombs.

Incident Source and Description: On June 9, 2017 Nabaa posted a video showing damage to al-Omari Mosque from incendiary barrel bombs dropped by SARG helicopters.⁸⁶ The bombs hit the northern part of the mosque, damaging the courtyard, adjacent portico, and minaret.⁸⁷

The minaret of al-Omari Mosque was previously damaged, its top half toppled on April 13, 2013.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Daraa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0118**.

For more information on previous damage to al-Omari Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0054** in **Weekly Report 33** and **SHI 15-0054 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 39**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - barrel bomb.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Omari Mosque, as well as the condition of other religious sites located in regions subject to ongoing military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFXlynnodRM>

APSA: <https://www.facebook.com/apsa2011/posts/1958964750877293>

Nabaa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dKJwKgZYVg>

⁸⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1dKJwKgZYVg>

⁸⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/apsa2011/posts/1958964750877293>; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIWBg0y_HEU

Orient News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIWBg0y_HEU



Damage to the minaret and the western side of the mosque. Photograph possibly taken at an earlier date than those featured below (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Damage to mosque and minaret (Al Jazeera; June 26, 2017)



Damage to mosque and minaret (Al Jazeera; June 26, 2017)



Fires burning inside al-Omari Mosque, the minaret is visible in the upper left portion of the frame (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Fire burning near the minaret of al-Omari Mosque (APSA; June 12, 2017)



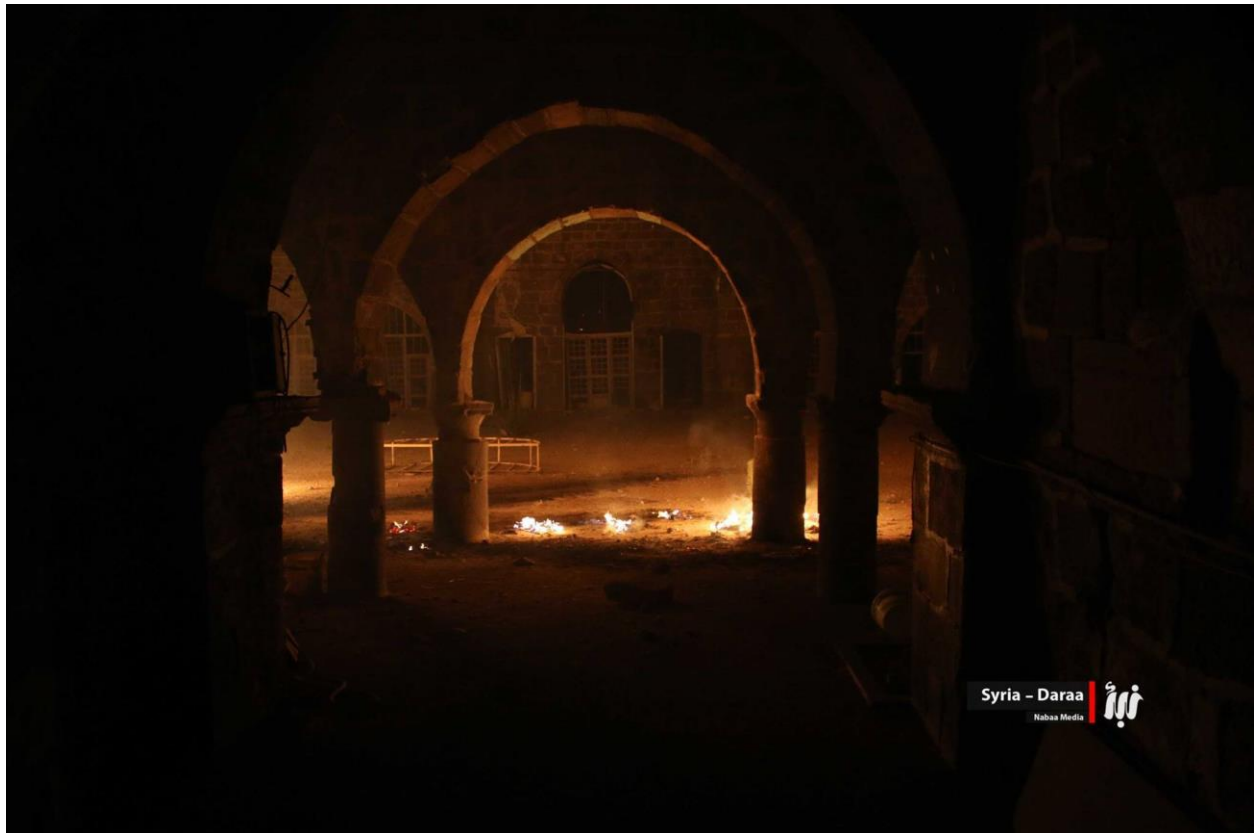
Fire burning inside al-Omari Mosque (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Fires burning inside al-Omari Mosque (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Fire burning inside al-Omari Mosque, the minaret is visible behind the flames. (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Fire burning inside al-Omari Mosque (APSA; June 12, 2017)



Video still of damage to the courtyard of al-Omari Mosque (Orient News; June 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the courtyard and walls of al-Omari Mosque (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)



Video still of remains of explosive device used to damage al-Omari Mosque (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)



Video still of remains of explosive device used to damage al-Omari Mosque (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)



Video still of damage to the portico along the side of the courtyard (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)



Video still of damage to the portico along the side of the courtyard (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)



Video still of damage to the roof of the portico (Nabaa; June 9, 2017)

SHI 17-0103

Report Date: June 18, 2017

Site Name: Western Mosque (المسجد الغربي) (al-Kabir Mosque)

Date of Incident: June 9, 2017

Location: Jadeed Ekidat (جديد عكيدات), Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike severely damage mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 10, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG aircraft fired missiles at the Western Mosque in Jadeed Ekidat, “severely damaging it and rendering it inoperable.”⁸⁸ Local news sources reported that the strike resulted in several casualties.⁸⁹

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0096; SHI 17-0105; SHI 17-0113; SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the Western 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:

Euphrates Post:

June 10, 2017: <https://twitter.com/EuphratesPost/status/873593778266935296>

June 13, 2017: <https://twitter.com/EuphratesPost/status/874393384001175556>

Sharqiya Voice: https://twitter.com/Sharqiya_voice/status/873580039224172544

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/10/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-western-mosque-jdeed-ekidat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-9/>

⁸⁸ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/10/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-western-mosque-jdeed-ekidat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-9/>

⁸⁹ https://twitter.com/Sharqiya_voice/status/873580039224172544 ; <https://twitter.com/EuphratesPost/status/874393384001175556>



Damage to the Western Mosque (Euphrates Post; June 13, 2017)

SHI 17-0104

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: al-Nur Mosque (Bassel Mosque) (مسجد النور)

Date of Incident: June 10, 2017

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

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: 1990s CE

Incident Summary: Ongoing aerial bombardment damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 10, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that US-led Coalition aircraft fired missiles on al-Nur Mosque, causing severe damage and rendering the mosque inoperable.⁹⁰ Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) released a series of photographs showing damage to al-Nur Mosque.⁹¹ According to Raqqa Post, the photographs show the most recent damage, which occurred on that day. The area surrounding al-Nur Mosque has come under heavy aerial bombardment since early June 2017 when operations to recapture the city from ISIL began.⁹²

On June 11, 2017 RBSS reported that a US-led Coalition airstrike had struck and destroyed al-Nur Mosque.⁹³ Also struck during the same air raid were the Islamic Bank and 'athletic hall'. Civilian casualties were reported. DigitalGlobe imagery of the same date shows that the mosque was severely damaged with only the southern portion under the dome and the minaret still standing. The dome has also been heavily damaged.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other mosques that were damaged in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101**; **SHI 17-0107**; **SHI 17-0108**; **SHI 17-0114**; and **SHI 17-0120**.

For more information on previous damage to al-Nur Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0046** in **Weekly Report 87-88** and **SHI 16-0056** in **Weekly Report 89-90**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

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

⁹⁰ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-nour-mosque-al-deraiya-neighborhood-raqqa-city-june-10/>

⁹¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1578774902133755>

⁹² <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/872805251719585793> ; <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/872130040439472129>

⁹³ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1578911698786742>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Palmyra, Raqqa, etc. Syria News Updates:

<https://www.facebook.com/PalmyraNewsUpdates/posts/1451301508242143>

Raqqa Post:

June 6, 2017: <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/872130040439472129>

June 8, 2017: <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/872805251719585793>

June 10, 2017: <http://www.raqqapost.com/26927/2017/06/10>

June 14, 2017: <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/874943832080646144>

RBSS: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1578911698786742>

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-nour-mosque-al-deraiya-neighborhood-raqqa-city-june-10/>

	
Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 31, 2017)	Mosque with severe damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)



Damage to al-Nur Mosque (RBSS: June 10, 2017)



Damage to al-Nur Mosque (RBSS: June 10, 2017)



Damage to al-Nur Mosque (RBSS: June 10, 2017)



Damage to al-Nur Mosque (RBSS: June 10, 2017)



Damage to al-Nur Mosque (RBSS: June 10, 2017)

SHI 17-0105

Report Date: June 15, 2017

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

Date of Incident: June 10, 2017

Location: Mehamda (محمدة), Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Sunni Mosque⁹⁴

Site Date: Unknown

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

Incident Source and Description: On June 10, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that the US-led coalition conducted an airstrike on Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque.⁹⁵ The airstrike heavily damaged the mosque and “rendered it inoperable.”⁹⁶ A photograph provided by SNHR shows the mosque listing to one side due to the destruction of multiple walls.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0096; SHI 17-0103; SHI 17-0113; SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Abu Bakr al-Siddiq 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/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-abu-bakr-al-siddiq-mosque-mehaimda-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-10/>

⁹⁴ ASOR CHI Source

⁹⁵ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-abu-bakr-al-siddiq-mosque-mehaimda-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-10/>

⁹⁶ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-abu-bakr-al-siddiq-mosque-mehaimda-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-10/>



Damage to Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque (SNHR; June 10, 2017)

SHI 17-0106

Report Date: June 22, 2017

Site Name: Heraqla (قلعة هرقله)

Date of Incident: Early June 2017

Location: Heraqla, Raqqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Heraqla, a 9th-century CE fort, was constructed to commemorate the 806 CE campaign of the Abbasid Harun al-Rashid against Heraclea in southwestern Anatolia. The nearly square, compact construction measures 100 by 106 meters in area and 3 meters high. On all four corners there are 4-meter high towers. The walls were made of evenly hewn stone blocks from locally available pale yellow gypsum. The building is at the center of a circular outer wall ring made of gypsum stone blocks of 500 meters in diameter, 2.5 meters thick. The wall was buttressed every 20 meters and had four gates in the cardinal directions.

Site Date: 9th-century CE

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery revealed damage to the site concurrent with its recapture from ISIL by the SDF.

Incident Source and Description: In early June 2017, the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) recaptured Heraqla from ISIL. On June 9, 2017 Daesh Crimes posted a video of SDF soldiers visiting the site.⁹⁷ DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows that the archaeological remains of the fortress at Heraqla sustained damage between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017. There are three visible impact craters on the remains.

According to a source familiar with the site, the DGAM maintained storehouses at Heraqla for use as off-site storage for the collections of the Raqqqa Museum, which came from sites across Raqqqa Governorate. On June 20, 2017 Hawar News posted an article with accompanying photographs and video that recounted the recent history of the site.⁹⁸ This article reported that ISIL looted the DGAM storehouses at Heraqla in March 2013. In January 2014, ISIL began to loot the site itself and destroyed some of the standing remains, such as two lions in one of the gardens. Artifacts from this site and elsewhere were shipped to buyers in Turkey through Tal Abyad.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other archaeological sites that were damaged in Raqqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0109** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0117**.

The site was previously occupied with possible damage from development of the area and occupation. For more information on previous damage to Heraqla, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0140** in **Weekly Report 63-64**.

⁹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUATknetbck>

⁹⁸ <http://www.hawarnews.com/%D9%82%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%87%D8%B1%D9%82%D9%84%D8%A9-%D9%86%D9%8F%D9%87%D8%A8%D8%AA/> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3TY2B7AKaE>

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; Site management: tourism/visitor activity.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Heraqla, as well as the condition of other archaeological sites located in regions subject to military activity, and have been recently liberated.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Hawar News: <http://www.hawarnews.com/قلعة-هرقله-نهيبت/>

Daesh Crimes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUATknetbck>



Video still of SDF soldiers at Heraqla (Daesh Crimes; June 9, 2017)

 ASOR ©2017 DigitalGlobe NextView License	 ASOR ©2017 DigitalGlobe NextView License
The fortress remains prior to recent damage. Note the encampment next to the archaeological remains (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 31, 2017)	Damage to the fortress remains in three spots, with visible impact craters (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 12, 2017)



Remains of possible looting hole (Hawar News; June 20, 2017)

SHI 17-0107

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: Unnamed Mosque

Date of Incident: Between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017

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

Site Description: Sunni Mosque⁹⁹

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Satellite imagery revealed unreported damage to a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the destruction of an unnamed mosque in Raqqa's al-Mashalab neighborhood sustained between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017. Between June 6, 2017 and June 9, 2017 Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by US-led Coalition airstrikes, fought to liberate the neighborhood on their way to central Raqqa.¹⁰⁰ There were no reports by local media of mosques being damaged during that time period.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101; SHI 17-0104; SHI 17-0108; SHI 17-0114; and SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Masdar News:

<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/breaking-kurdish-forces-capture-first-neighborhood-raqqa-city/>

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/middleeast/syria/060620171>

⁹⁹ ASOR CHI Source

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/breaking-kurdish-forces-capture-first-neighborhood-raqqa-city/>; <http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/middleeast/syria/060620171>



Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe
NextView License; May 31, 2017)



Mosque with severe damage (DigitalGlobe
NextView License; June 11, 2017)

SHI 17-0108

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: Unnamed Mosque

Date of Incident: Between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017

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

Site Description: Sunni Mosque¹⁰¹

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to a mosque in Raqqa's al-Qadisiyah neighborhood sustained between May 31, 2017 and June 11, 2017. There are multiple holes in the roof and the dome has collapsed. The damage is likely from shelling or airstrikes over the area. From June 7 to June 10, 2017 Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), backed by US-led airstrikes, attacked the neighborhood.¹⁰² There were no reports by local media of mosques being damaged during that time period.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101; SHI 17-0104; SHI 17-0107; SHI 17-0114; and SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the unnamed mosque in al-Qadisiyah Neighborhood, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to intense military activity and occupation.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/10/world/middleeast/raqqa-syria-white-phosphorus.html>

Private Twitter Account/

¹⁰¹ ASOR CHI Source

¹⁰² <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/10/world/middleeast/raqqa-syria-white-phosphorus.html>



Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 31, 2017)



Mosque with damage to the roof and dome (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 12, 2017)

SHI 17-0109

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name:

- City Wall
- Bab Baghdad
- Raqqa Old City

Date of Incident: June 12, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

- City Wall – According to Ross Burns, the City Wall is made up of “semi-circular baked and mud brick walls of Abbasid al-Rafiq (eighth century) of which two thirds of the length survive (the exception being the south side parallel to the river). The walls were originally of double thickness, strengthened every 35 m by more than 100 semi-circular towers.”¹⁰³
- Bab Baghdad: According to Ross Burns, “In the southeastern corner of the walled city lies the Bab Baghdad (Baghdad Gate) which may date from the mid-12th century rather than the original construction phase under the Abbasids. It conveys some idea of the effective use of decorative brickwork (eg the frieze of patterned blind arches above the gateway) which closely followed Mesopotamian styles whose influence in Syria was largely confined to the Jezira.”¹⁰⁴
- Raqqa Old City: According to Reuters, “The Old City, east of central Raqqa, is a neighborhood of modern housing bordered on two sides by fortified city walls built in the eighth century by the Abbasid Islamic Caliphate which at one point used Raqqa as its capital.”¹⁰⁵

Site Date: City Walls – 8th century CE walls; Bab Baghdad – 12th century Gate; Raqqa Old City – Abbasid Period-Modern Period; Modern housing development.

Incident Summary: The Syrian Democratic Forces have reached the Old Walls of Raqqa.

Incident Source and Description: On June 12, 2017 Reuters reported that Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had reached the walls of the Old City. According to local residents, the Old City area was struck by intense shelling. On the same day, Raqqa Post released a photograph showing Bab Baghdad. The photograph was taken from the Faculty of Science building that had been recaptured by the SDF.¹⁰⁶ There does not appear to be damage to the city gate.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other archaeological sites that were damaged in Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0106** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0117**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

¹⁰³ Burns 2009: 259

¹⁰⁴ Burns 2009: 259

¹⁰⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN19329F>

¹⁰⁶ <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/874303997842247680>

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Old City Wall and Bab Baghdad, as well as the condition of other archaeological sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Raqqa Post: <https://twitter.com/RaqqaPost/status/874303997842247680>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN19329F>

Scholarly:

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



Current condition of Bab Baghdad (Raqqqa Post; June 12, 2017)

SHI 17-0110

Report Date: June 12, 2017

Site Name: al-Qadim Mosque (الجامع القديم; الجامع العتيق) (al-Atiq Mosque; Old Mosque)

Date of Incident: June 12, 2017

Location: Old City, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: In the center of the walled area of Old Raqqa are the remains of the Great Mosque of al-Rafiq, the construction of which was originally undertaken in 772 CE under Caliph al-Mansur. The courtyard was rebuilt between 1165-1166 CE by Nur al-Din who devoted a good deal of attention to building projects in the Jezira region. The remains seen today comprise only two elements: an uncompromisingly plain 25 meter round minaret, Mesopotamian in inspiration but probably dating from Nur al-Din's restoration; and part of the courtyard colonnade in mud-brick arches including the inscription recording Nur al-Din's contribution.¹⁰⁷

Site Date: 772 CE, rebuilt ca. 1165 CE

Incident Summary: Residents in Raqqa are using the courtyard near the mosque as a cemetery.

Incident Source and Description: On June 12, 2017 Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that local residents in Raqqa had begun using the courtyard adjacent to al-Qadim Mosque as a cemetery to bury those killed in the ongoing clashes and aerial bombardment.¹⁰⁸ Residents are reportedly unable to reach the cemetery in order to bury the dead and have had to resort to creating makeshift burial sites. On the same day, shelling was reported to have struck the mosque and the surrounding area resulting in casualties.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the first burials appeared in 2014, but have increased in frequency between May 30 and June 24, 2017. The image from May 30 shows a group of mourners gathered around one of the recent burials.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were used as burial grounds in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0111**.

On June 14, 2017 Raqqa Media Office reported that Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had shelled the area of the mosque during operations to recapture the city.¹⁰⁹ No photographs of the shelling damage were available at time of publication.

For previous damage to al-Kabir Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0132** in **Weekly Report 59-60**.

Pattern: Modern burials.

¹⁰⁷ Burns 2009: 259

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1580546825289896>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/raqqamediaoffice1/posts/1492634737423211>

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Qadim Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to development threats, and the creation of cemeteries.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

ARA News: <http://aranews.org/2017/06/قصد-تسيطر-على-كلية-العلوم-داخل-مدين/>

Raqqa Media Office: <https://www.facebook.com/raqqamediaoffice1/posts/1492634737423211>

RBSS:

June 12, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1580546825289896> ; <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1580536545290924>

Scholarly:

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



al-Qadim Mosque with some earlier modern burials in the courtyard (DigitalGlobe NextView License; February 3, 2017)



New burials highlighted with a red box. The one on the left appears to be a group of people, possibly gathered for a burial (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 30, 2017)



More recent burials highlighted in red
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)



A smaller number of recent burials north and
east of the previous ones (DigitalGlobe
NextView License; June 24, 2017)

SHI 17-0111

Report Date: June 13, 2017

Site Name: Qasr al-Banat (قصر البنات)

Date of Incident: June 12, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: According to Arch Net,

"The ninth century Qasr al-Banat (Palace of the Maidens) was a recreational summer residence founded by the Abbasid Caliph Haroun al-Rashid. Remains of the palace trace an architectural plan of the building arranged around a large central courtyard with a fountain. A large iwan occupies each side of the courtyard, making Qasr al-Banat an exceptional example of the Iranian four-iwan plan in Syria. The palace was made of brick with iwans elaborately embellished with intricate patterns."¹¹⁰

The site was excavated by Ernst Herzfeld and Fredrich Sarre in 1907, Gertrude Bell in 1909, and Kassem Touier in 1977-1982.¹¹¹

Site Date: Constructed 786-809 CE, renovated 1165-66 CE.

Incident Summary: Residents of Raqqa are using the site of Qasr al-Banat as a cemetery.

Incident Source and Description: On June 12, 2017 Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that residents in Raqqa were using the site of Qasr al-Banat as a cemetery to bury those killed during aerial bombardment.¹¹² On June 13, 2017 SNHR reported that shelling in the area of the site had resulted in civilians casualties.¹¹³ Any damage to the site was not reported. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery does not show any disturbances through June 29, 2017. ASOR CHI source, verified the claims that civilian burials were taking place due to the lack of access to the city's main cemetery.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were used as burial grounds in Raqqa: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0110**.

Pattern: Modern burials.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor Qasr al-Banat, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to development threats and the creation of cemeteries.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

¹¹⁰ <https://archnet.org/sites/3501>

¹¹¹ Toueir, Kaseim 1985. "The Qasr al-Banat in Raqqa. Excavation, Reconstruction, and Rebuilding (1977-1982)." Damascus Releases.

¹¹² <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1580798531931392>

¹¹³ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/civilians-killed-international-coalition-forces-shelling-qasr-al-banat-area-raqqa-city-june-13/>

RBSS: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1580798531931392>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/civilians-killed-international-coalition-forces-shelling-qasr-al-banat-area-raqqa-city-june-13/>

Scholarly:

Arch Net: <https://archnet.org/sites/3501>

Toueir, Kaseim 1985. "The Qasr al-Banat in Raqqa. Excavation, Reconstruction, and Rebuilding (1977-1982)." Damascus Releases.

SHI 17-0112

Report Date: June 13, 2017

Site Name: Qala'at Simeon (Deir Semaan)

Date of Incident: June 13, 2017

Location: Deir Semaan, Aleppo Governorate, Syria Heraqla

Site Description: The Church of Saint Simeon Stylites (388-459 CE) is one of the oldest surviving Byzantine churches in the Near East. The architectural complex atop the hill consists of a basilica (built ca. 476-492 CE), baptistery, monastery (ca. 490 CE), two hostelries (ca. 490 CE and later), and a monumental arch. According to Ross Burns:

“Unlike the later cathedrals of medieval Europe, the great church [basilica] was conceived and executed more or less as a single project over a short space of time. The cruciform church comprising four separate basilica buildings was probably constructed shortly after the death of the ascete, St. Simeon....[who] took up residence on a platform atop a column around the remains of which the great building is centered. Construction of the complex began a few years after St. Simeon's death (probably spanning AD 476 to 491)....[T]he column and the site of [St. Simeon's] ascetic deeds was commemorated under imperial patronage, thus encouraging the continuation of the cult of St. Simeon through pilgrimage.”¹¹⁴

The site was fortified when the Byzantines recaptured the area from the Arabs in the 10th century CE. It was retaken and sacked by the Hamdanids in 985 CE and subsequently largely abandoned as a monastic-religious center. In 2011, the site of Deir Semaan (including Qalaat Semaan, the Church of St. Simeon Stylites) was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as one of the “Ancient Villages of Northern Syria.”¹¹⁵

Site Date: Byzantine Period (5th century CE)

Incident Summary: Islamist Syrian opposition forces are firing on YPG forces from Qala'at Simeon.

Incident Source and Description: On June 13, 2017 ARA News reported that Islamic factions of the Syrian opposition, including the Sham Liberation Organization (formerly the Nusra Front) and the Ahrar al Sham Movement, were shelling the villages of Basoufan and Bashmara from Qala'at Simeon.¹¹⁶ The Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) forces were responding to the shelling.¹¹⁷ SMART News Agency published video showing fighting occurring around and inside the citadel.¹¹⁸ The full extent of the damage is unknown, but gunfire/light weaponry marks are apparent on the building. Whether the damage is from this incident or earlier incidents is unknown. The construction of new makeshift defensive barriers is also apparent in the video, with fortifications being constructed of large rocks and metal barrels.

¹¹⁴ Burns, 2009: 272-273

¹¹⁵ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1348/>

¹¹⁶ <http://aranews.org/2017/06/الفصائل-الاسلامية-تجدد-قصف-ريف-عفرين-م-06/>

¹¹⁷ https://twitter.com/e_skl/status/874632170018570240

¹¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FROPE989aoI>

For more information on previous damage to Qala'at Simeon, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report 14-0028** in **Weekly Report 6**; **SHI 14-0079** in **Weekly Report 15**; **SHI 14-0106** in **Weekly Report 21-22**; **SHI 16-0066** in **Weekly Report 93-94**; **SHI 16-0094** in **Weekly Report 97-98**; **SHI 16-0094 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 99-100**; **SHI 16-0160** in **Weekly Report 115-116**.

Pattern: Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry, occupation/militarization.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Qala'at Simeon, as well as the condition of other UNESCO World Heritage Sites in regions subject to intense military activity and occupation. Damage to UNESCO World Heritage Sites goes against the principles of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

ARA News: <http://aranews.org/2017/06/الفصائل-الإسلامية-تجدد-قصف-ريف-عفرين-م/>

SMART News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FROPE989aol>

Private Twitter Account

Private Youtube Account

Scholarly:

Burns, R. 2009. *Monuments of Syria*. London: I.B. Taurus



Overlook at Qala'at Simeon (SMART News; June 13, 2017)



Pickup with large gun in bed, firing from Qala'at Simeon (SMART News; June 13, 2017)



Pickup with large gun in bed, firing from Qala'at Simeon (SMART News; June 13, 2017)



Walls constructed of large rocks and metal barrels (SMART News; June 13, 2017)



View of Qala'at Simeon (Private Youtube Account; June 13, 2017)



Wall of metal barrels lining path to the top of Qala'at Simeon (Private Youtube Account; June 13, 2017)

SHI 17-0113

Report Date: June 18, 2017

Site Name: al-Shohada Mosque (مسجد الشهداء)

Date of Incident: June 13, 2017

Location: Hamidiyeh Quarter, Deir ez-Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 14, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG aircraft fired missiles near the al-Shohada Mosque, causing partial damage.¹¹⁹ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other mosques that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0096; SHI 17-0103; SHI 17-0105; SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Shohada 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/2017/06/14/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-shohada-mosque-al-hamediya-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-city-june-13/>

¹¹⁹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-shohada-mosque-al-hamediya-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-city-june-13/>

SHI 17-0114

Report Date: June 14, 2017

Site Name: al-Kabir Mosque (الجامع الكبير)

Date of Incident: June 13, 2017

Location: Old City of Raqqa, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SDF shelling damages the minaret of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 13, 2017 multiple sources reported that US-led Coalition forces launched a drone or airstrike on al-Kabir Mosque.¹²⁰ Damage to the mosque itself was not immediately reported.

On June 14, 2017 multiple sources reported that shelling by the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) had destroyed the top of the minaret of al-Kabir Mosque.¹²¹ Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) released a photograph of damage to the minaret.

DigitalGlobe imagery from June 17, 2017 corroborates the damage to the top of the minaret. It also shows some debris and possible minimal damage to the roof of the mosque close to the minaret.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were damaged in Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101; SHI 17-0104; SHI 17-0107; SHI 17-0108; SHI 17-0120.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Amaq News Agency

¹²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/eyehomeland/posts/761685567326958> ; <https://www.facebook.com/StepNewsAgency/posts/1010649689070313>

¹²¹ <https://www.facebook.com/syria.presscc/posts/1366858496682878> ; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/syrian-democratic-forces-shelled-al-kabir-mosque-al-mansour-street-raqqa-city-june-13/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/raqqamediaoffice1/photos/a.687912317895461.1073741828.687860211234005/1492556270764391/>

Eye on Homeland: <https://www.facebook.com/eyehomeland/posts/761685567326958>

Raqqa Media Office:

<https://www.facebook.com/raqqamediaoffice1/photos/a.687912317895461.1073741828.687860211234005/1492556270764391/>

RBSS: https://twitter.com/Raqqa_SL/status/874995820130643969

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/syrian-democratic-forces-shelled-al-kabir-mosque-al-mansour-street-raqqa-city-june-13/>

Step News Agency: <https://www.facebook.com/StepNewsAgency/posts/1010649689070313>

Syrian Press Center:

June 14, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/syrianpresscenter/posts/1956771494565452> ; <https://www.facebook.com/syria.presscc/posts/1366858496682878>



Video still of damage to al-Kabir Mosque (Amaq News Agency; June 14, 2017)



The destroyed top of the minaret of al-Kabir Mosque (RBSS; June 14, 2017)



The mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)



The top of the minaret is broken and there is debris on top of the mosque (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 17, 2017)

SHI 17-0115

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: al-Omari Mosque (جامع عمري) (Abu Thar al-Ghafari)

Date of Incident: June 16, 2017

Location: Idlib, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Sunni Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: An explosion damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 16, 2017 the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that an explosion occurred in the area around the Abu Thar al-Ghafari Mosque in Idlib.¹²² Ten people were injured, and one person died. The explosion targeted a Saudi senior cleric and leader of Hayyaat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). The cleric survived the blast and claimed a person detonated a suicide-bombing vest next to his car.¹²³

On June 16, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a “motorbike bomb” explosion had damaged the mosque.¹²⁴ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

For previous damage to al-Omari Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0062** in **Weekly Report 91-92** and **SHI 16-0112** in **Weekly Report 112-113**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the al-Omari Mosque, as well as the condition of other religious sites located in regions subject to intense military activity and occupation.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Long War Journal:

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/06/us-designated-terrorist-claims-he-survived-suicide-attack-in-syria.php>

SMART News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81rrh0ejqGI>

¹²² <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=68194>

¹²³ <http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/06/us-designated-terrorist-claims-he-survived-suicide-attack-in-syria.php>

¹²⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/16/mosque-targeted-motorbike-bomb-near-abo-mosque-idlib-city-june-16/>

SOHR: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=68194>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/16/mosque-targeted-motorbike-bomb-near-abo-mosque-idlib-city-june-16/>

SHI 17-0116

Report Date: June 19, 2017

Site Name: al-Qiqan Mosque

Date of Incident: June 17, 2017

Location: Aqbah Neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: al-Qiqan Mosque is located near Bab Antioch. The building is 156 square meters in size, and consists of a small courtyard. The mosque is situated on Tell al-Aqabeh, a Hittite settlement that was incorporated into Aleppo in the Hellenistic Period.¹²⁵ The outside of the mosque is decorated with Hittite inscriptions and basalt columns that probably come from a previous Hittite structure. It is hypothesized that this mosque sits on an ancient temple.¹²⁶ A stone foundation document in hieroglyphic Luwian states, "This temple is a gift to Sharruma from the son of King Telepinu, the High Priest of Aleppo." King Telepinu's son was named Talmi-Sharruma, and reigned around 1500 BCE. The inscription provides the only evidence, apart from seals, of the use of the hieroglyphic script in Syria during this period.¹²⁷ The mosque was constructed during the early Mamluk period, incorporating the earlier inscriptions and basaltic columns as building material. Ibn Ajami mentions the mosque in his writings, during the Mamluk period. The exact date of the construction of the mosque is unknown.¹²⁸

Site Date: Ancient Temple – ca. 1500 CE; Mosque – Mamluk Period, Renovations to the site – 1920 CE, 1952 CE, 1965 CE, 1996 CE.¹²⁹

Incident Summary: An unknown person or group attempts to steal the Luwian inscription from the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 18, 2017 a lawyer in Aleppo posted photographs and a report on their personal Facebook page. The source reports that on June 17, 2017 an attempt was made to remove the Hieroglyphic Luwian inscription from the Qiqan Mosque. This attempt was immediately reported to the authorities and those responsible were caught. The mosque was placed under guard, and on June 18, 2017 the inscription was removed and transported to the National Museum of Aleppo for safekeeping.

Under Article 57 of the Syrian Antiquities law, stealing or dealing in antiquities is punishable by 15 years in prison, and smuggling is punishable by 25 years in prison.

Photographs released by an Aleppo engineer in May 2017 showed minor damage to the rest of the al-Qiqan Mosque.

Pattern: Theft.

¹²⁵ <http://www.syriaphotoguide.com/home/aleppo-al-qiqan-mosque-حلب-جامع-القيقان/>

¹²⁶ Aro, S. 2013. p. 239

¹²⁷ Hawkins, J. 2000. p.388

¹²⁸ <http://www.esyria.sy/ealeppo/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=201102040855011>

¹²⁹ <http://www.esyria.sy/ealeppo/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=201102040855011>

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Qiqan Mosque, as well as reports of theft to other sites located in recently liberated regions.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Private Facebook Account

Scholarly:

Aro, S. 2013. "Carchemesh Before and After 1200 BC" in Mouton, A., I. Rutherford, and I. Yakubovich eds. *Luwian Identities: Culture, Language, and Religion Between Anatolia and the Aegean*. Leiden: Brill.

E-Syria:

<http://www.esyria.sy/ealeppo/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=201102040855011>

Hawkins, J. 2000. *Inscriptions of the Iron Age Part 2: Amuq, Aleppo, Hama, Tabal, Assur Letters, Miscellaneous, Seals, Indices*. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.



Detail of the Luwian inscription (Private Facebook Account; June 17, 2017)



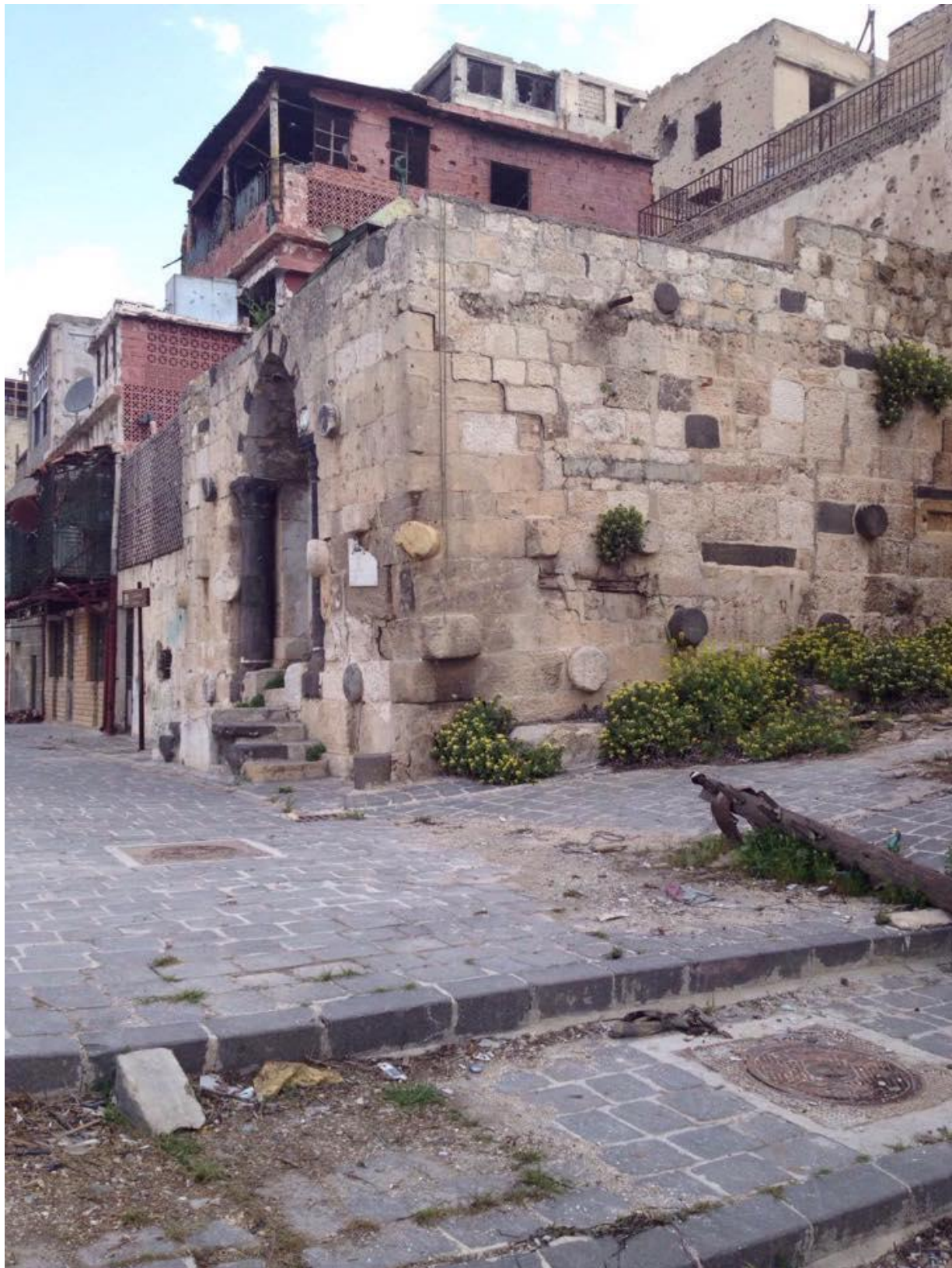
Side of the mosque showing two inscriptions, the Luwian hieroglyphics are highlighted in red (Private Facebook Account; June 17, 2017)



Front of mosque showing basaltic columns reportedly from original temple (Private Facebook Account; June 17, 2017)



Recent photograph showing the inscription (Private Facebook Account; May 10, 2017)



Recent photograph of mosque showing minor damage to the structure (Private Facebook Account; May 10, 2017)

SHI 17-0117

Report Date: June 21, 2017

Site Name: Resafa (Sergiopolis)

Date of Incident: June 19, 2017

Location: Resafa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: According to Ross Burns:

"The great Byzantine fortress-city of Resafa grew up on a site 30 kms south of the Euphrates River on the edge of the Syrian steppe. Its location resulted from the martyrdom on this spot of the Christian Roman soldier, Sergius, just before the accession of Constantine and the new policy of tolerance towards Christians. The site became a pilgrimage centre honoring Sergius and attracted crowds from throughout the Syrian desert interior. It also acquired an important military function with the advantages of its massive walls (still largely standing today). Two major churches can be visited, the most important being that associated with St Sergius. As the saint's remains attracted numerous Arabs from the desert tribes, especially those associated with the pro-Byzantine Ghassanid federation, the site continued to attract visitors even after the Islamic conquest. For a time, both crowds of Christians and Muslims shared in honoring the saint and a mosque was added to the courtyard south of the massive cathedral."¹³⁰

Site Date: Byzantine Period, Umayyad Period

Incident Summary: SARG forces recapture Resafa from ISIL control.

Incident Source and Description: On June 19, 2017 a private twitter account published photographs and video footage of SARG soldiers outside the northern gate of Resafa.¹³¹ No recent damage is evident in either the photographs or video.

On June 21, 2017 the Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) reported that SARG forces had recaptured Resafa from ISIL control.¹³² The same day, Syria al-Mustaqbal posted video footage of SARG forces walking around the site and planting a Syrian flag on top of the city walls.¹³³ Part of the city wall appears damaged in this video. The exact cause of the damage is unknown.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other archaeological sites that were damaged in Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0106** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0109**.

For more information on previous damage to Resafa, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0043** in **Weekly Report 9**; **SHI 15-0012** in **Weekly Report 25**; **SHI 15-0025** in **Weekly Report 28**.

¹³⁰ Burns 2009: 262-266

¹³¹ <https://twitter.com/MmaGreen/status/876887193264029696>; <https://twitter.com/MmaGreen/status/876887193264029696>

¹³² <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2294>

¹³³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV6TfOLe43o>

Pattern: Site management: tourism/visitor activity.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2294>

Personal Twitter Account

Syria al-Mustaqbal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DV6TfOLe43o>

Scholarly:

Burns, Ross (2009) *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. 3rd edition. New York: I. B. Tauris.



SARG soldiers at Resafa (Personal Twitter Account; June 19, 2017)



SARG soldier in front of the north gate of Resafa (Personal Twitter Account; June 19, 2017)



SARG soldiers in front of the north gate of Resafa (Personal Twitter Account; June 19, 2017)



SARG soldiers at Resafa (Personal Twitter Account; June 19, 2017)



Video still of SARG forces inside Resafa (Syria al-Mustaqbal; June 21, 2017)



Video still of damage to the city wall of Resafa (Syria al-Mustaqbal; June 21, 2017)

SHI 17-0118

Report Date: June 20, 2017

Site Name: al-Rahman Mosque (مسجد الرحمن)

Date of Incident: June 20, 2017

Location: al-Naimah (النعيمة), Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: SARG bombardment damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 20, 2017 Step News Agency reported that aerial bombardment by SARG forces damaged al-Rahman Mosque.¹³⁴ Photographs show that the mosque has sustained heavy damage to its roof and facade. Whether this damage was the result of a single or several incidents of bombardment and the time period during which it occurred is unknown.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were damaged by aerial bombardment in Daraa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0102**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Step News Agency: <https://www.facebook.com/StepNewsAgency/posts/1015136721954943>

¹³⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/StepNewsAgency/posts/1015136721954943>



Damage to al-Rahman Mosque, seen from the north (Step News Agency; June 20, 2017)



Damage to al-Rahman Mosque, seen from the north (Step News Agency; June 20, 2017)



Damage to al-Rahman Mosque, seen from the west (Step News Agency; June 20, 2017)

SHI 17-0119

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: Zubair bin Awam Mosque

Date of Incident: June 22, 2017

Location: Kasrat al Faraj (كسرة فرج), Raqqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: US-led Coalition airstrike destroys mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 26, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) posted a video that shows the aftermath of a reported US-led Coalition airstrike on Zubair bin Awam Mosque on or around June 22, 2017.¹³⁵ Video footage shows that the mosque has been leveled. The minaret remains standing. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from June 24, 2017 corroborates the damage to the mosque.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Zubair bin Awam 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=-eL5fKq4vWM>

¹³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eL5fKq4vWM>



Video still of the minaret of Zubair bin Awam Mosque (SNHR; June 29, 2017)



Video still of damage to Zubair bin Awam Mosque (SNHR; June 29, 2017)



Zubair bin Awam Mosque before destruction
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 17, 2017)



The red arrows indicates the standing minaret
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 24, 2017)

SHI 17-0120

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: Harweil Mosque (مسجد حرويل)

Date of Incident: June 24, 2017

Location: al-Ardi Neighborhood, Deir ez-Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: SARG airstrikes damage mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 24, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG warplanes fired missiles at Harweil Mosque, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”¹³⁶ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0096; SHI 17-0103; SHI 17-0105; SHI in 17-0113.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Harweil 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/2017/06/25/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-harweil-mosque-al-ardi-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-24/>

¹³⁶ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/25/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-harweil-mosque-al-ardi-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-24/>

SHI 17-0121

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: al-Hinni Mosque (جامع الحني)

Date of Incident: June 27, 2017

Location: Old City, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: US-led Coalition airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 27, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a US-led coalition airstrike struck al-Hinni Mosque, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”¹³⁷ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

al-Hinni Mosque was previously damaged by SARG and Russian airstrikes in 2014 and 2016. For more information on previous damage to al-Hinni Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0014** in **Weekly Report 77-78**.

See associated reports in this Monthly Report for other sites that were hit by airstrikes in Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101; SHI 17-0104; SHI 17-0107; SHI 17-0108;** and **SHI 17-0114**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Hinni 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/2017/06/28/international-coalition-forces-shelling-al-hani-mosque-raqqa-city-june-27/>

¹³⁷ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/28/international-coalition-forces-shelling-al-hani-mosque-raqqa-city-june-27/>

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 17-0038

Report Date: June 19, 2017

Site Name: Mariam al-Azra (Diocese of the Assyrian Church of the East)

Date of Incident: January 29, 2017

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

Site Description: The church's denomination is the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. From 1918 to 1934, this church served as the seat of the patriarchs of the Assyrian Church of the East.

Site Date: Pre-1918 CE

Incident Summary: New photographs show damage to Mariam al-Azra Church.

Incident Source and Description: On January 29, 2017 Ishtar TV posted new photographs of the Mariam al-Azra Church in Mosul.¹³⁸ The church has been severely damaged, with most of the walls of the first floor missing, as well as the dome, and parts of the roof. Father Youkhana states that the church was used as a warehouse by ISIL to store items seized from Christian and Yazidi villages. Towards the end of occupation, ISIL reportedly sold the buildings to contractors, who started to tear down the church to reuse the steel inside.¹³⁹

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to the dome of the church occurring between October 1st and 10th, 2016. Later that month imagery shows more of the roof and dome being dismantled. ASOR CHI was unable to verify the cause of the initial damage to the church, is unknown what and who was responsible. It is also unknown why the roof and dome were being dismantled at this time, it could be for reuse of materials.

Pattern: Military activity: occupation/militarization; Reuse of building material (non-combatants).

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mariam al-Azra, as well as the condition of other religious sites located in regions subject to re-use of building material.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Catholic News:

<http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2017/iraqi-christian-leader-visiting-mosul-sees-little-future-for-christians.cfm>

¹³⁸ <http://www.ishtartv.com/viewarticle.72963.html>

¹³⁹ <http://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2017/iraqi-christian-leader-visiting-mosul-sees-little-future-for-christians.cfm>

Ishtar TV: <http://www.ishtartv.com/viewarticle,72963.html>



Damage to the outside of the church (Ishtar TV; January 29, 2017)



Damage to outside of church showing most of the walls of the first floor missing (Ishtar TV; January 19, 2017)



Damage to the interior of the church, looking towards where the altar was located (Ishtar TV; January 19, 2017)



Missing dome of the church (Ishtar TV; January 19, 2017)



Damage to the exterior of the church (Ishtar TV; January 19, 2017)

IHI 17-0039

Report Date: June 5, 2017

Site Name: Antiquities Caches in Mosul

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Caches of artifacts from archaeological sites, university collections, and possibly museum collections.

Site Date: Various

Incident Summary: Caches of artifacts were discovered in houses in Mosul.

Incident Source and Description: As the Iraqi Security Forces clear houses in recently recaptured areas of Mosul, they are uncovering caches of artifacts. On April 22, 2017 Al Mosuliya posted a video showing a group of artifacts and books they uncovered in a house.¹⁴⁰ An ASOR CHI in-country source reported that the artifacts belong to the Museum of Natural History at Mosul University, located on the west side of Mosul University. The artifacts shown contain specimens of geological stone and biological fossils. The books are *Bildatlas der Assyrisch-Babylonischen Kulture* (1961), *Ich bin euch Alle Tage* (1903), and a copy of the *Holy Qur'an* (1935-1936). Based on the subject of the two German books, our source believes they are not from the Museum of Natural History. He hypothesizes the house was used as a place to store these artifacts in order to sell or smuggle them.

On June 6, 2017, Archaeology in Iraq posted a photograph of a group of objects. The group stated that the artifacts were left by ISIL fleeing the city, and are originally from the Mosul Museum.¹⁴¹ However, this image was also used in 2015, stating these were artifacts confiscated from smugglers in Babylon Governorate.¹⁴² Iraqi News also reported on June 6, 2017 that the Interior Ministry confiscated artifacts inside the house of an ISIL member who fled eastern Mosul.¹⁴³

Pattern: Theft; Illegal excavation.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reports about caches of artifacts and antiquities in recently liberated regions.

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPeguXqVAOM>

¹⁴¹ <https://www.facebook.com/Archaeology.in.Iraq.AiS/photos/a.299938433533389.1073741828.299604140233485/657061184487777/>

¹⁴² <http://fk-news.com/28996-القبض-على-اخطر-مهربين-للاثار-في-بابل-.html>

¹⁴³ <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/artifacts-confiscated-eastern-mosul-house/>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Archaeology in Iraq:

<https://www.facebook.com/Archaeology.in.Iraq.AiS/photos/a.299938433533389.1073741828.299604140233485/657061184487777/>

Al Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPeguXqVAOM>

Iraqi News: <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/artifacts-confiscated-eastern-mosul-house/>

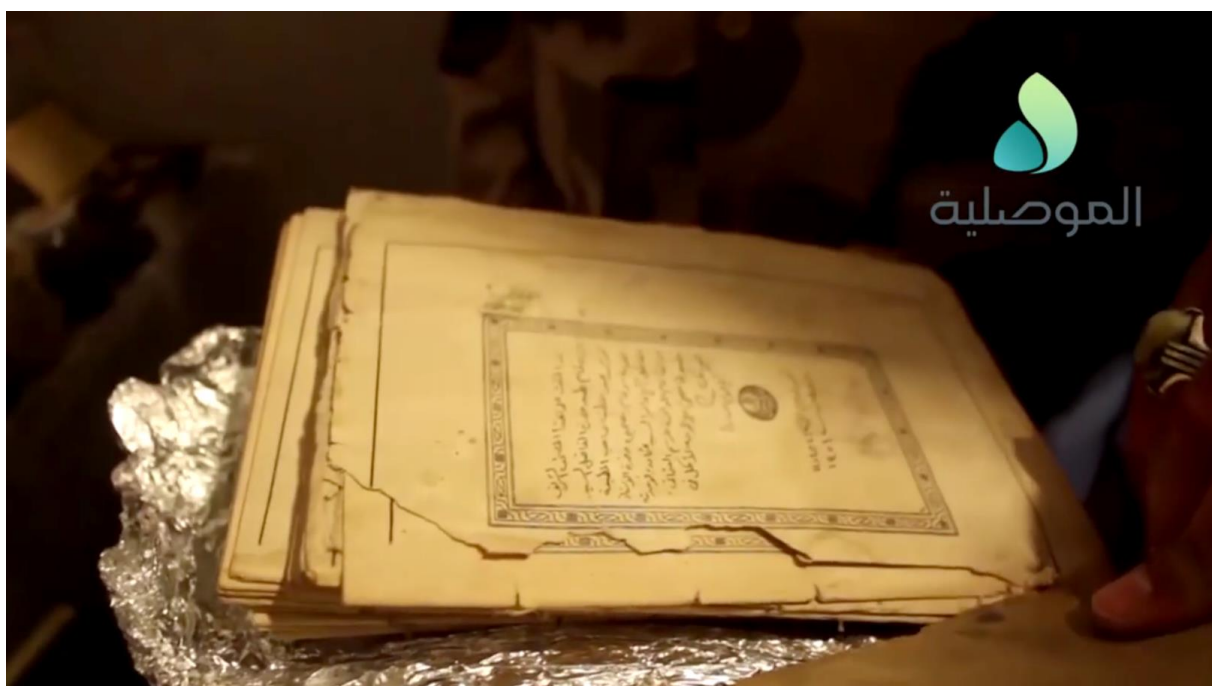
Kurdistan 24: <http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/d7fba720-925d-470a-a9db-ba65a0f019dd>



Video still of artifacts from Mosul Museum of Natural History (Al Mosuliya; April 22, 2017)



Video still of artifacts from Mosul Museum of Natural History (Al Mosuliya; April 22, 2017)



Video still of the Qur'an found with artifacts (Al Mosuliya; April 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0040

Report Date: June 15, 2017

Site Name: Mar Ephraim Church

Date of Incident: June 14, 2017

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

Site Description: Seat of the Syriac Orthodox Archdiocese of Mosul, one of the largest places of worship for Christians in Mosul.¹⁴⁴

Site Date: 1988

Incident Summary: The church was repurposed as a prison for Yazidi women and girls.

Incident Source and Description: On June 14, 2017 Fox News reported that ISIL militants had used the Mar Ephraim Church as a prison for Yazidi women and girls. Yazidi items as well as documents were found in the basement of the church. In August 2014, ISIL captured Sinjar and killed or enslaved over 10,000 Yazidi women and girls. Approximately 6,500 were forced to marry jihadists or become sex slaves.¹⁴⁵ Thousands have managed to escape, or have been released and made it to refugee camps in Kurdistan and other areas of Iraq, but approximately 2,000 Yazidis are still missing.¹⁴⁶ As Mosul is being liberated an army official stated, “some locals have come forward and delivered girls, whom they were protecting, to the troops.”¹⁴⁷

On June 16, 2017 an independent journalist, Stephen Nabil, posted video footage of the basement of Mar Ephraim, corroborating the news report. He states that the girls were brought to the church and brought in front of the Sharia court. This court then asked them a series of questions: how old they were, if they were married, etc. The girls were sent to the houses of ISIL ‘faithful’. The journalist also uncovered ISIL documents including munitions manuals.

Newly released photographs show graffiti on the walls of the church and posted ISIL flags on walls. Previous reports stated that the church was converted to a mosque and an ISIL administrative building. Recent reports, however, state that ISIL used the building as a prison.

For information on previous damage to St. Ephraim Church, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0085** in **Weekly Report 45**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0017** in **February Monthly Report**.

¹⁴⁴ <http://ishtartv.com/viewarticle,51403.html>

¹⁴⁵ http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/IQ/UNAMI_OHCHR_POC_Report_FINAL_6July_10_September2014.pdf

¹⁴⁶ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/06/14/isis-used-mosul-church-to-abuse-yazidi-girls-women-iraqi-army-officer-says.html> ; <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/islamic-state-releases-over-200-iraqi-yazidis-after-8-months-as-captives/article23844498/>

¹⁴⁷ <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/06/14/isis-used-mosul-church-to-abuse-yazidi-girls-women-iraqi-army-officer-says.html>

Pattern: Military activity: occupation/militarization, reuse of ancient/historic structure.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mar Ephraim Church, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to military occupation and re-use.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Fox News:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/06/14/isis-used-mosul-church-to-abuse-yazidi-girls-women-iraqi-army-officer-says.html>

Stephen Nabil, Independent Journalist:

June 16, 2017: <https://twitter.com/thestevennabil/status/875728682521841665>; <https://twitter.com/thestevennabil/status/875731592643203073> ; <https://twitter.com/thestevennabil/status/875731920235057153>



Graffiti on the walls of the basement and rubble on the floor (Fox News; June 14, 2017)



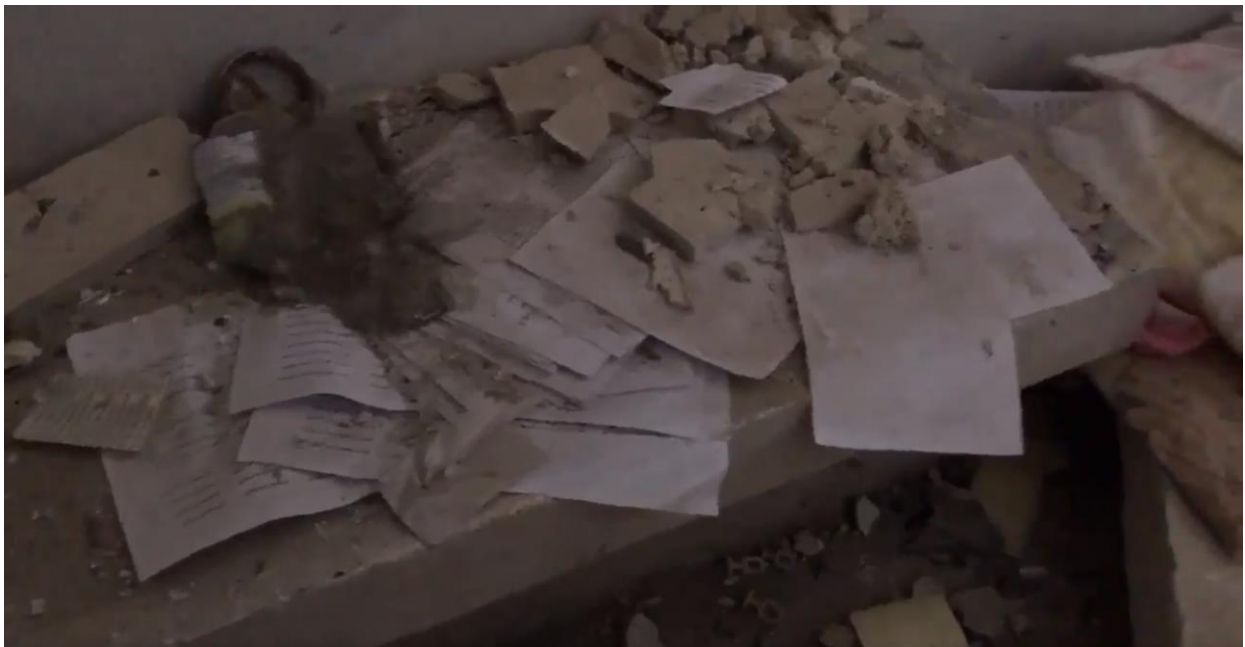
An ISIL flag posted on the wall of the church (Fox News; June 14, 2017)



A woman's shoe in the rubble (Fox News; June 14, 2017)



Rubble on the floor, including girl's underwear (Steven Nabil; June 16, 2017)



ISIL documents in the church (Steven Nabil; June 16, 2017)

IHI 17-0041

Report Date: June 16, 2017

Site Name: al-Taqwa Mosque (جامع التقوى)

Date of Incident: June 15, 2017

Location: Tal Afar, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Sunni Mosque¹⁴⁸

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported US-led Coalition airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 15, 2017 Amaq News Agency released video footage of the destruction of the al-Taqwa Mosque in Tal Afar. The mosque was destroyed, with only part of the outside wall, and part of a secondary building remaining standing. The dome of the mosque is intact, but has collapsed into the building. In the video, ISIL states the damage was due to American airstrikes.¹⁴⁹

On July 14, 2017 Iraqi forces targeted ISIL locations in Tal Afar.¹⁵⁰ This operation could have struck and damaged the mosque, but this has not been confirmed.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency

Iraq News: <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-jets-kill-dozens-islamic-state-militants-tal-afar/>

Scholarly:

US Department of State. 2010. *Iraq: 2010 Report on International Religious Freedom*. Washington DC: Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor.

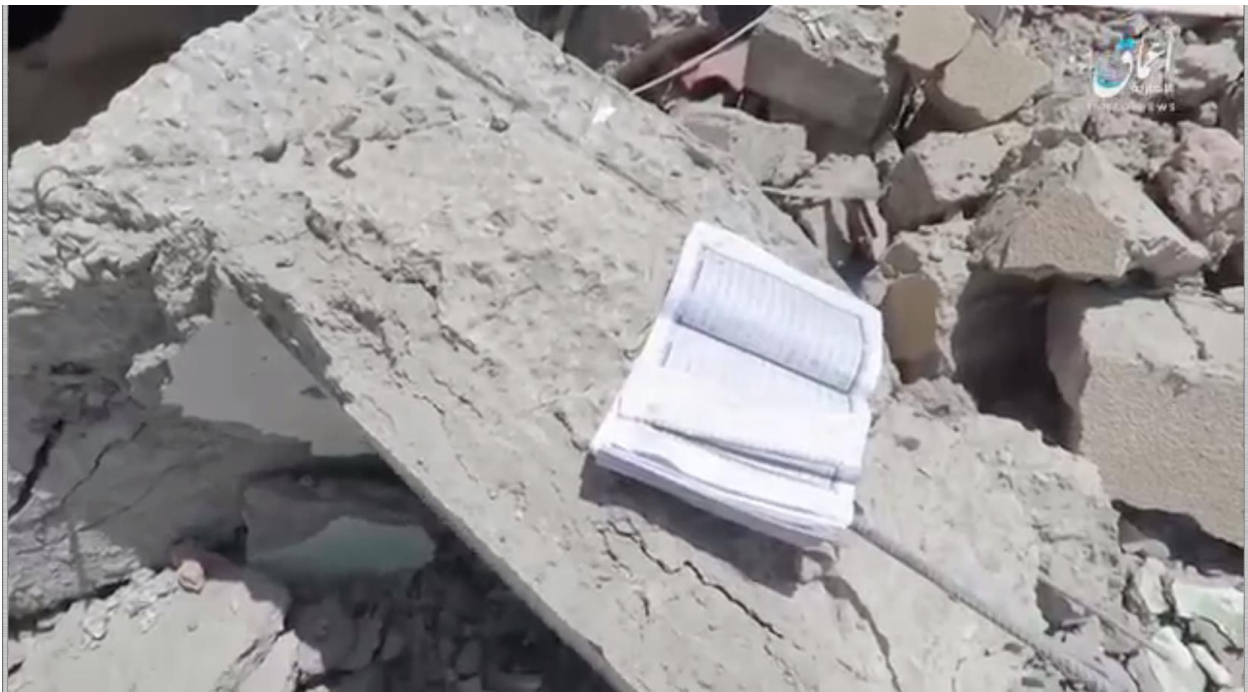
¹⁴⁸ <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2010/148821.htm>

¹⁴⁹ Amaq News Agency

¹⁵⁰ <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-jets-kill-dozens-islamic-state-militants-tal-afar/>



Video still of damage to the front of al-Taqwa Mosque (Amaq News Agency; July 15, 2017)



Video still of a Quran in the rubble of al-Taqwa Mosque (Amaq News Agency; July 15, 2017)



Video still of destruction of al-Taqwa Mosque (Amaq News Agency; July 15, 2017)



Video still of destruction of al-Taqwa Mosque (Amaq News Agency; July 15, 2017)

IHI 17-0042

Report Date: June 20, 2017

Site Name: Mosul Museum

Date of Incident: June 14, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosul's main archaeology museum, specializing in material from Assyria and Hatra.

Site Date: Modern

Incident Summary: Museum damaged in ISIL recapture of neighborhood.

Incident Source and Description: On June 14, 2017 a resident of Mosul posted photographs of new damage to the Mosul Museum. The museum was reportedly taken by ISIL on the 14th as they launched a counter attack against Iraqi Security Forces. Iraqi forces recaptured the neighborhood by June 15th, 2017. During the clashes, the museum suffered minor damage to the outside.

For previous reports on damage to the Mosul Museum please see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0034** in **Weekly Report 30**; **IHI 15-0034 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 31**; and **IHI 15-0034 UPDATE** in **March 2017 Monthly Report**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Mosul Museum, as well as the condition of other museums located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Personal Facebook Account



New damage to the outside of the Mosul Museum (Personal Facebook Account; June 15, 2017)



Slight damage to the exterior of the museum, it unknown if this damage is related to recent attack (Personal Facebook Account; June 15, 2017)



Damage to the side of the Mosul Museum, the large hole visible in the wall is due to previous damage (Personal Facebook Account; June 15, 2017)



Detail of large hole in side of Mosul Museum (Personal Facebook Account; June 14, 2017)

IHI 17-0043

Report Date: June 20, 2017

Site Name: Behesht Mosque (مسجد بهشت)

Date of Incident: June 16, 2017

Location: Bahasht Neighborhood, Sulaymaniya, As Sulaymaniya Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Neighborhood Mosque

Site Date: Constructed between 2007 and 2009 CE.

Incident Summary: Explosion occurred inside of a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 16, 2017 a security analyst posted that two explosive devices were detonated inside the Behesht Mosque in Sulaymaniyah. Five people were injured in the attack. The head of a Salafi sect was in the mosque at the time. He has claimed that ISIL tried to kill him because he would not join them.¹⁵¹ It is unknown who was behind the attack, as the perpetrators reportedly fled the scene.¹⁵² At the time of publication, no one has claimed responsibility. The photographs of the interior of the mosque show slight damage, with missing windows and shattered glass. No photographs of the exterior of the mosque were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Behesht Mosque, and monitor media for photographs of its condition, as well as the condition of other religious sites in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Kuwait News Agency: <http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2619591&Language=en>

Private Twitter Account

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/arabic/kurdistan/160620178>

al-Sumaria TV: <http://www.alsumaria.tv/mobile/news/207190/امام-مسجد-بهشت-بالسليمانية-داesh-هددني-واتهمني-بمنع-ar>

Iraq from the heart of the event (العراقية من قلب الحدث):

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1693961760635934&id=1028313453867438

¹⁵¹ <http://www.alsumaria.tv/mobile/news/207190/امام-مسجد-بهشت-بالسليمانية-داesh-هددني-واتهمني-بمنع-ar>

¹⁵² <http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2619591&Language=en>



Damage to the interior of the mosque (Rudaw; June 16, 2017)



Damage to the interior of the mosque (العراقية من قلب الحدث; June 16, 2017)

IHI 17-0044

Report Date: June 23, 2017

Site Name: al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (مسجد الامام محسن)

Date of Incident: June 21, 2017

Location: az-Zanjili Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The mosque was originally named Madrasa al-Nuriyya after Nur al-Din Arslan Shah ibn 'Izz al-Din Mas'ud (d. 1210), Turkic atabeg of Aleppo and Mosul. It became known as Madrasa al-Imam Muhsin during the reign of Badr al-Din Lu'lu'. In 1959 CE the mosque was enlarged with a new building, and a minaret was added. The mosque is next to the shrine dedicated to Nur al-Din.

Site Date: 13th-century CE, enlarged 1959 CE

Incident Summary: Newly released video shows the condition of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 21, 2017, al-Mosuliya released a video filmed from al-Imam Mushin Mosque, showing the neighborhood after it was recaptured from ISIL.¹⁵³ This video briefly shows the ruins of Bash Tapia, the remains of Yahya Abu al-Qasim Shrine, the Department of Health, and St. Mary's Church (the Chaldean Diocese). The main focus of the video is the remains of the mosque. In 2014, ISIL deliberately destroyed the associated Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin and adjacent cemetery. This video shows the two minarets and the dome of the mosque standing, albeit damaged. This damage is mainly apparent in larger holes in the minarets and damage to the dome of the mosque.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other mosques that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0048**.

For previous damage to the Shrine of Imam al-Muhsin see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0054** in **Weekly Report 39**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; Site management: tourism/visitor activities.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the al-Imam Mushin Mosque as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnqIJ_Smb5A

Vice News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01t9w_MX9AY

¹⁵³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnqIJ_Smb5A

Scholarly:

Hamm, G., K. Dabrowska, T. Townsend-Greaves. 2015. Iraq: The ancient sites and Iraqi Kurdistan. Bucks: Bradt. p. 215



Video still of the two minarets and dome of al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (al-Mosuliya; June 21, 2017)



Video still of one of the minarets with the bell tower of St. Mary's Church in background (al-Mosuliya; June 21, 2017)



Video still of the other minaret and al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (al-Mosuliya; June 21, 2017)



Top of minaret of al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (Vice News; June 30, 2017)



Minaret and Mosque of al-Imam Muhsin (Vice News; June 30, 2017)



Damage to al-Imam Muhsin Mosque and Minarets (Vice News; June 30, 2017)



Damage to interior of al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (Vice News; June 30, 2017)



Damage to exterior of al-Imam Muhsin Mosque (Vice News; June 30, 2017)

IHI 17-0045

Report Date: June 22, 2017

Site Name: al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (جامع النوري الكبير); al-Hadba Minaret (منذنة الهضبة)

Date of Incident: June 21, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Great Mosque of al-Nuri and al-Hadba Minaret were constructed under the patronage of Nur al-Din, the second ruler of the Zengid dynasty. Nur al-Din ordered the foundation of a congregational mosque to be built in what is now the Old City neighborhood of Mosul. He appointed Shaykh ‘Umar al-Maila as a supervisor, and the mosque was constructed between 1170 and 1172 CE. This mosque was the largest Sunni mosque in Mosul.¹⁵⁴

Ernest Herzfeld and Friedrich Sarre visited the mosque in 1910 and described its plan as a conglomeration of various episodes of building.¹⁵⁵ The original plan of the mosque is said to have resembled the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and the Great Mosque of Raqqa. The original building had an area of 75 x 20 meters, octagonal columns with inscribed capitals, and a large dome over the mihrab.¹⁵⁶ The dome was a mixture of 12th and 13th century CE Syrian and Jaziran mosques, with the hemispherical outside, as well as a ribbed interior from northern Iraqi traditions.¹⁵⁷ The mosque was renovated in 1511 by the Safavids, and in 1864, was dismantled and reconstructed. This reconstruction included some original material, as well as material from other mosques and churches in Mosul. The mihrab is dated to 1148, during the rule of Sayf al-Din Ghazi I, and is said to have been originally part of the Umayyad Mosque of Mosul.¹⁵⁸ Rounded bundled columns were also added to the design, apparent in the Christian churches of Mosul, but not known in the Islamic architecture of the region. It is hypothesized that these were salvaged from ruined or destroyed Christian churches and added to the mosque in 1864.¹⁵⁹ In 1942, the mosque was once again dismantled and reassembled by a restoration program undertaken by the Iraqi government. This reconstruction followed a different plan from the previous mosque.¹⁶⁰

The al-Hadba’ minaret was constructed at the same time as the original mosque. At the time of the completion in 1172 CE, the minaret was 150 meters high, with seven ornamental bands of brickwork at different levels around its cylindrical shaft.¹⁶¹ It had a cubical base, and ended with a cupola over a bracketed balcony. Its freestanding location on the northern part of the complex, height, and decoration all show ties with Seljuk minarets.¹⁶² Ibn Battuta visited Mosul in the 14th century CE, and the minaret had already begun to lean, giving it its name, “the hunchback”. The cause of the lean is disputed; local officials attribute it to the effects of thermal expansion of the

¹⁵⁴ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁵⁵ Herzfeld, E. and F. Sarre. 1911

¹⁵⁶ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁵⁷ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁵⁸ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁵⁹ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁶⁰ al-Daywaji, S. 1949

¹⁶¹ Tabbaa, Y. 2002

¹⁶² Tabbaa, Y. 2002

brick on the sun-facing side.¹⁶³ This minaret had not been renovated or reconstructed, and remained in its original form since 1172.

Site Date: Constructed 1170–1172 CE. Mosque reconstructed 1511, 1864, 1940.

Incident Summary: ISIL intentional destruction of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 21, 2017 at approximately 9:46am EST (4:46pm Mosul Time) the Iraqi Military announced that they were tightening their control in al-Sa'a area and were tens of meters from the mosque.¹⁶⁴ Local sources reported clashes taking place between ISIL and Iraqi forces near the mosque — "Our forces were advancing toward their targets deep in the Old City and when they got to within 50 metres of the Nuri mosque, Daesh (ISIL) committed another historical crime by blowing up the Nuri mosque," Staff Lieutenant General Abdulamir Yarallah, the overall commander of the Mosul offensive, said in a statement on Wednesday.¹⁶⁵ Yarallah, head of operations, added that the detonation occurred when Iraqi forces were 50 meters from al-Nuri Mosque.¹⁶⁶

The Iraqi Military immediately blamed ISIL for the destruction. ISIL quickly released a statement on its Amaq News Agency, blaming airstrikes for the destruction of the mosque, and urging its followers to carry out retaliatory attacks. Both the US military and the Iraqi Military denied the allegation, stating they had no aircraft in the area at the time of the explosion. The US military stated, "The responsibility of this devastation is laid firmly at the doorstep of ISIS, and we continue to support our Iraqi partners as they bring these terrorists to justice. However, the battle for the liberation of Mosul is not yet complete, and we remain focused on supporting the ISF with that objective in mind."¹⁶⁷

Video footage from the Iraqi military shows the demolition of the mosque.¹⁶⁸ "Col. Ryan Dillon, an American military spokesman in Baghdad, said that the coalition had confirmed, through drone surveillance footage, that the mosque had been destroyed."¹⁶⁹ "As our Iraqi Security Force partners closed in on the al-Nuri mosque, ISIS destroyed one of Mosul and Iraq's great treasures," Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, the American commander for the operation, said in the statement.¹⁷⁰ ASOR CHI in-country sources confirmed the mosque's destruction. Video footage released by Alsumeria on June 21, 2017 shows the destruction of the minaret.¹⁷¹

Abdul-Ghani al-Assadi, commander of the army's elite Counter-Terrorism Service, stated the mosque and minaret had already been prepared for detonation once the group reached "total

¹⁶³ <https://www.wmf.org/project/al-hadba%E2%80%99-minaret>

¹⁶⁴ https://twitter.com/ArmY_Iq/status/877520634498105344

¹⁶⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/iconic-grand-al-nuri-mosque-iraq-mosul-blown-170621193402284.html> ; <https://www.facebook.com/IraqiSMCEn/posts/778600628975118>

¹⁶⁶ <http://www.france24.com/ar/20170621-التيار-يحيي-جامع-النوري-التاريخي> ; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/06/21/islamic-state-blows-landmark-great-mosque-al-nuri-famous-leaning/>

¹⁶⁷ <http://aranews.net/2017/06/isis-jihadists-destroy-historic-mosque-mosul/>

¹⁶⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/videos/1494085677280576/> ; <https://twitter.com/mosulplus/status/877637882617266176>

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/21/world/middleeast/mosul-nuri-mosque-isis.html>

¹⁷⁰ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/21/world/middleeast/mosul-nuri-mosque-isis.html>

¹⁷¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-iP5UogHeA>

bankruptcy.”¹⁷² Iraqi officials had hoped to reclaim the mosque before Eid al-Fitr, but it was destroyed on Laylat al-Qadr, the holiest night in Islam. ISIL had previously tried to demolish the mosque and minaret in 2014, but were stopped when residents formed a human chain around the structures. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi stated, that “[The destruction of the mosque is] an official declaration of defeat.”¹⁷³ The recapture of Mosul from ISIL would effectively end the caliphate in Iraq. Hosham Dawod, an anthropologist and researcher at CNRS states, “by destroying this mosque, Daech [ISIL] deprives its opponents of a material, military, and symbolic victory. But above all, the jihadists signify that the caliphate can exist without having its own territory.”¹⁷⁴

On June 22, 2017 shelling in the area of the mosque and minaret was reported.¹⁷⁵ VOA reported that the site was still under protection by ISIL sniper fire, keeping Iraqi forces from reaching it.¹⁷⁶ On June 29, 2017 the mosque was recaptured by ISF.¹⁷⁷ A group from Reuters visited the site on June 30th and reported on the destruction.¹⁷⁸ Only the base of the minaret and the dome over the prayer hall are standing; the pulpit from which al-Baghdadi spoke lies in ruins. The grounds are covered in stone and concrete, and a segment of a secondary minaret is discernable. At this time there was still intense fighting around the area. A few sources are starting to discuss what it would take to rebuild the al-Hadba Minaret.¹⁷⁹ Most sources agree that the first step is to collect the intact bricks that may be laying around the destruction site, and preserve them until a time there is funding, and Mosul is stable enough to support the reconstruction effort.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from June 22, 2017 shows pieces of the minaret on the ground and debris spread in a wide area around it. Only the large dome of the main mosque still appears to be standing while the rest of the building has collapsed with the debris blocking the street to the south.

Nearby fighting in the operations to recapture Mosul had already caused some damage to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque. For previous reports on damage to the Great Mosque of al-Nuri see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0023** in **Monthly Report 137–140**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0025** in **Monthly Report 141–144**.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque and al-Hadba Minaret, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing military activity and intentional destruction.

¹⁷² <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-commander-says-mosuls-minaret-booby-trapped-explosion>

¹⁷³ <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/06/21/ISIS-blows-up-landmark-Grand-al-Nuri-Mosque-in-Mosul.html>

¹⁷⁴ <http://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Moyen-Orient/Explosion-mosquee-Al-Nouri-detruit-lhistoire-Mossoul-2017-06-22-1200857271>

¹⁷⁵ <https://twitter.com/FerasKilaniBBC/status/877866937304219648>

¹⁷⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zr11VO0dAY4>

¹⁷⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19K0YZ> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/iraqi-forces-recapture-iconic-mosul-mosque-now-little-more-than-rubble/2017/06/29/a12a112c-5cb1-11e7-9fc6-c7ef4bc58d13_story.html

¹⁷⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosque-idUSKBN19M3IB>

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Moyen-Orient/Explosion-mosquee-Al-Nouri-detruit-lhistoire-Mossoul-2017-06-22-1200857271>, <https://www.buzzfeed.com/claudiakoerner/isis-destroyed-an-845-year-old-mosque-in-mosul>, <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/centrepiece-of-mosuls-heritage-grand-mosque-was-an-obvious-target-4717624/>

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June 29, 2017: https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/29/world/middleeast/iraq-recaptures-al-nuri-mosque-in-mosul-from-isis-but-only-rubble-remains.html?_r=0

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Damage to the al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Iraqi Spring Media; June 21, 2017)



The dome of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Ruptly TV; June 26, 2017)



Detail of damage to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Ahmed Mousa; June 29, 2017)



Destruction to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (BBC; June 29, 2017)



Dome of al-Nuri al-Kabir among rubble of surrounding neighborhood (Reuters/Aala al-Marjani; July 1, 2017)



Destruction of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Damage to dome of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Destruction to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Destruction to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque and al-Hadba Minaret (Al Mousliya; June 30, 2017)



Destruction of al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Detail of damage to main gate of complex (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Iraqi forces outside the main gate of the mosque complex, with dome of al-Nuri in background (Reuters/Aala al-Marjani; July 1, 2017)



Video still of the base of al-Hadba (AlSumeria; June 22, 2017)



Video still of the base of al-Hadba (AlSumeria; June 22, 2017)



The base of al-Hadba (Reuters/Aala al-Marjani; July 1, 2017)



The base of al-Hadba from surrounding neighborhood (Reuters/Aala al-Marjani; July 1, 2017)



Detail of damage to al-Hadba Minaret (BBC; June 22, 2017)



Damage to the al-Hadba minaret showing parts of a secondary minarets on the ground (Al Mosuliya; June 30, 2017)



Damage to al-Nuri al-Kabir Mosque, al-Hadba Minaret, and surrounding area (NYT; June 29, 2017)



Video still showing al-Hadba Minaret hours before its destruction (BBC; June 22, 2017)



al-Hadba Minaret, including some possible damage to the top of the minaret, hours before its destruction (Feras Kilani; June 22, 2017)



The Great Mosque prior to destruction (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 19, 2017)



Mosque and Minaret after destruction with the dome still standing (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0046

Report Date: June 26, 2017

Site Name: Church of Sham'oon al-Safa (Church of Simon Peter)

Date of Incident: June 23, 2017

Location: Mayasa Neighbrohood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: According to Hamm, G., K. Dabrowska, and T. Townsend-Greaves:

"The oldest Chaldean Church in Mosul is the Church of Simon Peter (Shamoon al-Safa), and is located about 300m south of Mar Toma Church. It was built in the 13th century and named after Shamoon al Safa or St. Peter (Mar Petros in Assyrian Aramaic). It began life as the church of St. Peter and St. Paul and was home to the nuns of the Order of the Sacred Hearts. Under the vault is a beautiful inscription in Syriac. Built in a combination of brick and marble, its architecture is typically massive and the church remains cool inside even on the hottest day."¹⁸⁰

Site Date: 13th century

Incident Summary: Newly released video footage shows damage to church.

Incident Source and Description: On June 23, 2017 Iraqi forces liberated the region surrounding the Church of Sham'oon al-Safa. On June 24, 2017 This is Christian Iraq posted video footage of the liberation of the church. The two courtyards shown are full of rubble and there is possible graffiti on one of the walls. Reuters reported that the cross had been removed from the dome of the church.¹⁸¹ According to Iraqi News, the church was used as a storage space by ISIL, beginning in 2015, for items looted from homes around the city.¹⁸² At the time of publication, ASOR CHI was unable to verify when the damage to the church occurred, or who damaged the church. It is also not known if this damage is related to one incident or many.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other Christian sites that were recently liberated in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0047; IHI 17-0049; IHI 17-0050.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Church of Sham'oon al-Safa, as well as the condition of other religious sites in regions that have been recently liberated.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

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<https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/videos/1881242425457584/>

¹⁸⁰ Hamm, G., K. Dabrowska, T. Townsend-Greaves. 2015. p. 215

¹⁸¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN1911LQ>

¹⁸² <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-forces-recapture-another-mosque-church-mosul>

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Video still of rubble in entrance courtyard of the Church of Sham'oon al-Safa (Harakat Tahrir Taleafur; June 24, 2017)



Video still of rubble in main courtyard of the Church of Sham'oon al-Safa (Harakat Tahrir Taleafur; June 24, 2017)



Damage to the outside of the Church of Sham'oon al-Safa (REUTERS/Ahmed Jadallah; June 28, 2017)

IHI 17-0047

Report Date: June 26, 2017

Site Name: Mar Thomas (Mar Thomas Syrian Orthodox Church)

Date of Incident: June 23, 2017

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

Site Description: The Mar Thomas complex includes the Syrian Archdiocese, a cemetery, and a museum.

According to G. Hamm, K. Dabrowska, and T. Townsend-Greaves:

"Mar Toma is one of the oldest historical churches in Mosul and thought to be the oldest still in use today. The church is named after St. Thomas the Apostle who preached the gospel in the east. It is believed to be built over the site of the house occupied by the Apostle during his visit to Mosul, about 100m to the west of the corner of al-Shaziani and Nineveh streets. The three altars are its most interesting feature. The exact time of its foundation is unknown but it can be assumed it pre-dates 770 since al-Mahdi, the Abbasid caliph is mentioned as listening to a grievance concerning the church on his trip to Mosul in that year. Its present structure suggests a 13th century style."¹⁸³

According to Archnet.org:

"According to a description of the church provided by Claudius James Rich, who visited Mar Toma on his travels through the Kurdish regions of Iraq in the 1830s, the church was constructed along a three-part plan, comprised of the church's center and two aisles, demarcated by heavy pointed arches and large octagonal piers. The church sanctuary held three painted and canopied altars, and was accessible through a grand marble portal, depicting Christ and the twelve apostles in intricately carved medallions, and surrounded by curling scrolls. Rich also noted a carved stone niche at the forward most end of one of the aisles, which he described as an object of local veneration for its connections to Christian antiquity. Among the carved ornamentation surrounding the niche, he noted bands of Arabic inscription in a variation of Kufic script. These inscriptions, as well as the synthesis of diverse cultural and religious influences in the site's visual vocabulary has led to its comparison with the Muslim shrine of Imam Yahya, built by Sultan Badr al-Din Lu'lu in the thirteenth century."¹⁸⁴

Site Date: 8th century CE; renovated 13th century; renovated and additions built 1965.

Incident Summary: Newly published video shows damage to church.

Incident Source and Description: On June 23, 2017, Iraqi Day published video footage showing damage to Mar Thomas. Iraqi forces recaptured the neighborhood surrounding the church and reported that the church was "completely destroyed" by ISIL.¹⁸⁵ This is Christian Iraq published a video from al-Mosuliya, dated to the same day, that also shows the buildings and cemetery included in the Mar Thomas complex. The majority of the walls of the complex are still standing, but courtyards and interiors of the buildings are full of rubble. The dome of Mar Thomas and the Syrian Archdiocese are also still intact. Some of the roofs have been destroyed, probably by airstrikes. ASOR CHI was unable to verify when this damaged occurred, and if it occurred at the same time or

¹⁸³ Hamm, G., K. Dabrowska, T. Townsend-Greaves. 2015. p. 237.

¹⁸⁴ <https://archnet.org/sites/15599>

¹⁸⁵ https://twitter.com/iraqi_day/status/878323080568766464

over the course of the war. It is also unknown, at this point, if damage was due to deliberate destruction by ISIL.

On July 1, 2017 L'Orient Le Jour published an article with a detailed description of the church. The courtyard is full of stones and garbage, but the columns of the sanctuary are intact. Faces of St. Thomas and Christ on bas reliefs have been chiseled off. A bombing pierced the vault of the nave, benches were burned, and the altar is crumbling. ISIL painted black circles on the columns, possibly marking where explosives would be placed. ISIL fighters also covered the walls in graffiti of flags from around the world.¹⁸⁶

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other Christian sites that were recently liberated in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0046; IHI 17-0049; IHI 17-0050.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Mar Thomas, as well as the condition of other religious sites in regions that have been recently liberated.

Sources:

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¹⁸⁶ <https://www.lorientlejour.com/article/1060064/leglise-saint-thomas-la-miraculee-de-mossoul.html>



Video still of the outside of Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of the dome of Mar Thomas, showing the missing cross (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of the interior of Mar Thomas, showing rubble (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of part of cemetery at Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of part of cemetery and archdiocese building (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of part of Mar Thomas Church, showing major damage to a building (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of part of the 13th century renovations of Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of part of 1960s renovations of Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of interior of Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of damage to inside of courtyard (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of an explosion striking near Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



Video still of the cemetery courtyard of Mar Thomas (al-Mosuliya; June 23, 2017)



The interior of Mar Thomas showing damaged altar, ceiling pieces on the floor, and black dots painted on columns (L'Orient Le Jour/Elizabeth Fitt; July 1, 2017)



An interior wall of Mar Thomas showing ISIL graffiti (L'Orient Le Jour/Elizabeth Fitt; July 1, 2017)



A page of a pamphlet from St. Ephrem Convent in Charfet, Lebanon found in Mar Thomas (L'Orient Le Jour/Elizabeth Fitt; July 1, 2017)

IHI 17-0048

Report Date: June 27, 2017

Site Name: al-Zewani Mosque (جامع الزيواني)

Date of Incident: June 27, 2017

Location: Bab al-Beid Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Built on top of an earlier mosque in 1779 CE by Suleiman Pasha al-Jalaili.

Site Date: 1779 CE

Incident Summary: Newly released photographs show condition of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 27, 2017 Iraqi Day published new photographs of the al-Zewani Mosque.¹⁸⁷ Iraqi Federal Police recently captured the area around the mosque, and secured the building. al-Masdar News states the building is in good condition.¹⁸⁸ Reuters claims the minaret of the mosque had been partially damaged.¹⁸⁹ Photographs of the outside of the mosque show extensive damage from military conflict including shrapnel holes and possible fire damage. The top half of the minaret is missing.

See associated incident reports in this Monthly Report for other mosques that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0044**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

AP/WKYC:

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/nation-world/iraqi-forces-have-taken-mosuls-landmark-al-nuri-mosque-compound/452943448>

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<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-army-begins-big-offensive-mosul-defeat-isis-good-map-update/>

¹⁸⁷ https://mobile.twitter.com/iraqi_day/status/879625364280049664

¹⁸⁸ <https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/iraqi-army-begins-big-offensive-mosul-defeat-isis-good-map-update/>

¹⁸⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19J1LQ>

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Times of Israel:

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/iraqi-forces-announce-capture-of-landmark-hunchback-mosque-blown-up-by-is/>



Damage to al-Ziwani Mosque (AFP/Times of Israel; June 28, 2017)



Damage seen to al-Zewani Mosque (AP/WKYC; June 28, 2017)



Damage to al-Zewani Mosque (Telegraph; June 29, 2017).



Photograph of interior of al-Zewani Mosque (Iraqi Day; June 27, 2017)



Photograph of interior of al-Zewani Mosque (Iraqi Day; June 27, 2017)

IHI 17-0049

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: Meskanta Church

Date of Incident: June 29, 2017

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

Site Description: Chaldean Church

Site Date: Founded 10th century CE.

Incident Summary: Iraqi Security Forces liberate the church.

Incident Source and Description: On June 29, 2017 Iraqi Security Forces liberated the Meskanta Church.¹⁹⁰ This is Christian Iraq posted photographs of the building, showing severe damage.

On July 31, 2016 there was a report of damage to the building, but DigitalGlobe satellite imagery did not substantiate the report, as no damage was visible. ASOR CHI was unable to determine when the damage occurred to the church, who is responsible for the damage, or if it is related to only one incident.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian sites that were recently liberated in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0046; IHI 17-0047; IHI 17-0050.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Meskanta Church, as well as the condition of other religious sites in regions that have been recently liberated.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

This is Christian Iraq: <https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/posts/1883349548580205>

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/ThisIsChristianIraq/posts/1883349548580205>



Condition of church in 2013 (This is Christian Iraq; June 29, 2017)



Condition of church today: bell tower still standing, rest of church missing walls (This is Christian Iraq; June 29, 2017)



Condition of church today: bell tower still standing, rest of church missing walls (This is Christian Iraq; June 29, 2017)

IHI 17-0050

Report Date: June 30, 2017

Site Name: Church of the Virgin Mary

Date of Incident: Unknown

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

Site Description: Chaldaean Church containing the archdiocese.

Site Date: 18th Century CE

Incident Summary: Newly released footage shows condition of church.

Incident Source and Description: On June 30, 2017 Vice News released a video showing the condition of the Church of the Virgin Mary Chaldeans.¹⁹¹ Iraqi Security Forces have liberated the area and are releasing new photographs and video. The church has been damaged, with the top of the bell tower missing, as well as severe structural damage to the church and outer buildings.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from June 22, 2017 shows severe damage in comparison to April 10, 2017 imagery. Almost the entire church has been destroyed, leaving only the northeastern part of it somewhat intact. Some of this damage likely occurred between April 4, 2017 and April 7, 2017, and again between April 10, 2017 and April 15, 2017.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian sites that were recently liberated in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0046; IHI 17-0047; IHI 17-0049.**

The Church of the Virgin Mary was first damaged between October 10, 2016 and October 16, 2016 when the dome collapsed. For previous reports of damage to the church, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0094** in **Weekly Report 55-56.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Church of the Virgin Mary Chaldeans, as well as the condition of other religious sites in regions that have been recently liberated.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Chaldeans Online: <http://www.chaldeansonline.org/church.html>

Vice News: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01t9w_MX9AY

¹⁹¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01t9w_MX9AY



Video still of church showing damage to bell tower and church (Vice News; July 30, 2017)



Video still of missing top of the bell tower of St. Mary's Church (Vice News; July 30, 2017)



Church and bell tower before damage (Chaldaeans Online, 2013)

	
Damage to the dome and courtyard due to nearby explosion (DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 10, 2017)	Further damage to front of church due to nearby explosion (DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 15, 2017)



Current state of the church. Note the nearby impact crater and further deterioration of the area (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 22, 2017)

Incident Reports: Libya

LHI 17-0005

Report Date: June 7, 2017

Site Name:

- Benghazi Courthouse Complex
- Al Ummah Bank
- Post Office
- Suq al-Rabea

Date of Incident: June 6, 2017

Location: Souq Al-Hout, Benghazi, Cyrenaica, Libya

Site Description: These prominent public buildings are adjacent to the seaside corniche road in the old city of Benghazi. The courthouse complex faces the so-called “Freedom Square” that was a central site of protest, conflict and celebration during the 2011 revolution. These buildings represent some of the most notable landmarks in the old city of Benghazi.

Site Date: The oldest portions of the Benghazi Courthouse Complex, Al Ummah Bank, and Suq al-Rabea date to the Italian colonial period (1911-1947). The Al Ummah Bank was founded as a branch of the Banco di Roma, and was renamed and nationalized shortly after Gaddafi took power in 1969. Additions to these buildings occurred during the Gaddafi era.

Incident Summary: Satellite imagery and news reports confirm damage to the historic core of Benghazi.

Incident Source and Description: The Libyan National Army (LNA) had expressed its intention to rid the Souq al Hout neighborhood of ‘Islamist’ militias, including elements aligned with the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, during the month of Ramadan in 2017. In preparation for this anticipated attack, militants appear to have demolished the Benghazi Courthouse Complex, al-Ummah Bank, the Post Office, and the Suq al-Rabea to make the adjacent streets less passable and make their entrenched positions more secure. Footage from a LNA drone reportedly shows militants active in the area just prior to the explosions and a still shot was published by the Libya Herald online newspaper.¹⁹²

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from June 10, 2017 shows the strategic demolition of portions of each of the buildings within the Souq al-Hout. The street facing sides of buildings were destroyed with debris falling into the street.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the historic core of Benghazi, as well as the condition of other historic sites in regions that are subject to ongoing military activity.

¹⁹² <https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/06/militants-blow-up-historic-suq-al-hout-buildings-to-block-lna-tanks/>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

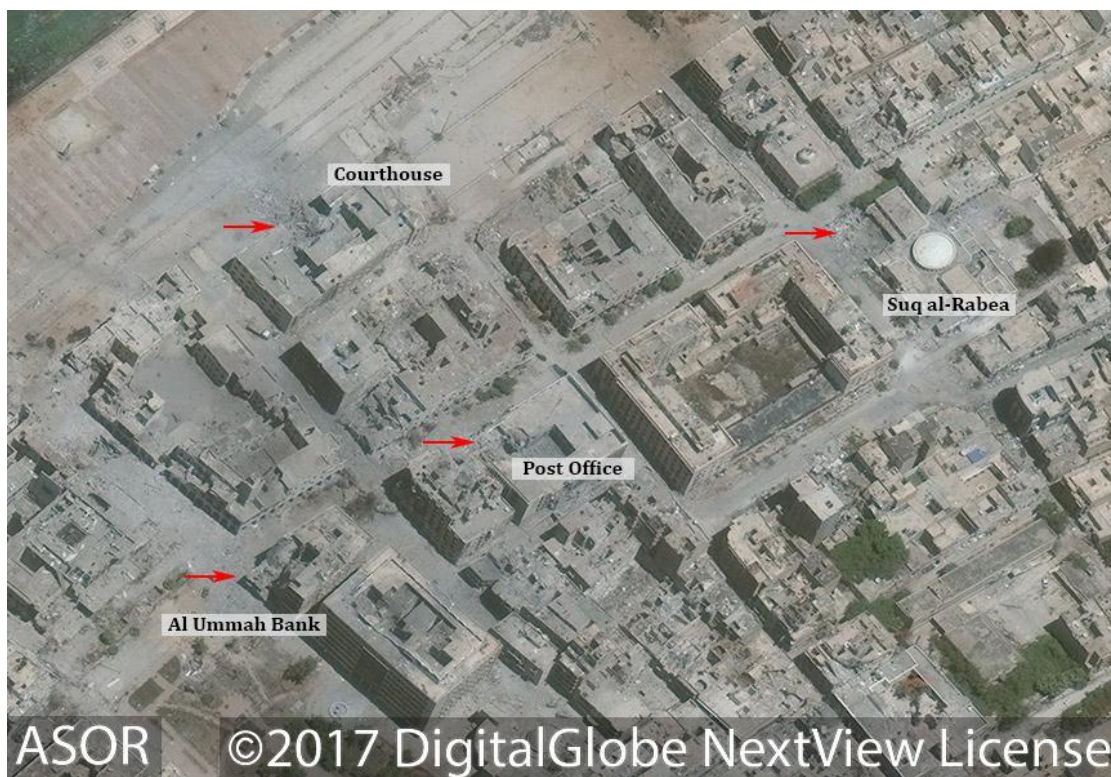
Libya Herald: <https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/06/06/militants-blow-up-historic-suq-al-hout-buildings-to-block-lna-tanks/>



Al Ummah bank on the right side of the street (Libya Herald; June 6, 2017)



Suq al Hout area prior to recent damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 28, 2017)



Strategic destruction of the buildings with debris falling onto the street side (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 10, 2017)



by Mohamed Ghazal

View of the courthouse prior to demolition (Panoramio/Mohamed Ghaza; November 4, 2011)



ساحة الحرية بنغازي by Hamza Mussa

Another view of the courthouse prior to demolition (Panoramio/Hamza Mussa; December 1, 2012)

LHI 17-0006

Report Date: June 20, 2017

Site Name: Hilltop fortification of Derna

Date of Incident: September 2015 - October 2015 and October 2016 - January 2017

Location: Derna, Cyrenaica, Libya

Site Description: Located on the first rise of hills 1.5km south of the Derna coastline, this is one of a series of hilltop fortifications used by ISIL forces during their occupation of the city of Derna (2014-16). These sites are just upslope of the so-called Mountain Road that leads to the eastern entrance of the city.

Site Date: This fortification was established by the Ottomans in the nineteenth century and reused during the Italian colonial period (1911-1947).

Incident Summary: Construction of earthworks and use of heavy machinery at a fortification.

Incident Source and Description: On May 27, 2017 al-Jazeera reported that an Egyptian Air Force strike had hit sites around Derna.¹⁹³ DigitalGlobe satellite imagery showed one of the strikes was on one of the Ottoman hilltop fortifications. An ASOR CHI in-country source, in Derna provided the coordinates of the fortification. However since the fortification is still in a contested zone, the aftermath of these strikes has not been verified on the ground by the Department of Antiquities. During the campaign to liberate Derna in 2015, this site was among the presumed targets of airstrikes by the Libyan National Army and the Egyptian Air Force, as the fortifications were being used by ISIL.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery also shows destruction to the fortification from construction and heavy machinery work began between September 25, 2015 and October 24, 2015. The earthworks began to be leveled between October 8, 2016 and January 30, 2017 leaving the site in its current condition.

Pattern: Military activity: earthworks/roadworks.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Derna, as well as the condition of other archaeological sites in regions that are subject to ongoing military activity.

Sources

Online

Al Jazeera:

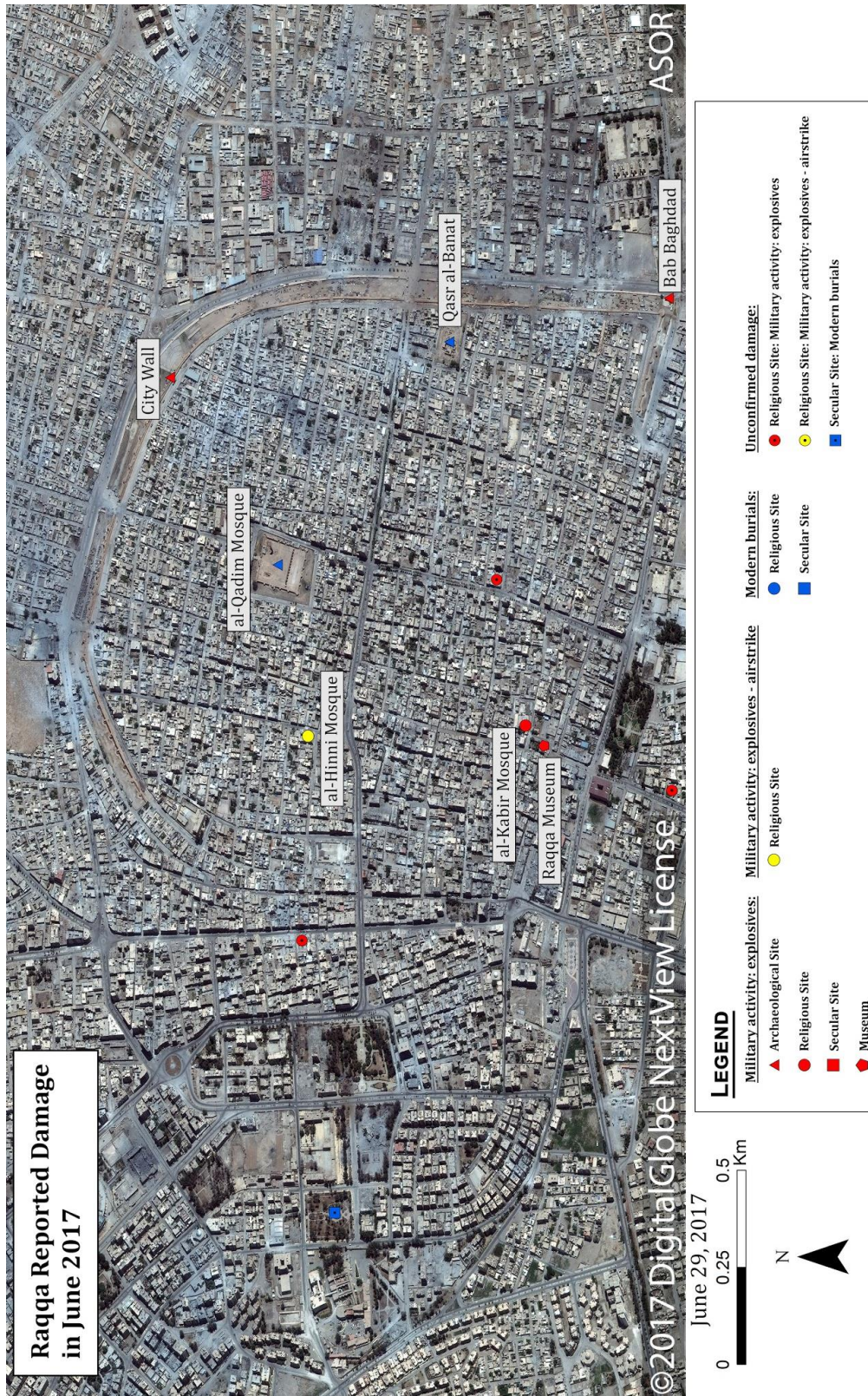
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/egypt-launches-strikes-libya-minya-attack-170526200625281.html>

¹⁹³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/egypt-launches-strikes-libya-minya-attack-170526200625281.html>

	
The fortress remains prior to damage. (DigitalGlobe NextView License; September 25, 2015)	Damage to the fortress by the construction of earthworks (DigitalGlobe NextView License; October 24, 2015)
	
Damage to the fortress by use of heavy machinery, possible leveling of earthworks (DigitalGlobe NextView License; October 8, 2016)	Damage to the fortress by heavy machinery, definite leveling of earthworks. (DigitalGlobe NextView License; January 31, 2017)

Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Analysis

The ongoing offensive against ISIL in Raqqa, Syria, has seen a rise in damage to the entire city. Within this report, there are 13 different incident reports of damage to heritage sites, primarily religious sites, though archaeological and secular sites have also been reportedly damaged. The main causes of damage are due to the military activity, primarily the use of explosives and airstrikes. All of the airstrikes were attributed to US-led Coalition Forces while the explosives were attributed to the Syrian Democratic Forces, Coalition Forces, or were unable to be attributed. Due to the intense fighting in the area, especially around the city walls, people reported being unable to reach local cemeteries, which has led to an uptick in modern burials within archaeological sites and local parks including the courtyard of al-Qadim Mosque. Based on the available DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, there is much more damage to other buildings in the city, especially outside the ancient city walls. This is clearly visible in the discoloration and charred areas in the imagery. As the conflict moves into the city walls in July, ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the damage being done to the city of Raqqa.



Reported damage to the Old City of Raqqa in June 2017 (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 29, 2017)

SNHR Vital Facilities Report:

On June 9, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) released its vital facility report for May 2017. According to SNHR, there were no less than 40 attacks against vital civilian facilities. The sites attacked include 12 mosques.¹⁹⁴

- On May 3, 2017 US-led coalition airstrikes damaged Hamada al-A'lowi Mosque in Hneida, Raqqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0077 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 3, 2017 a car bomb caused moderate damage to al-Maytam Mosque in A'zaz, Aleppo Governorate. The perpetrator is unknown.
- On May 6, 2017 US-led coalition airstrikes damaged al-Orwa al-Wothqa Mosque in Hneida, Raqqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0079 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 9, 2017 SARG forces fired a shell at Hothaifa bin al-Yaman Mosque in Douma, Rif Dimashq Governorate. The shelling damaged the mosque's minaret. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0082 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 16, 2017 SARG forces fired a rocket at al-Hamouriya Grand Mosque in Hamouriya, Rif Dimashq Governorate. The mosque building, its furniture, and its minaret were heavily damaged. The mosque was rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0084 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 17, 2017 SARG forces fired a number of rockets at Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque in al-Zaka, Hama Governorate. The mosque was destroyed almost completely and was rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0083 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 19, 2017 SARG or Russian forces fired missiles at Jarrah al-Kabir Mosque in Maskanah, Aleppo Governorate. The mosque was heavily damaged and rendered out of commission.
- On May 19, 2017 US-led coalition airstrikes destroyed a mosque in Bayyoud, Raqqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0085 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 25, 2017 Russian warplanes fired on a mosque in al-Tarn, Raqqqa Governorate, damaging it severely. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0091 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 27, 2017 US-led coalition airstrikes damaged al-Ulo Mosque in Haramiya, Raqqqa Governorate, damaging the building. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0087 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**
- On May 27, 2017 US-led coalition airstrikes damaged al-Nour Mosque in Raqqqa, Raqqqa Governorate.
- On May 28, 2017 SARG forces fired missiles near Othman ibn Affan Mosque in al-Qouriya, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque was slightly damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0092 in May Monthly Report (141-144).**

¹⁹⁴ http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack_on_civilian_vital_centers_in_May_2017_en.pdf

Heritage Timeline

June 30, 2017

Heritage for Peace published its bi-weekly report titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage - June 30, 2017.**”

<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-30-june-2017/>

- **DGAM** published a post titled “**Retrieve of 4 Palmerian funerary busts.**” Local authorities retrieved four Palmyrene funerary busts from a house in Tadmor and handed them over to the DGAM. The busts are thought to have been looted from the Southeast Necropolis.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2298>
- *Los Angeles Times* published an article titled “**Building by booby-trapped building, students work to reclaim Mosu University**” (by Marcus Yam). Student volunteers are helping to clean up the campus of Mosul University.
<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-iraq-mosul-university-20170630-htmlstory.html>
- *Lifegate* published an article titled “**Siria, la ricostruzione di Palmira sarà a opera dei rifugiati (Syria, the reconstruction of Palmyra will be by refugees).**” The World Monuments Fund and the Petra National Trust have been allocated \$500,000 to train Syrian refugees to aid in conserving and reconstructing damaged monuments in Palmyra.
<http://www.lifegate.it/persone/news/siria-ricostruzione-palmira-rifugiati>

June 29, 2017

Reuters published an article titled “**Iraq declares end of caliphate after capture of Mosul mosque**” (by By Khaled al-Ramahi and Maher Chmaytelli). Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the end of ISIL’s rule in Mosul following the capture by Iraqi troops of the site of the destroyed al-Nouri Mosque and al-Hadba Minaret.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19K0YZ>

- *UPI* published an article titled “**International community can help Syrians rebuild Syria**” (by Henry Hogger). The author argues that Western countries should assist in technical and professional training for Syrian refugees in order to help local community organizations cope with the daunting task of rebuilding their country. This training should include preparing Syrians for the reconstruction of historic sites and the preservation of Syria's outstanding archaeological heritage. They should also strengthen skills in architecture and urban planning.
http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Voices/2017/06/29/International-community-can-help-Syrians-rebuild-Syria/1481498744424/

June 28, 2017

Tehran Times published an article titled “**Iran event to address shielding cultural heritage against terrorism.**” The 2017 International Council of Museums Asia-Pacific Alliance Conference and General Assembly will be held in Chabahar, Iran in the fall, and will focus on ways to maximize protection of cultural heritage and museums against terrorism or in wartime.

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/414628/Iran-event-to-address-shielding-cultural-heritage-against-terrorism>

- *L'Espresso* published an article titled “**Quel filo rosso tra Palmira e Aquileia si chiama Mediterraneo (That red thread between Palmyra and Aquileia is called the Mediterranean).**” Italian diplomat Antonio Zanardi Landi discusses ancient ties between Italy and Syria.
http://espresso.repubblica.it/visioni/cultura/2017/06/26/news/in-memoria-di-khaled-1.305015?refresh_ce
- *Middle East Online* published an article titled “**Illicit antiquities trade threatening cultural heritage**” (by Stephen Quillen). The sale of looted antiquities from Iraq and Syria is discussed. ASOR CHI's Michael Danti is quoted.
<http://middle-east-online.com/english/?id=83691>
- *SNHR* published a post titled “**International Coalition forces shelling on al Hani Mosque in Raqqa city on June 27.**” Shelling severely damaged a mosque in Raqqa. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0121**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/28/international-coalition-forces-shelling-al-hani-mosque-raqqa-city-june-27/>

June 27, 2017

Al Wasat published an article titled “**صور: مصلحة الآثار تتسلم مقتنيات أثرية (Photos: Antiquities Authority receives antiquities collection at the Suq al-Hout in Benghazi).**” After more than two years, the Benghazi office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities has regained access to their storeroom in the Suq al-Hout neighborhood after the Libyan National Army reestablished control over the area.

<http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/145745/>

June 26, 2017

3DPrint.com published an article titled “**3D Printing to Preserve Heritage: Replica of Palmyra Arch Draws Millions of Visitors at Fourth Installation Stop in Arona, Italy**” (by Sarah Saunders). The Institute for Digital Archaeology 3D replica of the Triumphal Arch of Palmyra, destroyed by ISIL militants in 2015, recently made its fourth stop in the Italian city of Arona, where it will remain until July.

<https://3dprint.com/179081/palmyra-arch-in-italy/>

- **DGAM** published an article titled “**Participation of DGAM in the annual conference to combat crimes against art.**” The Director-General of the DGAM participated in the annual conference on crimes against art on June 24, 2017 in Amelia, Italy. The conference was held by the Association for Research into Crimes against Art (ARCA), an organization that supports and promotes studies and research on crimes against art and the protection of cultural heritage.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2296>
 - *Syria Deeply* published an article titled “**Scavenging for Books Beneath the Rubble in Daraa**” (by Arwa al-Basha). Locals in the town of Daraa are digging in the rubble searching for books in order to rebuild the newly founded Ajyal Public Library. So far 7,000 books from destroyed houses and libraries have been collected, most of which were saved from the Inkhil Cultural Center, which has been “devastated by years of war.”
<https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/articles/2017/06/26/scavenging-for-books-beneath-the-rubble-in-daraa>
 - *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Iraq outlines plans to rebuild country, inspire tolerance**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The Iraqi government has announced a \$100 billion, 10-year reconstruction plan for the country slated to begin in 2018.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/mosul-iraq-reconstruction-national-reconciliation.html#ixzz4lAGv9PK8>
- June 25, 2017 **SNHR** published a post titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled Harweil Mosque in al Ardi neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on June 24.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Deir ez-Zor. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0120**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/25/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-harweil-mosque-al-ardi-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-24/>
- June 24, 2017 *CNN* published an article titled “**Destruction of Mosul mosque desecrates history**” (by Kishwar Rizvi). The author discusses ISIL’s pattern of destroying symbolically rich religious sites in light of the recent destruction of the Great Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul by ISIL militants.
<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/06/24/opinions/destruction-mosul-mosque-opinion-rizvi/index.html>
- June 23, 2017 The **House Financial Services Committee** held a hearing titled “**The Exploitation of Cultural Property: Examining Illicit Activity in the Antiquities and Art Trade.**”
<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402005>

- *Architectural Digest* published an article titled “**Do We Need to Rebuild Historic Sites Ruined by Terrorism?**” (by John Gendall). World Monuments Fund Executive Vice President Lisa Ackerman is interviewed regarding current threats to heritage sites.
<http://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/do-we-need-to-rebuild-historic-sites-ruined-by-terrorism>
- *National Geographic* published an article titled “**Satellite Images Reveal Mosul's Cultural Destruction**” (by Kristin Romey). The article discusses the destruction of the Grand al-Nouri Mosque and al-Hadba Minaret by ISIL in Mosul and quotes ASOR CHI's Marina Gabriel and Michael Danti.
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/06/Mosul-ISIS-Islamic-State-Iraq-Nuri-Mosque-Hadba-Minaret/>
- *EconoTimes* published an article titled “**After years of destruction, Iraqis are rescuing their cultural identity**” (by Balsam Mustafa). The article discusses the recent destruction of the Great Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul by ISIL militants. The author argues that there must be more support for movements aiming to highlight the collective history and identity of the Iraqi people in the face of such destruction.
<http://www.econotimes.com/After-years-of-destruction-Iraqis-are-rescuing-their-cultural-identity-772794>
- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**French military funds technology to document heritage in conflict zones**” (by Emily Sharpe). The French start-up ICONEM scans imperiled heritage in several countries around the world, including Syria, where it works with local archaeologists to create digital databases of the country's heritage. It has teamed up with Syria's Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums to assess damaged sites and use 3D photogrammetry to create reconstructions of them. A new grant from the French Ministry of Defense will be used to widen access to this 3D data.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/conservation/french-military-funds-technology-to-document-heritage-in-conflict-zones/>

June 22, 2017

UNESCO published a statement titled “**The Director-General of UNESCO deplores the destruction of the Al Hadba Minaret and Al Nuree Mosque in Mosul.**”
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1675>

- *El Mundo* published an article titled “**Los restos del naufragio arqueológico de Siria llegan a Damasco tras seis años de guerra** (Syrian artifacts arrive in Damascus after six years of war).” The National Museum of Damascus is exhibiting around 100 artifacts recently recovered after having been looted from or damaged at sites like Palmyra and Mari.
<http://www.elmundo.es/cultura/2017/06/22/594b7d35268e3ecf268b4586.html>
- *Al Jazeera* published a video report titled “**What can be done to stop cultural genocide?**” Amr al-Azm and ASOR’s Michael Danti are interviewed to discuss the destruction of cultural heritage.
<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/insidestory/2017/06/stop-cultural-genocide-170622182812999.html>

June 21, 2017 Multiple news outlets published articles discussing the destruction of the Great Mosque of al-Nouri and al-Hadba Minaret in the Old City of Mosul by ISIL militants.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-40361857>

<http://time.com/4827417/islamic-state-isis-al-nuri-mosque-minaret-abu-bakr-baghdadi/>

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/210620171>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/iconic-grand-al-nuri-mosque-iraq-mosul-blown-170621193402284.html>

<https://www.wmf.org/blog/ignoble-end-mosul>

<http://www.la-croix.com/Monde/Moyen-Orient/Explosion-mosquee-Al-Nouri-detruit-lhistoire-Mossoul-2017-06-22-1200857271>

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/extremist-destruction-in-iraq-and-syria-8969658>
- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**Syrian refugees to be trained to rebuild Palmyra and other heritage sites**” (by Anny Shaw). The World Monuments Fund (WMF) is launching a £500,000 scheme to train Syrian refugees living in and around the Zaatari camp on the Jordanian border in traditional stone masonry. The aim is to develop skills so that cultural heritage sites that have been damaged or destroyed in the conflict can be rebuilt.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/news/syrian-refugees-to-be-trained-in-traditional-stone-masonry-to-rebuild-palmyra-and-other-heritage-sit/>

- **ZOWAA** published an article titled “ حصن الأخيضر في كربلاء.. معلمٌ أثري يعاني “ (Al-Ukhaidir Fort in Karbala: An archeological landmark suffering neglect from successive governments).” The Abbasid-era site of Ukhaidir in Karbala Governorate is in a state of poor preservation due to neglect.
http://zowaa.org/index.php?page=com_articles&id=7480#.WU1ukvrYVOX
 - *Al Mayadeen* published an article titled “ البعثة التنقيبية الالمانية تستأنف عملها في “ (German archaeological mission will resume work at ancient city in Muthanna province).” A team of German archaeologists from the German Archaeological Institute (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, DAI) will resume their work at the ancient site of Uruk.
<http://www.nrttv.com/AR/Details.aspx?Jimare=50467>
 - **DGAM** published an article titled “**The Archeological Site of Resafa was Liberated from ISIS Gangs.**” SARG forces retook the Roman site of Resafa in Raqqa Governorate from ISIL militants. The site sustained some damage but is largely intact.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2294>
 - *Deutsche Welle* published an article titled “**Two Palmyra artworks destroyed by IS restored for first time.**” The Italian Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (High Institute for Conservation and Restoration) has carefully reconstructed and restored two tomb figures from the Palmyra Museum. The group says it is the first time artworks destroyed by ISIL have been restored.
<http://www.dw.com/en/two-palmyra-artworks-destroyed-by-is-restored-for-first-time/a-39344347>
- June 20, 2017
- World Monuments Fund published an article titled “**Building Conservation Capacity in Syria and Jordan.**” The World Monuments Fund secured £536,000 from the British Council’s Cultural Protection Fund to train Syrian refugees in Jordan in heritage conservation skills.
<https://www.wmf.org/press-release/building-conservation-capacity-syria-and-jordan>
- June 19, 2017 *Al Hurra Iraq* published a video titled “ السفارة الاميركية “ (US Embassy finances maintenance of the gate of the Royal Court at Babylon).”
<https://www.facebook.com/alhurrairaqtv/videos/1416734858404628/>

- **ICONEM** published a post titled “**#AssessingPalmyra: 3D model of the Roman theatre, the second monument we reconstructed after the attacks in Palmyra.**” Working with DGAM representatives, ICONEM has created a 3D model of the Roman Theater of Palmyra, which was damaged by ISIL militants in 2016.
<http://iconem.tumblr.com/post/162005037654/assessingpalmyra-3d-model-of-the-roman-theatre>
 - The **Oriental Museum** at **Durham University** published an article titled “**Celebrating refugee heritage and culture.**” The Oriental Museum will present “a new display of Syrian and Near-Eastern objects, including jewellery, ceramics, and glassware. These objects have been interpreted by the local Syrian refugee community, and the display celebrates their unique viewpoints.”
<https://www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum/whatson/details/?id=34129>
- June 18, 2017
- Al-Monitor* published an article titled “**Pioneering program makes aerial survey of Iraqi antiquities**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The Iraqi government, in cooperation with UNESCO, has conducted a comprehensive aerial survey of archaeological sites in Ninawa Governorate, including Nimrud, Hatra, and the Mosul Museum, to prepare for their repair and maintenance.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2017/06/iraq-uses-aerial-survey-for-antiques.html>
- June 17, 2017
- The Irish Times* published an article titled “**Nimrud: Restoring a city destroyed by Islamic State**” (by Ruaidhrí Giblin). The UNESCO Office for Iraq is erecting a fence around Nimrud to protect it from looters and to facilitate the work of archaeologists and conservators. It is also producing aerial imagery of the site.
<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/world/middle-east/nimrud-restoring-a-city-destroyed-by-islamic-state-1.3121133>
- June 16, 2017
- SNHR** published a post titled “**Mosque targeted by motorbike-bomb near Abo Thar Mosque in Idlib city on June 16.**” An explosion damaged a mosque in Idlib.
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/16/mosque-targeted-motorbike-bomb-near-abo-mosque-idlib-city-june-16/>
- The **Federal Register** published a notice titled “**Notice of Receipt of Request From Libya Under Article 9 of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.**” Libya's request seeks U.S. import restrictions on archaeological and/or ethnological materials representing Libya's cultural patrimony from the prehistoric through Ottoman Era.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/06/16/2017-12503/notice-of-receipt-of-request-from-libya-under-article-9-of-the-1970-unesco-convention-on-the-means>

June 15, 2017

The Antiquities Coalition published an article titled “**A New Solution to Protection Against Illicit Antiquities Looting and Trafficking.**” The SmartWater Foundation hosted a briefing on June 13, 2017 called “Future-Proofing our History” that showcased their work to help protect Syria’s cultural heritage. SmartWater is an odorless, colorless liquid coded with a unique set of imprints that can be used to determine an artifact’s place of origin just by shining a special green light and reading the code.
<https://theantiquitiescoalition.org/blog-posts/future-proofing-our-history/>

June 14, 2017

Vice News published an article titled “**Locals in Iraqi town destroyed by ISIS stay to protect the ruins**” (by Billy Briggs). Residents of al-Hamdaniya patrol the area in order to protect the town—the largest Christian town in Iraq—from further destruction.
<https://news.vice.com/story/locals-in-iraqi-town-destroyed-by-isis-stay-to-protect-the-ruins>

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SNHR published a post titled “**Syrian Democratic Forces shelled al Kabir Mosque in al Mansour Street in Raqqa city on June 13.**” Shelling damaged a mosque in Raqqa. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0114**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/syrian-democratic-forces-shelled-al-kabir-mosque-al-mansour-street-raqqa-city-june-13/>

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SNHR published a post titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled al Shohada Mosque in al Hamediya neighborhood in Deir Ez-Zour city on June 13.**” A SARG airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Deir ez-Zor. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0113**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/14/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-shohada-mosque-al-hamediya-neighborhood-deir-ez-zour-city-june-13/>

June 13, 2017

Heritage for Peace published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage - 13 June 2017.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-13-june-2017/>

June 12, 2017

The New Yorker published an article titled “**Mosul’s Library Without Books**” (by Robin Wright). The journalist visits the Mosul University Library and describes the damage.
<http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/mosuls-library-without-books>

June 11, 2017

The Libya Observer published a radio program titled “**Libya rejects UNESCO’s decision to place five sites on endangered list**” (by Safa Alharathy). Libya’s General Tourism Authority criticized the decision to put five sites on the endangered world heritage list, stating they were placed on the list without any regulatory, legal, or logical actions. <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/culture/libya-rejects-unesco%E2%80%99s-decision-place-five-sites-endangered-list>

- SNHR published a post titled “**International Coalition forces shelled al Nour Mosque in al Dera’iya neighborhood in Raqqa city on June 10.**” A US-led coalition airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Raqqa. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0113**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-nour-mosque-al-deraiya-neighborhood-raqqa-city-june-10/>
- SNHR published a post titled “**International Coalition forces shelled on Abu Bakr al Siddiq Mosque in Mehamda village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on June 10.**” A US-led coalition airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Deir Ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0105**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/11/international-coalition-forces-shelled-abu-bakr-al-siddiq-mosque-mehaimda-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-10/>

June 10, 2017

BBC Radio 4 published a radio program titled “**Iraq and Syria part 2: Nimrud and Hatra.**” The program covers the destruction of Nimrud and Hatra, and talks to specialists in the field.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0557vmg>

- SNHR published a post titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled the western mosque in Jdeed Ekidat village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on June 9.**” A SARG airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0103**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/10/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-western-mosque-jdeed-ekidat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-9/>
- *Geographical* published an article titled “**Culture Shock: the war over heritage**” (by Chris Fitch). The conflict in Syria has focused international attention on the destruction of cultural heritage as a war crime.
<http://geographical.co.uk/people/cultures/item/2250-culture-shock>
- *BBC* published an article titled “**Return to Aleppo: The story of my home during the war**” (by Maryam Maruf and Kanishk Tharoor). An old house in Aleppo was used as a hospital during the fighting.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-40194794>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0557f8l>

June 9, 2017

Syrian Network for Human Rights published its vital facilities report for the month of May 2017, titled “**No less than 40 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in May 2017.**”

http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack_on_civilian_vital_centers_in_May_2017_en.pdf

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APSA 2011 published an article titled “**Deraa: Bombing the al-Omari Mosque 09/06/2017.**” APSA reports on damage caused to al-Omari Mosque in Daraa as a result of SARG bombing. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0102**

<http://apsa2011.com/apsanew/al-omari-m090/>

June 8, 2017

History in the Headlines published an article titled “**There’s Now a Database of Cultural Sites in Danger. It has 20,000 Entries**” (by Sarah Pruitt). A team of British researchers recently launched the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) Database, an online resource that assesses the current condition of heritage sites and details threats to their survival.

<http://www.history.com/news/theres-now-a-database-of-cultural-sites-in-danger-it-has-20000-entries>

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Frankfurter Allgemeine published an article titled “**Kulturerbe in Mossul. Die Schätze unter Jonas zerstörtem Grab** (Cultural heritage in Mosul - Treasures under Jonah’s destroyed grave)” (by Joseph Croitoru). This article discusses the destruction of cultural heritage in Mosul, as well as efforts by the British Museum and the group Monuments of Mosul in Danger to catalogue the destruction and digitize monuments and artifacts.

<http://www.faz.net/aktuell/feuilleton/irak-krieg-kulturerbe-in-mossul-wird-unter-is-zerstoert-15049561.html>

June 7, 2017

Reuters published an article titled “**U.S. says Syria Bombing was Legal; Rights Group Disputes Findings.**” The destruction of the Omar ibn al-Khatib Mosque in al-Jeineh, Syria on March 16th is still being disputed as the US claims the hit was a valid and legal attack on al-Qaeda fighters.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-investigation-idUSKBN18Y2DD>

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SNHR published a post titled “**International Coalition forces shelled al Hussein Bin Ali Mosque in Raqqa city on June 6.**” A US-led coalition airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Raqqa. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery did not substantiate the report.

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/07/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-hussein-bin-ali-mosque-raqqa-city-june-6/>

- Washington Post* published an article titled “**US Sculptor focuses London Exhibit on Iraq, Syria Conflicts**” (by Tracy Brown). Michael Rakowitz creates replicas of lost artifacts from Iraq and Syria out of reused material.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/museums/us-sculptor-focuses-london-exhibit-on-iraq-syria-conflicts/2017/06/07/8aa6575e-4b94-11e7-987c-42ab5745db2e_story.html
 - The Syria Times* published an article titled “**1.5 million Euros Allocated to Help Rehabilitate Syrian Antiquities, Says Czech Museum Director**” (by Basma Qaddour). Director of the National Museum in Prague Michal Lukeš has declared that 1.5 million Euros have been allocated to rehabilitate Palmyrene antiquities and damaged monuments in Aleppo.
<http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/archaeology/31059-1-5-million-euros-allocated-to-help-rehabilitate-syrian-antiquities-says-czech-museum-director>
 - UConn Today* published an article titled “**Ancient Grains Reveal Roots of Early Social Inequality**” (by Loretta Waldman & Chris McIntyre). An international team that includes researchers from the University of Connecticut and the University of Oxford reconstructed the conditions under which ancient crops grew, building up a picture of how farming practice changed over time, using samples from Tell Leilan and Tell Zeidan in Syria.
<http://today.uconn.edu/2017/06/ancient-grains-reveal-roots-early-social-inequality/>
 - The Economist* published an article titled “**The art born of destruction.**” The article discusses how artists have explored the annihilation of cultural heritage or human life.
<http://www.economist.com/blogs/prospero/2017/06/ex-nihilo>
- June 6, 2017
- ICONEM** published an article titled “**#AssessingPalmyra: evaluate destructions with the aid of new technologies to save an important World Heritage Site.**” ICONEM is studying photographs of Palmyra, taken from the ground and the air in order to identify fragile structures, quantify the destruction of monuments, and map looting in order to inform policy decisions in the future.
<http://iconem.tumblr.com/post/161509948519/assessingpalmyra-evaluate-destructions-with-the>

- Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies** published an article titled “**Yale Excavation in Syria Continues to Reveal Secrets of World’s Earliest Cities**” (by Kevin Dennehy). A team of researchers applied new technologies to plant-based remains collected at Tell Leilan and other sites to show how agricultural practices in northern Mesopotamia were adapted to feed growing urban centers.
<https://environment.yale.edu/news/article/ancient-city-in-syria-continues-to-reveal-its-secrets/>
 - The Harvard Gazette* published an article titled “**A record of ruins, before the war**” (by Jill Radsken). Imaging Services at Harvard Library have digitized over 9,000 photographs taken by Prof. Frank Kidner of San Francisco State University. Kidner documented the architecture, topography, and the monuments of the Dead Cities region over Syria. Dumbarton Oaks will begin cataloging the photographs this summer.
<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/06/photographers-gift-shows-syria-as-it-was/>
 - Eurasia Review* published an article titled “**Shared Cultural Heritage In Aleppo Urgently Requires Protection And Restoration – OpEd**” (by Franklin Lamb). The author discusses the danger faced by cultural sites in Aleppo and the challenges faced by the DGAM in attempting to rebuild and restore the sites.
<http://www.eurasiareview.com/06062017-shared-cultural-heritage-in-aleppo-urgently-requires-protection-and-restoration-oped/>
 - UNESCO** has released a report titled “**State of conservation of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**” This list includes Ashur, Hatra, and Samarra in Iraq, Cyrene, Leptis Magna, Sabratha, Ghadames, and Tadrat Acaus in Libya, and Aleppo, Bosra, Damascus, Ancient Villages of Northern Syria, Crac des Chevaliers, Qalat Salah el-Din, and Palmyra in Syria.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/157910>
- June 5, 2017
- International Business Times* published an article titled “**4,000-year-old lost Mesopotamian city discovered in Iraqi Kurdistan**” (by Martha Henriques). A team from Adam Mickiewicz University discovered a site called Xarb-i Kilashin in northern Iraqi Kurdistan.
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/4000-year-old-lost-mesopotamian-city-discovered-iraqi-kurdistan-1624809>
 - CAABU and The Mosaic Rooms** hosted a talk by Ross Burns, author of *Aleppo: A History and Monuments of Syria*, about the situation in Syria and the protection of cultural heritage.
<http://caabu.org/events/caabu/syrias-cultural-heritage-conflict-caabu-and-mosaic-rooms-lecture-ross-burns>

- *Independent Journal Review* published an article titled “**ISIS Funds Terrorism by Selling Ancient Relics to Westerners**” (by Julie Havlak). <http://ijr.com/the-declaration/2017/06/891412-isis-funds-terrorism-selling-ancient-relics-westerners/>
 - *Share America* published an article titled “**In ancient cities reclaimed from ISIS, restoration work begins**” (by Christopher Connell). The Smithsonian Institution, with support from the State Department, is dispatching a team to Erbil to work with the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage on a rapid assessment of damage to Nimrud. <https://share.america.gov/restoring-ancient-sites-damaged-by-isis/>
 - *The American Scholar* published an article titled “**A Legacy in Ruins**” (by Cathy Otten). The author visits the Mosul Museum and describes the damage. <https://theamericanscholar.org/a-legacy-in-ruins/#>
- June 4, 2017
- The Conversation* published an article titled “**Erasing History: Why Islamic State is blowing up artefacts**” (by Benjamin Isakhan and Jose Antonio Gonzalez Zarandona). The authors analyze ISIL propaganda and determine that the destruction of cultural heritage was deliberate and staged and underpinned by theological, historical, and political frameworks. <https://theconversation.com/erasing-history-why-islamic-state-is-blowing-up-ancient-artefacts-78667>
- *Al-Monitor* published an article titled “**Syrian NGO begins rebuilding war-torn Idlib**” (by Tamer Osman). The Violet Organization with the Idlib Provincial Council launched the Idlib Spring Project to help rebuild Idlib city. The project has restored the Clock tower and city clock square, and hopes to complete the rest of the public buildings and spaces in the next year. The project is also preparing for reconstruction in Maraat al-Numan, Jabal al-Zawiya, Marea and Jarablus. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/syria-idlib-regime-strikes-reconstruction-projects.html#ixzz4j3le39Qn>
 - *Rudaw* published an article titled “**‘Let ISIS see we do not die’: Yezidis repair their temples.**” Members of the Sheikh Hassan temple in Bashiqa have started repairs on the building. <http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/030620172>
- June 3, 2017
- DGAM* published an article titled “**Retrieve a stolen Palmyrene Funerary Tombstones.**” Authorities in Homs retrieved two Palmyrene statues from a neighborhood. <http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2289>

- *The National* published an article titled “**At the Venice Biennale 2017: the Iraqi Pavilion**” (by David D’Arcy). The Iraqi Pavilion at the Venice Art Biennale contains a selection of ancient and modern art. <http://www.thenational.ae/arts-life/exhibitions/at-the-venice-biennale-2017-the-iraqi-pavilion>
 - *TV 5 Monde* published an article titled “**Trafic d’ouvres d’art: la Suisse s’éveille**” (by Liliane Charrier). The Swiss are stepping up their surveillance of antiquities and works of art that may have come from war-torn regions. <http://information.tv5monde.com/info/trafic-d-oeuvres-d-art-la-suisse-s-veille-173148>
- June 2, 2017
- DGAM published an article titled “**Infringements in the villages of Jabal al-Zawia in Idlib Governorate.**” DGAM posted a series of photos showing damage to the sites of al-Bara, Maglia, Bashila, Bouda, and Serjilla in the Jabal al-Zawiya region of Idlib. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0097**
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2287>
- SNHR published a post titled “**Syrian-Russian alliance forces shelled Abo Bakr al Sadeiq Mosque in al Jwaim village in Aleppo governorate on June 2.**” A SARG or Russian airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0095**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/06/02/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-abo-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-al-jwaim-village-aleppo-governorate-june-2/>
 - *The Santa Fe New Mexican* published an article titled “**Heart of a nation: Folk treasures from Syria**” (by Michael Abatemarco). The Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico will host an exhibit titled “Artistic Heritage: Syrian Folk Art.” The exhibit runs from June 4, 2017 to May 28, 2018 and includes textiles, basketry, blown glass, and metal work.
http://www.santafenewmexican.com/pasatiempo/art/museum_shows/heart-of-a-nation-folk-treasures-from-syria/article_9f846c3a-b5ff-587d-ade8-e752236014b2.html
 - *LA Times* published an article titled “**ISIS Militants battered Syria’s Ancient Palmyra, but signs of splendor still stand**” (by Patrick McDonnell). The author visits Palmyra and reports on the condition of the site. <http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-syria-palmyra-ruins-2017-story.html>
 - *Rudaw* published an article titled “**Harvard professor talks about treasure trove of Kurdistan history.**” Jason Ur, head of the Erbil Plain Archaeological Survey, was interviewed about his work in Kurdistan.
<http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/interview/02062017>

June 1, 2017

Al Jazeera published an article titled “**ISIL Fighters Seal Off Mosul Mosque for Last Stand.**” ISIL fighters are making their last stand at the Grand al-Nuri Mosque, where Abu Baker declared a caliphate in 2014.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/06/isil-fighters-seal-mosul-mosque-stand-170601023012546.html>

<https://www.voanews.com/a/is-barricades-symbolic-mosque-for-last-stand-in-mosul/3882624.html>

- Heritage for Peace published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage - 1 June 2017.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-1-june-2017/>
- The **Museum of New Mexico Foundation** announced an exhibit titled “**Syria: Cultural Patrimony Under Threat**” at the New Mexico History Museum from June 23 to December 31, 2017. The exhibit consists of photographs of historic sites in Syria taken between 1899 and 1909.
<http://www.museumfoundation.org/exhibitions/syria-cultural-patrimony-threat/>
- **The Victoria and Albert Museum** announced an event titled “**Memory & Authenticity: Cultural Protection in Conflict.**” On June 30, 2017 the Victoria and Albert Museum in London will host a panel of international speakers who will discuss the challenges of protecting cultural heritage in post-conflict contexts.
<https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/vDBajxjG/memory-authenticity-cultural-protection-in-conflict>
- *Forbes* published an article titled “**Unusual 'House Of The Dead' Tells Archaeologists About Earliest Farmers**” (by Kristina Killgrove). The Central Zagros Archaeological Project has made significant discoveries at the 9,700-year-old site of Bestansur in Iraqi Kurdistan.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinakillgrove/2017/06/01/unusual-house-of-the-dead-tells-archaeologists-about-earliest-farmers/#6b20cc6e639f>

- *Smithsonian Magazine* published an article titled “**New Online Database Catalogues 20,000 Threatened Archaeological Sites**” (by Brigit Katz). The Universities of Oxford, Leicester and Durham published an online database called Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa (EAMENA) that documents archaeological sites across the Middle East and North Africa.
<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/new-online-database-catalogues-20000-threatened-archaeological-sites-180963451/>