

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

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July 2018 Monthly Appendices

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¹ This report is based on research conducted by the American Schools of Oriental Research Cultural Heritage Initiatives. Monthly reports reflect reporting from a variety of sources and may contain unverified material. As such, they should be treated as preliminary and subject to change.

Other Key Points

- **Aleppo Governorate**
 - The Idlib Antiquities Center visited Cyrrhus, Aleppo Governorate and documented the status of the site. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0161**
- **Daraa Governorate**
 - Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on the Roman Theater in Bosra, Daraa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0160**
 - Reported SARG and pro-regime shelling and an airstrike damaged al-Imam al-Nawawi Mosque in Nawa, Daraa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0163**
- **Idlib Governorate**
 - The Idlib Antiquities Center carried out reconstruction at Deir Sobat in Bara, Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0162**

Military and Political Context

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

1. Daraa Governorate:
 - On July 3, an alleged Israeli drone strike targeted an Iranian ammunition and weapons depot near the town of Mahajjah.²
 - On July 6–19, pro-regime forces took control over all remaining Syrian opposition-held areas of Daraa and Quneitra Governorates following reconciliation deals brokered by Jordan and Russia. The Syrian regime agreed to the return of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) to the area under the protection of Russia, as well as the transfer of thousands of opposition forces and civilians from Daraa to Idlib Governorate. Around 2,300 opposition fighters, including HTS-affiliated group members, and their families were relocated to northern Syria, while 422 volunteer White Helmets members and their families were evacuated to Jordan via the Golan Heights.³
 - On July 19, pro-regime forces began an offensive against the ISIS-held Yarmouk Basin, capturing at least 22 towns and villages, and killing at least 141 ISIS militants and 62 pro-regime forces. Former opposition fighters who had reconciled with the regime reportedly took part in the offensive against ISIS.⁴
 - On July 30, pro-regime forces captured all territory held by ISIS-affiliate Jaish Khaled bin al-Waleed on the Golan Heights. Pro-regime forces reportedly agreed to evacuate several hundred remaining ISIS militants from the Yarmouk Basin to Suwayda Governorate.⁵

² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

³ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/08/syria-situation-report-july-28-august-5.html>

2. Idlib Governorate:

- On July 6, ISIS carried out an attack at a checkpoint near the city of Saraqib, killing three HTS members, and detonated an IED near the town of Hazra, injuring four unspecified Syrian opposition fighters. These were the first ISIS attacks in Idlib Governorate in five months.⁶
- On July 19, around 7,000 pro-regime fighters and residents of the majority-Shia towns of Fu'ah and Kefraya evacuated Idlib Governorate under an agreement between Iran and HTS. In exchange, the Syrian regime agreed to release 1,500 imprisoned detainees; however, activists reported that only a small number had arrived in Idlib.⁷

3. Suwayda Governorate:

- On July 25, ISIS launched a multi-phased attack against several majority-Druze villages, targeting civilian infrastructure, killing more than 200 civilians, and kidnapping up to 30 more. Pro-regime militias, backed by SARG forces, later captured the villages. Local Druze residents organized a demonstration blaming the Syrian regime and local forces for failing to prevent ISIS attacks.⁸

4. Raqqa Governorate:

- On July 3, an IED attack targeted an SDF vehicle near the Nahda district in the city of Raqqa, killing two fighters. ISIS later claimed responsibility for the attack.⁹
- On July 6, members of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) allegedly entered into negotiations with the Syrian regime.¹⁰
- On July 16–17, the SDF-political wing known as the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC) announced its intent to open political offices in regime-held areas of western Syria. The SDC confirmed that the Syrian regime would be allowed to re-open and maintain the Tabqa Dam.¹¹
- On July 31, officials from the Syrian regime entered the town of Ain Issa, currently held by the US-backed SDF, in order to retrieve the remains of 45 pro-regime fighters found in an ISIS mass grave. The SDC agreed to allow government workers to operate the Tabqa Hospital. Negotiations continue between the SDC and the regime.¹²

5. Deir ez-Zor Governorate:

- On July 4, ISIS militants claimed responsibility for 18 IED attacks against a US and SDF convoy near the town of Namliyah. ISIS claimed the attack killed four US service members and destroyed three vehicles. The US-led coalition denied the claim.¹³

6. Aleppo Governorate:

- On June 24–July 3, the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) claimed responsibility for seven attacks targeting Turkish Armed Forces and Turkish-backed Syrian opposition groups in the district of Afrin.¹⁴
- On July 15, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) reportedly launched an airstrike that targeted an Iranian military-installation near the Nayrab Airbase in Aleppo City.¹⁵

⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

⁸ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

¹⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

¹¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

¹² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/08/syria-situation-report-july-28-august-5.html>

¹³ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

¹⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

¹⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

7. Latakia Governorate:
 - On June 30–July 2, unidentified militants “launched three consecutive waves of drone attacks” against Russian forces stationed at the Bassel al-Assad International Airport.¹⁶
8. Homs Governorate:
 - On July 9, Israeli airstrikes targeted the T4 Airbase, reportedly destroying an Iranian “drone control room and three air defense systems.”¹⁷
9. Damascus Governorate:
 - On July 18–19, pro-regime media announced that they had disarmed and removed several IEDs planted near a mosque in the city of Qudsaya, outside Damascus. The following day an explosion struck a bus stop in the Dummar Suburb, injuring at least four civilians. No group took responsibility for the attacks.¹⁸
10. Quneitra Governorate:
 - On July 6, Syrian opposition groups, including members of HTS, launched an offensive on SARG-held Ba’ath City near the Golan Heights.¹⁹
11. Hasakah Governorate:
 - On July 1, a suicide bombing struck the city of Hasakah, wounding seven. ISIS claimed responsibility for the attack—the first attack since October 2016.²⁰

Other Key Points:

- On July 20, the Russian Defense Ministry announced plans to form joint coordination centers in Lebanon and Jordan to facilitate Syrian refugee resettlement. The stated purpose of the the centers is to return Syrian refugees to “their pre-war residences” inside Syria.²¹
- On July 24–25, pro-regime media claimed that government forces would launch an offensive to capture the Syrian-Turkish border in Latakia Governorate and the city of Jisr al-Shughour in Idlib Governorate.²²
- On July 26–27, SDC Co-Chair Ilham Ahmad met with Syrian regime officials in Damascus amidst rumors of reconciliation talks between the SDF and Damascus. ²³
- On July 31, the US-backed SDF, supported by US-led Coalition airstrikes, completed the second phase of “Operation Roundup,” clearing the remaining ISIS positions in Hasakah and Deir ez Zor Governorates along the Syria-Iraq border.²⁴

¹⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

¹⁷ *ibid.*

¹⁸ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

¹⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-12.html>

²⁰ *ibid.*

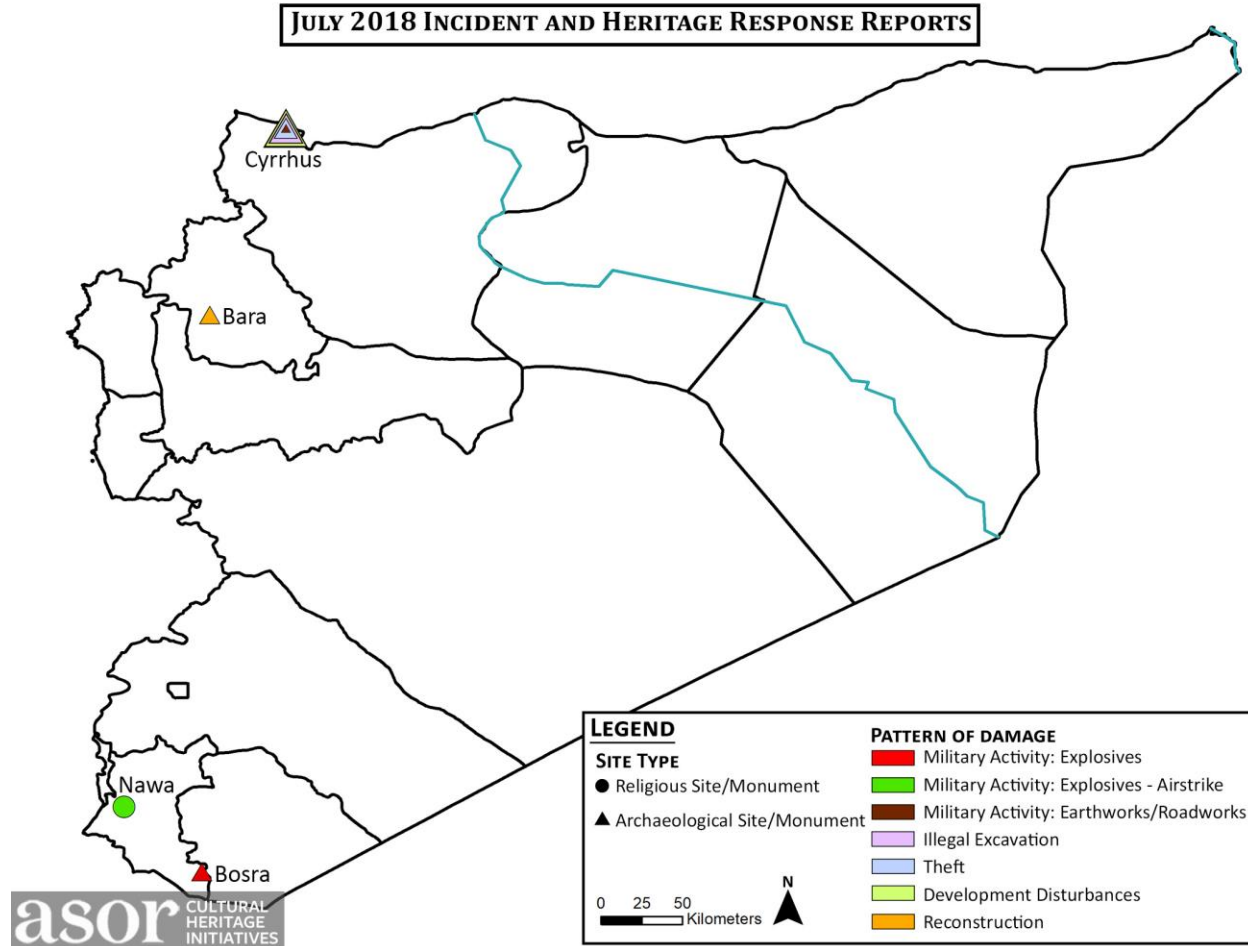
²¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/07/syria-situation-report-july-12-july-27.html>

²² *ibid.*

²³ *ibid.*

²⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/08/syria-situation-report-july-28-august-5.html>

Incident Reports: Syria



Incident and Heritage Response Reports from July 2018 (ASOR CHI)

SHI 18-0160

Report Date: July 1, 2018

Site Name: Roman Theater

Date of Incident: July 1, 2018

Location: Bosra, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: According to Ross Burns:

"The theatre owes its exceptional state of preservation (from both the ravages of earthquakes and the building programs of later centuries) to its conversion into an Ayyubid fort guarding the southern approaches to Damascus.²⁵ In plan, the Ayyubid fortifications fit like a jacket around the half-circle of the Roman building, with major towers at the northeast and northwest corners, a central bastion along the diameter (north) and give subsidiary towers around the arc of the semi-circle. The first use of the theatre as a fortification dates back to the Umayyad and Fatimid eras and the first three towers (east and west of the stage and on the southeast rim of the theatre) were constructed under the Seljuk governors, Gumushtakin (1089) and Altuntash (mid 12th century). However, the major work, including the encircling ditch, dates from the Ayyubid response to the Crusader threat after 1200, particularly under Adil (sultan in Damascus 1196–1218) and his son, al-Salih Imad al-Din, who alternated as governor of Bosra and sultan of Damascus between 1218 and 1238. The later work relies less on smaller recycled stone and more on massive blocks up to 4.5 m long, particularly in the central tower of the north face. The Ayyubid upper ramparts now house, on the upper terrace, a collection of sculptures from the Roman period as well as Roman and Arabic inscriptions. Al-Salih established a palace complex and mosque within the Roman auditorium, remains of which were removed during the reconstruction program. One surviving remnant is the water basin of the palace hammam which has been transferred to the ethnographic (folklore) collection in the southwestern tower."²⁶

Site Date: Roman—Ayyubid Period

Incident Summary: Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on the theater.

Incident Source and Description: On July 1, 2018 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles on the Roman Theater in Bosra.²⁷ According to SNHR, Syrian and Russian planes began an aerial bombardment over Bosra on June 28 that targeted the theater.²⁸ The theater was hit on the eastern side of the orchestra pit and on the southwestern side of the seats, resulting in craters in the orchestra pit as well as in the stone seats. The local Bosra al-Sham department of antiquities Facebook page published photographs of the damage. The DGAM visited the site on July 25, 2018 and did not report any further damage.²⁹

For more information on previous damage to Bosra's Roman Theater, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0166** in **Weekly Report 71—72**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0166**

²⁵ Burns 2009:79

²⁶ Burns 2009:82

²⁷ <http://sn4hr.org/sites/news/2018/07/07/syrian-regime-forces-bombed-busra-roman-theater-busra-al-sham-city-daraa-suburbs-july-1/>

²⁸ <https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2018/06/bosra-amphitheater-syrian-world-heritage-site-is-again-target-for-shelling/>

²⁹ <http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2409>

UPDATE in **Weekly Report 73—74**; **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0047** in **Weekly Report 87—88**; and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0090** in the **April 2018 Monthly Report**.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Daraa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0162**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Roman Theater in Bosra, as well as the condition of other sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Bosra al Sham/Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2175971735979314&id=1642112122698614

DGAM:

<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2409>

Enab baladi:

<https://english.enabbaladi.net/archives/2018/06/bosra-amphitheater-syrian-world-heritage-site-is-again-target-for-shelling/>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/sites/news/2018/07/07/syrian-regime-forces-bombed-busra-roman-theater-busra-al-sham-city-daraa-suburbs-july-1/>



An airstrike crater in the southwest section of seats (Bosra al-Sham Facebook; July 1, 2018)



An airstrike crater in the southwest section of seats (Bosra al-Sham Facebook; July 1, 2018)



An airstrike crater in the southwest section of seats (Bosra al-Sham Facebook; July 1, 2018)



An airstrike crater in the eastern section of the orchestra pit (Bosra al-Sham Facebook; July 1, 2018)



An airstrike crater in the eastern section of the orchestra pit (Bosra al-Sham Facebook; July 1, 2018)

SHI 18-0161

Report Date: July 13, 2018

Site Name: Cyrrhus

Date of Incident: July 13, 2018

Location: Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Cyrrhus was founded ca. 330 BCE by the Hellenistic general Seleucus Nicator. The city remained in Seleucid hands until the 1st century BCE, when it was captured by Armenia during the reign of Tigranes II. He was later defeated and Cyrrhus, along with much of Syria, was annexed to Rome. Cyrrhus was captured at least twice by the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE, causing the city to fall into decline. It was captured by the Arabs in 637. By the 13th century, Cyrrhus appears to have been largely deserted.³⁰ Visible remains include a large theater (built ca. 150 CE), a Byzantine-era citadel, two Roman-era bridges, a hexagonal mausoleum, a church, a basilica and several gateways.³¹

Site Date: 330 BCE -13th century CE

Incident Summary: The Idlib Antiquities Center visited the site and documented its status.

Incident Source and Description: On July 13, 2018 the Idlib Antiquities Center visited Cyrrhus and documented its status. According to their report, Cyrrhus was under the control of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) and Syrian opposition forces backed by the Turkish army between 2012 and 2018.³² They have noted illegal excavation taking place at the site due to the unstable security situation. The site was excavated by the Syrian Department of Antiquities before 2006, and has been under threat of construction and development.

The Idlib Antiquities Center noted four types of damage from the conflict including the construction of military fortifications, illegal excavations, non-military construction, and theft/vandalism. They claimed that the Turkish Army created earthen mounds in the south-east and west of the site during Olive Branch Operation (January 2018 – March 2018). Illegal excavation has been carried out over large areas by both bulldozers and handheld devices such as metal detectors and shovels.³³ These excavations are located across the site, but concentrated in the cemetery, along the southern wall, near the south-eastern section of the site, and within the city walls. The deeper holes are located on both sides of the road, near the church, and near the Roman theater. These holes have been filled with rubbish and digging debris from other holes. They stated that this illegal excavation began after the Olive Branch Operation was complete. The Idlib Antiquities Center also noted modern construction not related to the military on the eastern side of the site, reportedly by the Turkish Army.³⁴ The theft of a mosaic and vandalism of a shrine were also noted. They did not note any damage from military operations themselves. The area around the castle has not been

³⁰ <https://www.wmf.org/project/cyrrhus-nebi-houri>

³¹ Ball 2016: 187.

³² https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByGypylaaT3kdm04amY2czVkOWhUVHMycGdnQ_mhQbTUzcWVz/view

³³ https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByGypylaaT3kdm04amY2czVkOWhUVHMycGdnQ_mhQbTUzcWVz/view

³⁴ https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByGypylaaT3kdm04amY2czVkOWhUVHMycGdnQ_mhQbTUzcWVz/view

damaged. The Syrian and Lebanese mission houses were not targeted. There was not a military presence noted on the site.

For more information on previous damage to Cyrrhus, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0033** in the **January 2018 Monthly Report** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0090** in the **April 2018 Monthly Report**.

Pattern: Military activity: earthworks/roadwork; Illegal excavation; Development disturbances; Theft.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Idlib Antiquities Center:

July 13, 2018: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByGypylaaT3kdm04amY2czVkOWhUVHMycGdnQmhQbTUzcWVz/view>

July 17, 2018: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2043532832331635&id=1070868956264699; <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/photos/a.1071695812848680/2043712282313690/>

World Monuments Fund: <https://www.wmf.org/project/cyrrhus-nebi-houri>

Scholarly:

Ball, W. (2016) Rome in the East. London: Routledge.



The construction of large earthenworks in or near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Illegal excavation at Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Illegal Excavation at Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Heavy machinery trenching in fields near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Illegal excavation trenching filled with garbage and burned debris (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Illegal excavation filled with garbage and burned debris (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



A looter using a metal detector near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



A group of looters excavating near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Non-military construction near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Condition of a shrine near Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)



Vandalism of a mosaic at Cyrrhus (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 13, 2018)

SHI 18-0162 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: July 14, 2018

Site Name: Deir Sobat

Location: Bara, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Bara was founded in the 4th century CE as a monastic settlement of the Byzantine period, but soon expanded to be a production center during its height in the 5th and 6th century.³⁵ A series of private monastic farms arose to the north of the city center, of which one was Dier Sobat (Monastery of Saybat). According to Burns, “the style of buildings was lavish, indicating the high level of prosperity, and the processing facilities, particularly olive oil presses, were built to industrial standard.”³⁶

Deir Sobat “is dated to the sixth century. It comprises a large central chamber off which corridors and rooms are arranged. The room on the east side was probably an oratory for the celebration of Mass.”³⁷

Site Date: Byzantine, 4th-12th century CE

Heritage Response Summary: Idlib Antiquities Center carried out reconstruction at Deir Sobat.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: The Idlib Antiquities Center posted photographs³⁸ and video³⁹ of reconstruction efforts at Deir Sobat in al-Bara. The center noticed the facade had been damaged during the war due to light gunfire and vandalism/looting of the stones. In order to stabilize the building the center created an autocad version of the building, prepared the hole, selected stones, and reconstructed the facade. They state this was done with the help of the local community.⁴⁰

Description of Previous Damage to Site: Bara has been damaged multiple times in the conflict by illegal excavation, reuse of building materials, and military damage. There have been no direct reports of damage to Deir Sobat, but rather to the site of Bara as a whole.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Daraa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0160**.

For previous reports of damage to Deir Sobat, see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0094 in Weekly Report 18; SHI 14-0101 in Weekly Report 20; SHI 15-0146 in Weekly Report 65-66; SHI 15-0146 UPDATE in the November 2017 Monthly Report; and SHI 17-0097 in the June 2017 Monthly Report.**

³⁵ Burns. 2010. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. P. 72

³⁶ Burns. 2010. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. P. 72

³⁷ Burns. 2010. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. P. 73

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/photos/a.1071695812848680/2037909232893995>;
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2037910189560566&id=1070868956264699

³⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/videos/2072038852814366>

⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/videos/2072038852814366>

Operating Organization: Idlib Antiquities Center

Pattern: Reconstruction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Deir Sobat, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to reconstruction activities.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Idlib Antiquities Center:

July 14, 2018: <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/photos/a.1071695812848680/2037909232893995>; https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2037910189560566&id=1070868956264699

August 3, 2018: <https://www.facebook.com/1070868956264699/videos/2072038852814366>

Scholarly:

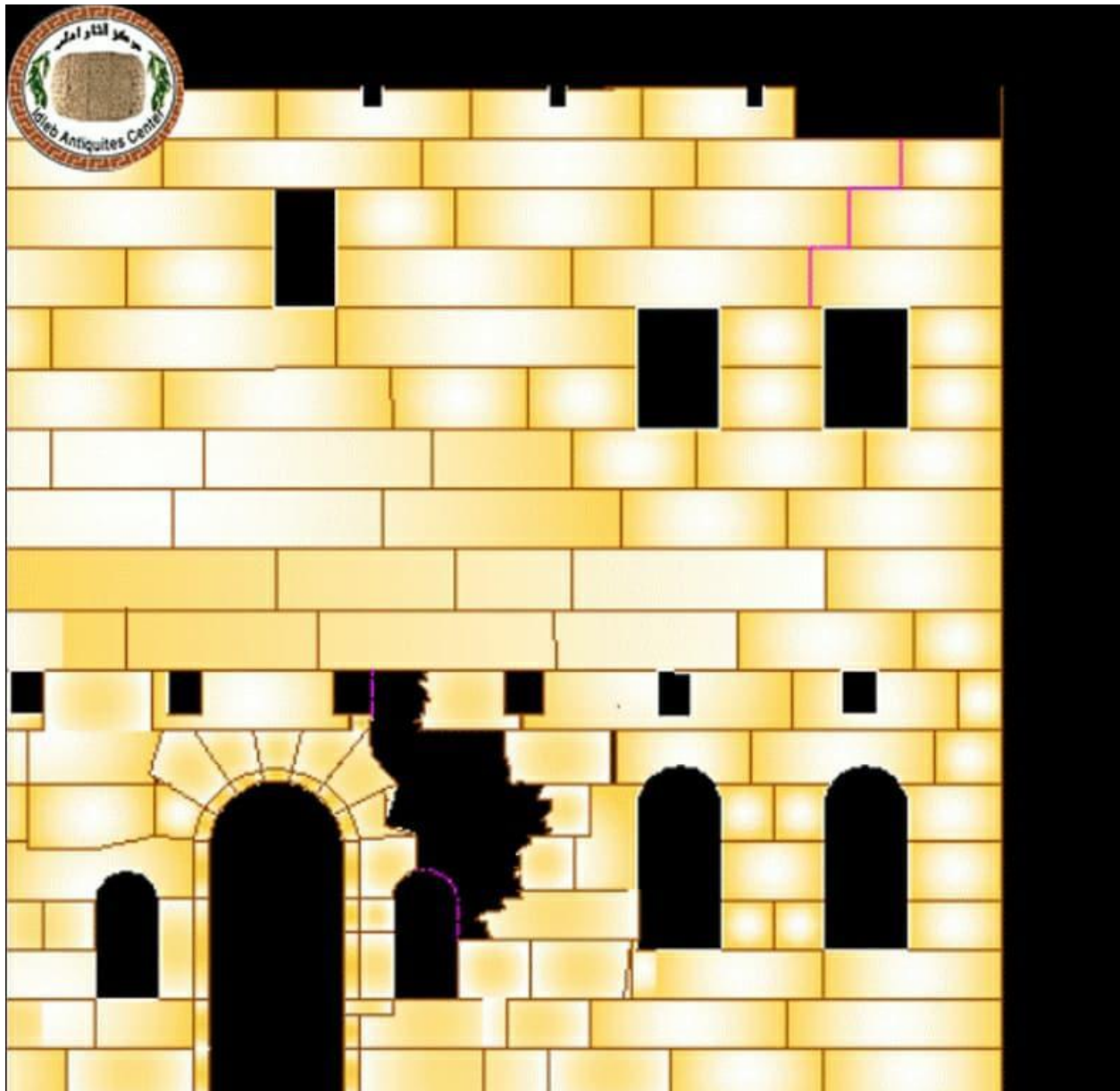
Burns, Ross. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. I.B. Tarus



The facade of Deir Sobat in May 2015 prior to any damage (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



The facade of Deir Sobat showing damage due to possible gunfire and/or looting and vandalism of stones (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Autocad sketch of the facade of Deir Sibat showing damage (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Preparing the facade for reconstruction work (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Preparing the facade for reconstruction work (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Reconstruction of the facade of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Reconstruction of the facade of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Reconstruction of the facade of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Completed reconstruction effort of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Completed reconstruction effort of Deir Sobet, from the inside looking out (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Completed reconstruction effort of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Completed reconstruction effort of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)



Southern side of Deir Sobet (Idlib Antiquities Center; July 14, 2018)

SHI 18-0163

Report Date: July 17, 2018

Site Name: al-Imam al-Nawawi Mosque (جامع الامام النووي) (al-Imam al-Nawawi al-Qadim Mosque)

Date of Incident: July 17, 2018

Location: Nawa, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported shelling and an airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 17, 2018 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG artillery forces fired a number of shells at the al-Imam al-Nawawi in Nawa. Airstrikes of either Syrian or Russian origin were also reported as having struck the mosque, heavily damaging the furniture and rendering the mosque unusable.⁴¹

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2018/08/08/52582/>

⁴¹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2018/08/08/52582/>



Damage seen inside of the al-Imam al-Nawawi Mosque after the strike (SNHR, July 17, 2018)



The exterior of the al-Imam al-Nawawi Mosque after the strike (SNHR; July 17, 2018)

Heritage Timeline

- July 30, 2018 **Heritage for Peace** published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria's Heritage - 30 July 2018.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-30-july-2018/>
- July 25, 2018 *Al-Monitor* published an article titled “**Day Trippers Flock to Afrin’s Orchards as Aleppo Restores Security**” (by Khaled al-Khateb). With the restored security in Afrin, people have begun to return to picnic among the archaeological sites. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/07/picnickers-return-to-afrin.html#ixzz5MOLaX2cc>
- July 25, 2018 *Shufi Mafi Station* published a video titled “**Archaeological Museum of Raqqa**”. The video shows the state of the Raqqa Museum and the beginning of its restoration by the NGO Roia.
<https://www.facebook.com/Shufimafistation/videos/424584177950758/UzpfSTE0MDI4MjI0ODI6MTAyMTIzMTk4MTk2MTYyNzc/>
- The **DGAM** published an article titled “**Visit of a Delegation to the Ancient City of Bosra**”. The DGAM visited Bosra and inspected the damage caused by the civil unrest.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2409>
- July 24, 2018 *Al-Monitor* published an article titled “**Russia Zeroes in on Returning Christians to Syrian Homes**” (by Anton Mardasov). The US and Russian Presidents met in Helsinki and discussed returning Christians to their Syrian homes.
<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/07/russia-christians-syria.html#ixzz5MHS2yIcg>
- July 19, 2018 The **DGAM** published an article titled “**Workshop on Saving Syrian Cultural Heritage for Future Generations**”. The DGAM hosted an international symposium with the United Nations Development Office in Syria and the Kashihara Archaeological Institute in Japan.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=2407>
- July 15, 2018 **Heritage for Peace** published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria's Heritage - 15 July 2018.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-15-july-2018/>

July 14, 2018 The **DGAM** published an article titled “**Course of Architectural Documentation and Damage Assessment.**” A training course was held in Beirut between June 25 and July 15 on how to document and assess damage to architecture in Syria.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=2405>

July 13, 2018 *CNN* published an article titled “**How the Sale of Stolen Antiquities Funds Organized Crime**” (by Noah Charney). A raid by 250 police officers in Italy, Germany, England, and Spain uncovered 25,000 antiquities valued at 40 million euros. This article shows how the sale of antiquities funds organized crime.
<https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/europol-illegal-antiquities-organized-crime/index.html>

July 10, 2018 *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**Aleppo’s Reconstruction ‘Deserves International Resources’**” (by Hannah McGivern). Experts from the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) are calling on the international heritage community to support the reconstruction of the Old City of Aleppo as an “urgent humanitarian need.”
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/global-resources-are-needed-to-rebuild-aleppo>

July 9, 2018 *The Telegraph* published an article titled “**Syrian Archaeologists Begin Restoring Palmyra Artefacts Destroyed by ISIS**” (by Josie Ensor). A group of eight experts is attempting to reconstruct statues and sculptures recovered from the UNESCO heritage site with the help of specialists from the Pushkin Museum in Moscow.
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/07/09/syrian-archaeologists-begin-restoring-palmyra-artefacts-destroyed/>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/syrian-museums-seek-russian-expertise-to-restore-palmyra-sculptures-destroyed-by-islamic-state>

<https://www.facebook.com/Archaeology.in.Syria/videos/1712762845488994/>

July 3, 2018 *The Jerusalem Post* published an article titled “**Global Fight Against Terror Tainted Black Market Antiquities Intensifies**” (by Maya Margit). Large cultural institutions are pushing for verified provenience of objects in museums to stop the funding of illegal excavations.
<https://www.jpost.com/Middle-East/Global-fight-against-terror-tainted-black-market-antiquities-intensifies-561450>

July 1, 2018 *The Media Line* published an article titled “**The Global Fight Against Black Market Antiquities Intensifies**” (by Maya Margit). While the global illegal antiquities trade might be booming, governments in several countries are increasing their efforts to combat it by refusing to borrow artifacts of dubious origin. <http://www.themedialine.org/news/the-global-fight-against-black-market-antiquities-intensifies/>