

# ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI): Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq<sup>1</sup>

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Michael D. Danti, Allison Cuneo, Marina Gabriel, Susan Penacho, William Reynolds, Gwendolyn Kristy, Katherine Burge, Kyra Kaercher, Darren Ashby, Jamie O’Connell

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<sup>1</sup> 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

- Reported Turkish artillery shells land near al-Iman Mosque in al-Bab, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0002**
- Reported SARG airstrike damages Ein al-Khadra Mosque in Bassemeh, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0003**
- New photographs show damage to al-Eman Mosque in Tadmor, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0004**
- New photographs show damage to the Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque in Tadmor, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0005**
- Reported SARG shelling damages al-Fateh Mosque in Hazamra, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0007**
- Reported SARG shelling damages the Northern Mosque in Madaya, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0008**
- Reported SARG artillery damages al-Khalaf Mosque in al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya, Dara'a Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0009**
- New video footage shows damage to local cemetery in Saraqib, Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0010**
- New video footage shows damage inside al-Thanouyia Obeida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque and Institute in Turkman Bareh, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0011**
- ISIL carried out executions in the Roman Theater and destroyed the facade in Palmyra, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0012**
- ISIL executed prisoners outside the Palmyra Museum, Palmyra, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0013**
- New satellite imagery shows damage to the Tetracylon in Palmyra, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0014**
- Reported SARG forces shell al-Tabiya Mosque in Tabiya al Shamiya, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0015**
- Reported SARG forces fired on al-Nour Mosque in al-Boleel, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0016**
- ISIL footage shows fighting occurring in al Tabiya Cemetery in Tabiya, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0017**
- Video footage shows damage to interior of al-Mahmoudi Mosque in Wadi Barada, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0018**
- New photographs show damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0050 UPDATE**
- New video footage shows condition of al-Remah Palace in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0026 UPDATE**
- New video footage shows condition of Chaldean Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0033 UPDATE**
- New video footage shows damage to al-Khatib Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001**
- New photographs shows damage to al-Sayegh Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0002**
- Amaq video footage shows recruitment taking place inside an unidentified mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0003**

- Video footage shows damage to al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0004**
- Iraqi forces capture Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, exposing the extent of ISIL damage. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0005**
- Video footage shows damage to Tel Kaif Cemetery in Tel Kaif, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0006**
- ISIL militants reuse Mart Shmone Church in Tel Kaif, Ninawa Governorate as a military base and training camp. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0007**
- ISIL militants reuse Mar Yousif Church in Tel Kaif, Ninawa Governorate as a military base and training camp. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0008**
- New photograph shows damage to al-Andalus Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0009**
- New video footage shows damage to Grand Mosul Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0010**
- New video footage shows damage to Abu Obeida Amer Bin al-Jarah Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0011**
- New video footage shows damage to al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0012**
- New video footage shows damage to Talib Othman Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0013**
- ISIL militants reuse Sacred Heart Church and Library in Tel Kaif, Ninawa Governorate as a military base and training camp. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0014**
- A cache of artifacts dating to the Assyrian Period was found in a house in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0015**
- New satellite imagery and photographs show level of destruction to Mosul University, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0016**

## Military and Political Context

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

1. Aleppo Governorate:
  - On January 3, Turkey announced that in the previous 24-hour period its warplanes had destroyed four ISIL targets southwest of the ISIL-held town of al-Bab. Turkey added that their forces had killed 18 ISIL members and wounded 37 more.<sup>2</sup>
  - On January 3, the country representative at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 2,200 Syrian families have returned to the eastern Aleppo housing district of Hanano.<sup>3</sup>
  - On January 6, Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces clashed in street battles with ISIL militants in the city of al-Bab.<sup>4</sup>
  - On January 7, a car bombing struck near the central court and post office in Azaz City in northern Aleppo Governorate, killing an unknown number of persons and severely damaging the court building.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN14N09N>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un-idUSKBN14O1BG>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN14Q0WN>

<sup>5</sup> <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/08/unknown-source-car-bomb-exploded-near-central-court-izaz-city-aleppo-governorate-january-7/> ; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/08/unknown-source-car-bomb-exploded-near-post-office-izaz-city-aleppo-governorate-january-7/>

- On January 18, the Russian defense ministry reported that Russia and Turkey had conducted joint airstrikes against ISIL targets near the northern town of al-Bab.<sup>6</sup>
  - On January 23, the Pentagon denied Russian claims that the US and Russia had carried out coordinated air strikes targeting ISIL over al-Bab.<sup>7</sup>
  - On January 23-26, Jabhat Fatah al-Sham launched new operations against the US-backed Jaish al-Mujahideen in Aleppo Governorate, removing much of the group from headquarters and weapon depots. Later, heavy clashes occurred in both Idlib and Aleppo Governorates as other opposition groups deployed to defend Jaish al-Mujahideen.<sup>8</sup>
  - On January 24, a new Syrian police forces trained by Turkey began operating from a police station in the town of Jarablus.<sup>9</sup>
  - On January 24, Turkey stated that it would not “hand over” the town of al-Bab once ISIL is driven out by Turkish-backed opposition forces.<sup>10</sup>
  - On January 25, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham “launched an attack” against several Free Syrian Army (FSA) groups west of Aleppo, leading to ongoing clashes in the area.<sup>11</sup>
  - On January 25, SARG forces and allied forces pushed ISIL militants from northeast villages in Aleppo Governorate, bring SARG forces to within five miles of al-Bab.<sup>12</sup>
  - On January 26, Russian and Turkish jets again carried out join airstrikes against ISIL targets near al-Bab.<sup>13</sup>
2. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
- During the reporting period, clashes between pro-regime and opposition forces continued in the area of Eastern Ghouta.<sup>14</sup>
  - On January 1, SARG warplanes re-started their bombardment of the opposition-held valley in the village of Wadi Barada. SARG forces also advanced against opposition forces in the area of Eastern Ghouta.<sup>15</sup>
  - On January 2, SARG and pro-regime forces continued to advance further into the village of Wadi Barada, currently under the control of Jabhat Fateh al-Sham Front, a group not included in the Russian-Turkish brokered ceasefire. Hundreds of civilians have fled the area.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38667895>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-russia-idUSKBN1572PH> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>8</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-police-idUSKBN1582MF> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-islamic-state-idUSKBN1591ZG>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-group-idUSKBN1591AF>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-islamic-state-idUSKBN1591ZG>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-turkey-idUSKBN15A2BH>

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-rebels-threaten-peace-talks-pull-out-as-ceasefire-broken-near-damascus/2017/01/03/5956ae92-d191-11e6-a783-cd3fa950f2fd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-rebels-threaten-peace-talks-pull-out-as-ceasefire-broken-near-damascus/2017/01/03/5956ae92-d191-11e6-a783-cd3fa950f2fd_story.html)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ceasefire-idUSKBN14L0ZM> ; <http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/223050>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/02/hundreds-of-syrians-flee-as-assads-forces-bomb-groups-excluded-from-ceasefire> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/syria-army-presses-fight-damascus-truce-170102180153002.html>



- On January 3, SARG forces continued to bombard the village of Wadi Barada. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that SARG and pro-regime forces used barrel bombings and deployed new forces near the Ain al-Fijeh Spring, a major water source. Residents in the area, including in the Syrian capital of Damascus, have been without clean water since around December 22, 2016.<sup>17</sup>
  - On January 5, SARG and pro-regime forces continued their assault on the area of Wadi Barada.<sup>18</sup> The United Nations warned that the targeting of water sources in Wadi Barada may constitute a war crime.<sup>19</sup>
  - On January 19-24, pro-regime forces continued their assault against the “besieged opposition-held towns of Wadi Barada” despite a supposed ‘reconciliation’.<sup>20</sup>
  - On January 30, SARG forces reported that they had regained control of the Barada Valley, including the main source of water to Damascus. According to Syrian State TV, hundreds of opposition fighters in the area and their families had evacuated the valley.<sup>21</sup>
3. Tartus Governorate:
- On January 1, two suicide bombers targeted a security patrol in city of Tartous, killing at least two security officers.<sup>22</sup>
  - On January 20, Russia and Syria agreed to expand the Russian Naval Base located in Tartus City.<sup>23</sup>
4. Idlib Governorate:
- On January 1-3, two sets of US airstrikes killed at least 25 members, including leaders, of Syrian opposition group Jabhat Fateh al-Sham near the town of Sarmada.<sup>24</sup>
  - On January 19, US military airstrikes struck an al-Qaeda training camp in Idlib governorate, reportedly killing more than 100 militants.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38492939> ; <http://www.haaretz.com/middle-east-news/syria/1.762502> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-ceasefire-idUSKBN14M16Q> ; [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-rebels-threaten-peace-talks-pull-out-as-ceasefire-broken-near-damascus/2017/01/03/5956ae92-d191-11e6-a783-cd3fa950f2fd\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-rebels-threaten-peace-talks-pull-out-as-ceasefire-broken-near-damascus/2017/01/03/5956ae92-d191-11e6-a783-cd3fa950f2fd_story.html) ; [http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML\\_SYRIA\\_WATER\\_WARS](http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/M/ML_SYRIA_WATER_WARS) ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/04/world/middleeast/a-new-casualty-of-syrias-war-drinking-water-in-damascus.html>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-valley-idUSKBN14Q03I>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/05/syria-conflict-leaves-millions-of-damascus-residents-with-limited-access-to-water> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-water-idUSKBN14Q1QU> ; <http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98ghost-towns%E2%80%99-fall-outside-ceasefire-as-water-war-intensifies-outside-damascus/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/30/world/middleeast/syria-damascus-water-assad.html>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-blast-idUSKBN14K0NC> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-december-22-2016.html>

<sup>23</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38501887> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-air-strikes-idUSKBN14N1K5> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-december-22-2016.html>

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38700441> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/world/middleeast/us-airstrike-al-qaeda-syria.html> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1055727/us-airstrike-kills-more-than-100-al-qaeda-fighters-in-syria> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

- On January 19-23, Al Qaeda affiliate Jabhat Fatah al-Sham, along with forces from Jund al-Aqsa, clashed with Syrian opposition group Ahrar al-Sham in “at least eight villages” in Idlib Governorate, before agreeing to a ceasefire.<sup>26</sup>
  - On January 23, Jabhat Fatah al-Sham “expelled” Jund al-Aqsa from its group following Jund al-Aqsa’s rejection of “sharia arbitration.”<sup>27</sup>
5. Latakia Governorate:
- On January 5, an explosion, thought to be the result of a car bomb, struck the town of Jableh killing 11 people and wounding dozens more. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>28</sup>
6. Raqqa Governorate:
- On January 6, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) captured the ancient Jabar Citadel, located on the banks of Lake Assad, from ISIL.<sup>29</sup>
  - On January 20, the SDF advanced to the northern outskirts of the Tabqa Dam, capturing ISIL-held villages in the process.<sup>30</sup>
7. Deir ez Zor Governorate:
- On January 8, US elite forces carried out a raid on an ISIL vehicle near a “small town” north of the city of Deir ez Zor. According to the news outlet Deir el-Zour 24, US troops spent 90 minutes in the area and exited with ISIL captives and bodies.<sup>31</sup>
  - On January 9, American commanders carried out a targeted strike in Deir ez Zor Governorate that killed senior ISIL leader Abu Anas al-Iraqi.<sup>32</sup>
  - On January 16, ISIL militants launched a large-scale attack against parts of Deir ez Zor, capturing areas and tightening and ongoing siege in SARG-controlled areas of the city.<sup>33</sup>
  - On January 17, ongoing clashes between ISIL and SARG forces continued in Deir ez Zor, forcing the World Food Aid Program (WFP) to suspend air-drop aid deliveries to the area. The ongoing fighting has killed as many as 120 people.<sup>34</sup>
  - On January 21-25, Russian ‘strategic bombers’ targeted ISIL militants in the city of Deir ez Zor in an attempt to stop ISIL’s ongoing offensive against pro-regime held areas of the city.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>26</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>27</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>28</sup> <http://english.almanar.com.lb/156484> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/syria-civil-war-deaths-car-bomb-hits-jableh-town-170105133553931.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38520089> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-december-22-2016.html>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-citadel-idUSKBN14Q14C>

<sup>30</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>31</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-led-coalition-carries-out-ground-raid-in-syria/2017/01/09/b452e1df-f035-493c-bb2e-3932d788be01\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-led-coalition-carries-out-ground-raid-in-syria/2017/01/09/b452e1df-f035-493c-bb2e-3932d788be01_story.html)

<sup>32</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/International/us-commandos-isis-leader-hunt-top-terrorists-obama/story?id=44687168>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/16/syrian-rebels-agree-attend-russia-brokered-peace-talks/>

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38649214> ; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/islamic-state-gains-in-syria-province-1484676322>

<sup>35</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

#### 8. Homs Governorate:

- On January 19, multiple media outlets reported that ISIL militants had carried out three separate executions of Palmyrene citizens, SARG, and Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters in Palmyra including at the Roman Theater, outside the Palmyra Museum, and inside the now abandoned Russian military base.<sup>36</sup> In addition, Russian Defense Minister Lt. General Sergei Rudskoi stated that ISIL militants were shipping “large amounts of explosives to Palmyra in order to blow up more of the heritage sites.”<sup>37</sup>
- On January 29, ARA News reported that ISIL militants had executed two more Syrian soldiers in Palmyra. The execution is reported to have happened inside the Roman Theater.<sup>38</sup>

#### 9. Al Hasakah Governorate:

- On January 31, the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) reported that they had received armoured vehicles for the first time under the new US administration.<sup>39</sup>

#### Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Ain Issa, al-Bab, Deir ez Zor, Manbij, Idlib, Palmyra, Raqqa, Shaddadi, and Tanf.<sup>40</sup>
- During the reporting period, SARG airstrikes targeted areas in Rif Dimashq and southern Aleppo Governorates.<sup>41</sup>
- During the reporting period, Russian airstrikes were reported in Aleppo Governorates.<sup>42</sup>
- On January 2, Syrian opposition forces announced that they were halting preparations for upcoming peace talks sponsored by Turkey and Russia that was set to occur later in the month. Opposition forces cited “many big breaches” of the ceasefire by SARG and pro-regime forces as the reason behind their decision.<sup>43</sup>
- On January 3, Pentagon Spokesman Peter Cook confirmed that US-led coalition aircraft carried out aerial support for Turkish forces near the town of al-Bab. According to Cook, the aircrafts involved did not carry out airstrikes.<sup>44</sup>
- On January 4, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu warned that ongoing ceasefire violations by pro-regime forces threatened to derail scheduled peace talks between the Syrian regime and opposition forces.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189>

<sup>38</sup> <http://aranews.net/2017/01/islamic-state-executes-two-syrian-soldiers-palmyra/>

<sup>39</sup> <https://www.yahoo.com/news/syria-anti-forces-us-sent-them-armoured-cars-143918079.html>

<sup>40</sup> See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIS in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1040259](#), [1041243](#), [1042322](#), [1043280](#), [1044361](#), [1044451](#), [1044779](#), [1045717](#), [1046917](#), [1048030](#), [1049311](#), [1050352](#), [1050419](#), [1050762](#), [1052415](#), [1053615](#), [1055337](#), [1056008](#), [1056079](#), [1056820](#), [1057603](#), [1059626](#), [1060794](#), [1062523](#), [1063371](#), [1063495](#), [1063788](#), [1066929](#)

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ceasefire-idUSKBN14L0ZM>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/11/russia-sends-fighter-jets-syria-despite-announcing-draw-down/>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38492939> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-ceasefire-idUSKBN14M16Q>

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-syria-idUSKBN14N1M8>

<sup>45</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/turkey-truce-violations-put-syria-talks-jeopardy-44542074>

- On January 6, Russia announced that it was scaling back the number of Russian armed forces currently in Syria, including the exit of the naval fleet based in the east Mediterranean.<sup>46</sup>
- On January 6, the US-led coalition confirmed that a December 31, 2016 ‘precision strike’ in the ISIL-stronghold of Raqqa killed Mahmud al-Isawi, a “long-standing ISIL member who supported the organization’s media and intelligence structure in Fallujah before relocating to Raqqa.”<sup>47</sup>
- On January 11, reports surfaced that Russia had additional fighter jets to Syria following the January 6 announcement that the country would be scaling back its military presence.<sup>48</sup>
- During the reporting period, Russian forces began a new air campaign in eastern Syria as ISIL militants made gains in the city of Deir ez Zor. Aerial bombardment continued over Idlib and Aleppo Governorates, but to a lesser degree than has been seen in the previous reporting periods.<sup>49</sup>
- During the reporting period, several Syrian opposition forces united against Islamist opposition group Ahrar al-Sham, following an attack by the latter group against other opposition forces in Idlib Governorate.<sup>50</sup>
- On January 20, Denmark announced its plans to deploy 60 special operations forces to support operations to retake Raqqa from ISIL, joining already present American and French forces.<sup>51</sup>
- On January 21, suspected ISIL militants carried out a suicide car bombing attack at the Rukban IDP Camp along the Syrian-Jordanian border, killing eleven people and wounding at least 14 more.<sup>52</sup>
- On January 23, negotiation talks between the Syrian regime and opposition groups opened in the town of Astana, Kazakhstan.<sup>53</sup>
- On January 25, five Syrian opposition groups merged with Ahrar al-Sham.<sup>54</sup>
- On January 24, Russia, Iran, and Turkey announced their enforcement of a three-week cessation of hostilities to come into place across Syria.<sup>55</sup>
- On January 27, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov announced that the following round of Syrian peace talks will occur at the end of February in Geneva, pushing back the anticipated date of February 8.<sup>56</sup>

<sup>46</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38528654> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-russia-military-idUSKBN14Q0US>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1043646/isil-leader-killed-in-syria>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/11/russia-sends-fighter-jets-syria-despite-announcing-draw-down/>

<sup>49</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-december-20.html>

<sup>50</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idUSKBN15A00N>

<sup>51</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>52</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>53</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38714441>

<sup>54</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/syria-situation-report-january-19-26.html>

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38728903> ;

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/syria-deal-draws-iran-into-alliance-with-russia-and-turkey/2017/01/24/5336057c-e199-11e6-a419-eefe8eff0835\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/syria-deal-draws-iran-into-alliance-with-russia-and-turkey/2017/01/24/5336057c-e199-11e6-a419-eefe8eff0835_story.html)

<sup>56</sup> [http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/cae69a7523db45408eeb2b3a98c0c9c5/Article 2017-01-27-Syria/id-8d208ef306c14f259894331d7b892ddb](http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/cae69a7523db45408eeb2b3a98c0c9c5/Article%202017-01-27-Syria/id-8d208ef306c14f259894331d7b892ddb)

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

### 1. Baghdad Governorate:

- On January 2, a suicide truck bombing struck a market in the majority-Shia area of Sadr City, killing at least 36 people. ISIL later claimed responsibility for the attack. Several smaller bombings across Baghdad killed at least 20 civilians and wounded at least 70 more.<sup>57</sup>
- On January 5, an ISIL car bombing struck in the eastern Baghdad neighborhood of al-Obeidi killing six civilians and wounding 15. A second car bombing struck a checkpoint in the northern neighborhood of Bab al-Udhaim, killing another eight.<sup>58</sup>
- On January 10, a blast in the district of Ghazaliya killed one person and wounded at least eight more. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. This is the third day of consecutive attacks in Baghdad.<sup>59</sup>
- On January 13, “thousands” of Baghdad residents staged a protest in the city’s Tahrir Square condemning the arrest of protesters and demanding governmental reforms.<sup>60</sup>
- On January 24, a car bombing in central Baghdad killed at least 2 people. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.<sup>61</sup>
- On January 25, two car bombings struck central Baghdad, killing 12 people and injuring dozens more. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.<sup>62</sup>

### 2. Salah ad Din Governorate:

- On January 2, ISIL militants carried out attacks at two police stations in the city of Samarra, killing at least seven policemen. Iraqi security forces reportedly regained control of the area.<sup>63</sup>
- On January 3, Iraqi security forces announced a curfew in Samarra following an attack the previous day by ISIL militants against two police stations.<sup>64</sup>
- On January 24, the Popular Mobilization Front (PMF) announced a new operation to “clear the Baghdad-Mosul highway” around the district of Shirqat.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/02/world/middleeast/iraq-baghdad-market-suicide-bombing-islamic-state.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38488091> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKBN14M09J> ; <http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/02/507884769/dozens-dead-in-multiple-isis-bombings-across-baghdad> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html>

<sup>58</sup> <http://news.trust.org/item/20170105091144-4ao7l/> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKBN14P0KP>

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/323444>

<sup>60</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.albawaba.com/news/two-killed-car-bomb-iraq%E2%80%99s-capital-baghdad-929134> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>62</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/02/isis-continued-to-reestablish-its.html>

<sup>63</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKBN14M09J> ; <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/suicide-bombers-attack-2-police-stations-iraqs-samarra-1512853994> ; <http://www.nrttv.com/EN/Details.aspx?jmare=11884> ; <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2017/01/02/Two-suicide-bombers-attack-police-station-in-Iraq-s-Samarra.html> ; <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20170103-daesh-kills-24-with-baghdad-car-bomb-attack-police-stations-in-samarra/> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html>

<sup>64</sup> <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/020120173>

<sup>65</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>



- On January 25, ISIL militants attacked PMF members east of the city of Tikrit.<sup>66</sup>
  - On January 27, ISIL militants launched an evening attack in several villages surrounding the district of Dour, south of Tikrit. ISIL fighters set fire to houses, forcing residents to flee, until tribal fighters and other Iraqi security forces forced the militants out.<sup>67</sup>
3. Najaf Governorate:
- On January 1, ISIL militants attacked an Iraqi police checkpoint near the city of Najaf, killing seven policemen.<sup>68</sup>
4. Ninawa Governorate:
- On January 1, Iraqi forces reportedly had taken control of the Mosul neighborhoods of Intisar and Siha. Iraqi forces have now recaptured one quarter of the city. A suicide bombing that appeared to target displaced Mosul residents was reported in the eastern neighborhood of al-Karama, killing two civilians and wounding ten more.<sup>69</sup>
  - On January 5, Lieutenant General Talib Shaghati, Iraq's Joint Operations Commander, stated that Iraqi forces had recaptured between 65-70%, or around 45 neighborhoods, of Mosul's eastern bank.<sup>70</sup>
  - On January 6, Iraqi forces captured the key district of al-Muthanna in Mosul from ISIL.<sup>71</sup>
  - On January 8, Iraqi security forces reached the eastern banks of the Tigris River for the first time since the offensive began in mid-October 2016.<sup>72</sup>
  - On January 9, Iraqi special forces advanced against ISIL positions and coming closer to linking up with Iraqi army units. Iraqi counterterrorism forces captured the neighborhood of Baladiyat, which overlooks Mosul University located in the "central district" of the city.<sup>73</sup>
  - On January 14, Iraqi forces recaptured Mosul University from ISIL.<sup>74</sup>
  - On January 16, Iraqi security forces (ISF) captured several areas in the city of Mosul including the Nebi Yunus Shrine, intentionally destroyed by ISIL in July 2014.<sup>75</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/02/isis-continued-to-reestablish-its.html>

<sup>67</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/02/isis-continued-to-reestablish-its.html>

<sup>68</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-attack-idUSKBN14L0X3> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html>

<sup>69</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-attack-idUSKBN14L0X3> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-blast-idUSKBN14M09J> ; <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/suicide-attack-kills-2-wounds-10-east-mosul/>

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-commander-idUSKBN14P0ZT> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38517358> ; <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/04012017> ; <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/040120174>

<sup>71</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38528654> ; <http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/c2eb24dd-eb1d-4ddf-bc9a-2dd59197a818/EXCLUSIVE-VIDEO--Liberated-neighborhood-of-Muthanna-in-Mosul>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38547006> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38552980>

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN14T17Q>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38623671> ; <http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/iraq-mosul-battle-1.3936071> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1051462/iraqi-forces-liberate-mosul-university-from-a-deeply-entrenched-isil/source/GovDelivery/> ; <https://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-troops-recapture-mosul-university-from-islamic-state-1484487185>

- On January 17, Iraqi forces continued their advance in eastern Mosul, capturing the Great Mosque in the center of the city.<sup>76</sup>
  - On January 19, Iraqi forces captured the ancient ruins of Nineveh from ISIL control.<sup>77</sup>
  - On January 18, Iraqi army announced that it was preparing new military operations to recapture western Mosul after capturing “all eastern districts assigned to them.”<sup>78</sup>
  - On January 24, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the complete liberation of the eastern bank of Mosul from ISIL.<sup>79</sup>
  - On January 27, PMF media reported that they had been assigned the task of recapturing Tel Afar and the surrounding areas in a new operation to begin on February 1.<sup>80</sup>
  - On January 31, members of the Shia Popular Mobilization Front (PMF) were put on duty providing security at Mosul University following the looting of goods from the buildings.<sup>81</sup>
5. Al Anbar Governorate:
- On January 3, a suicide bomber struck a checkpoint in the area of ‘7 Kilo’, west of the city of Ramadi. The attack killed one Iraqi soldier.<sup>82</sup>
  - On January 5, the Iraqi military announced that it had launched a new offensive to retake the ISIL-held western towns of Aanah, Rawah, and al-Qaim near the Syrian border. The Iraqi army, federal police units, and tribal fighters will be involved in the new offensive.<sup>83</sup>
  - On January 6, Iraqi armed forces and Sunni tribal fighters captured the town of al-Haditha, the first outlying town captured since a new offensive began one day prior.<sup>84</sup>
6. Diyala Governorate:
- On January 14, unidentified militants attempted to enter the district of Khalis, detonating their vehicle at a security checkpoint and killing two people.<sup>85</sup>
  - On January 14, ISIL militants reportedly attacked members of the Badr Organization in the district of Muqadiyah, killing seven members of the group.<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> <http://www.iraqoilreport.com/news/inside-mosul-jan-16-2017-20910/> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/01/17/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/security-forces-recapture-3-districts-great-mosque-central-mosul/> ; <https://alshahidwitness.com/iraqi-forces-grand-mosque-mosul/>

<sup>77</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>78</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38664607>

<sup>79</sup> <https://apnews.com/8ec0f5f9fb784b7b8d800c260cc83e70/Iraqi-forces-battle-Islamic-State-in-pocket-of-eastern-Mosul> ; <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-mosul-islamic-state-20170124-story.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1058447/iraq-announces-liberation-of-eastern-mosul> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/the-campaign-of-mosul-january-19-23-2017.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/the-campaign-for-mosul-january-24-31.html> ; <https://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-military-seizes-control-of-eastern-mosul-from-islamic-state-prime-minister-1485283337>

<sup>80</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/02/isis-continued-to-reestablish-its.html>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/310120176>

<sup>82</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38517358> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-december-21-2016.html>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/iraqi-forces-capture-isis-held-villages-first-stage-western-offensive-1599739>

<sup>85</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>86</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>



- On January 23, “unidentified gunmen” attacked three electrical towers in northeast Diyala Governorate disrupting power to the sub-district of Qara Tapa.<sup>87</sup>
- On January 25, ISIL militants entered the large oil field of Naft Khana in the district of Khanaqin near the Iranian border, killing several employees and kidnapping others.<sup>88</sup>

**Other Key Points:**

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Beiji, Haditha, Huwajjah, Kirkuk, Kisik, Mosul, Qaim, Rawah, Rutbah, Sinjar, Tal Afar, and Tuz.<sup>89</sup>
- On January 2, the US military said in a statement that US-led Coalition airstrikes have killed at least 188 civilians in Syria and Iraq since the start of operations in 2014.<sup>90</sup>
- On January 5, Amnesty International released a report criticizing the transfer of arms to Shia militias that Amnesty says are later used in war crimes in Iraq.<sup>91</sup>
- On January 19, the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released a report stating that ISIL had enslaved around 3,500 people in Iraq and had kidnapped between 800-900 children to indoctrinate and train as fighters.<sup>92</sup>
- On January 23, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered an investigation regarding accusations of human rights violations committed by Iraqi forces and militias during the offensive to recapture the city of Mosul. Accusations have surfaced of “kidnapping, mistreatment and violations” since the start of the offensive in October 2016.<sup>93</sup>

**Other significant political and military events during the reporting period:**

- On January 2, ISIL claimed responsibility for an attack at a nightclub in Istanbul in which a single gunman shot and killed 39 people.<sup>94</sup>
- On January 18, US airstrikes targeted multiple ISIL camps 28 miles south of the Libyan city of Sirte, killing more than 30 ISIL militants.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>87</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>88</sup> <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/02/isis-continued-to-reestablish-its.html>

<sup>89</sup> See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIS in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1040259](#), [1041243](#), [1042322](#), [1043280](#), [1044361](#), [1044451](#), [1044779](#), [1045717](#), [1046917](#), [1048030](#), [1049311](#), [1050352](#), [1050419](#), [1050762](#), [1052415](#), [1053615](#), [1055337](#), [1056008](#), [1056079](#), [1056820](#), [1057603](#), [1059626](#), [1060794](#), [1062523](#), [1063371](#), [1063495](#), [1063788](#), [1066929](#)

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-usa-civilians-idUSKBN14M0U6>

<sup>91</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/01/iraq-end-irresponsible-arms-transfers-fuelling-militia-war-crimes/>

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.wsj.com/articles/islamic-state-has-3-500-slaves-in-iraq-says-u-n-1453215091>

<sup>93</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/iraq-premier-orders-probe-into-violations-by-troops-in-mosul/2017/01/23/7aaeab64-e16b-11e6-a419-eefe8eff0835\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/iraq-premier-orders-probe-into-violations-by-troops-in-mosul/2017/01/23/7aaeab64-e16b-11e6-a419-eefe8eff0835_story.html) ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/01/iraq-situation-report-january-12-24-2017.html>

<sup>94</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/islamic-state-group-claims-istanbul-new-years-night-club-attack/2017/01/02/0718cf6e-d076-11e6-9651-54a0154cf5b3\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/islamic-state-group-claims-istanbul-new-years-night-club-attack/2017/01/02/0718cf6e-d076-11e6-9651-54a0154cf5b3_story.html)

<sup>95</sup> <http://abcnews.go.com/International/bombers-strike-isis-camps-libya/story> ; <https://apnews.com/fad983e2715f479cb67a35cc667204be> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-islamicstate-idUSKBN15A2QV>

## Incident Reports: Syria

**SHI 17-0002**

**Report Date:** January 6, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Iman Mosque (مسجد الإيمان)

**Date of Incident:** January 6, 2017

**Location:** al-Bab, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Located in the west Aleppo neighborhood of al-Bab.<sup>96</sup>

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported Turkish artillery shells land near mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 6, 2017 Aleppo 24 reported that Turkish artillery shells fell near al-Iman Mosque in al-Bab, causing damage.<sup>97</sup> ISIL affiliated media Amaq News Agency released video showing damage to al-Imam Mosque. The mosque has damage to the roof and the neighborhood has been completely destroyed.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other religious heritage sites that were damaged in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0011**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Iman 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 Agency

Aleppo 24: <https://twitter.com/24Aleppo/status/817433070286553088>

Medina al-Bab: <https://www.facebook.com/bab.al3z/posts/415202195477490>

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<sup>96</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/bab.al3z/posts/415202195477490>

<sup>97</sup> <https://twitter.com/24Aleppo/status/817433070286553088>



Video still of damage to al-Iman Mosque (Amaq Agency; January 2, 2017)



The mosque prior to recent damage  
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 8, 2016)



Damage to part of the mosque and surrounding buildings (DigitalGlobe NextView License; February 13, 2017)

**SHI 17-0003****Report Date:** January 8, 2017**Site Name:** Ein al-Khadra Mosque (جامع عين الخضرا)**Date of Incident:** January 7, 2017**Location:** Bassemeh, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria**Site Description:** Unknown**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG airstrike damages mosque.**Incident Source and Description:** On January 8, 2017 Orient News reported that SARG airstrikes damaged Ein al-Khadra Mosque in the village of Bassemeh in the Wadi Barada.<sup>98</sup> Video of the mosque shows severe damage on the southern side of the building.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0007**, **SHI 17-0008**, and **SHI 17-0018**.

For more information on previous damage to Ein al-Khadra Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0185** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Ein al-Khadra Mosque as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.**Sources:**Online Reporting:

Orient News:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq1NYhML6NE&list=TLGGzcs37jkwXg4wOTAxMjAxNw>

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<sup>98</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fq1NYhML6NE&list=TLGGzcs37jkwXg4wOTAxMjAxNw>





Damage to Ein al-Khadra Mosque and surrounding buildings (Orient News; January 7, 2016)



Damage to Ein al-Khadra Mosque and surrounding buildings (Orient News; January 7, 2016)

**SHI 17-0004**

**Report Date:** January 9, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Eman Mosque (الإيمان بمدينة); Ayman Mosque; Iman Mosque)

**Date of Incident:** January 6, 2017

**Location:** Tadmor, Homs Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Likely Modern.

**Incident Summary:** New photographs show damage to the mosque in Palmyra.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 6, 2017 Palmyra Coordination Committee posted new photographs of the al-Eman Mosque in Palmyra showing damage to the interior.<sup>99</sup> This damage is reportedly due to Russian airstrikes in the city, however no exact date of destruction is included in the recent report.<sup>100</sup> al-Eman mosque has previously suffered damage as a result of airstrikes from SARG and Russian forces.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other religious heritage sites that were damaged in Homs Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0005**.

For previous reports on damage to al-Eman Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0155** in **Weekly Report 69-70**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the al-Eman 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:

Palmyra Coordination Committee:

<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/625114360946840>

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<sup>99</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/625114360946840>

<sup>100</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/625114360946840>



Damage to the inside of al-Eman Mosque in Palmyra (Palmyra Coordination; January 6, 2017)



Severe damage to the structure of al-Eman Mosque (Palmyra Coordination; January 6, 2017)



**SHI 17-0005**

**Report Date:** January 9, 2017

**Site Name:** Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque (مسجد أبي ذر الغفاري)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** Tadmor, Homs Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Likely Modern.

**Incident Summary:** New photographs show damage to the mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 9, 2017 Palmyra Coordination Committee posted photographs showing the extent of damage to the interior of Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque as a result of ongoing Russian and SARG airstrikes over the modern city of Tadmor.<sup>101</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other religious heritage sites that were damaged in Homs Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0004**.

For more information on previous damage to Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0160** in **Weekly Report 71-72**; **SHI 15-0160 Update** in **Weekly Report 83-84**; **SHI 15-0160 Update** in **Weekly Report 109-110**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to Abi Thar al-Ghafari 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:

Palmyra Coordination Committee:

<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/626616070796669>

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<sup>101</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/626616070796669>



Damage to the interior of Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque (Palmyra Coordination Committee; January 9, 2017)



Damage to the interior of Abi Thar al-Ghafari Mosque (Palmyra Coordination Committee; January 9, 2017)

**SHI 17-0007**

**Report Date:** January 12, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Fateh Mosque (مسجد الفتح) (al-Fateh al-Qadim Mosque)

**Date of Incident:** January 12, 2017

**Location:** Hazamra, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG shelling damages mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 12, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG shelling had struck near al-Fateh Mosque, causing damage.<sup>102</sup> al-Fateh Mosque has been damaged on at least one prior occasion. Video footage released in May 2016, shows al-Fateh Mosque was heavily damaged as a result of ongoing aerial bombardment by reported SARG forces.<sup>103</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0003, SHI 17-0008, and SHI 17-0018.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Fateh Mosque and the Northern 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/2017/01/12/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-fateh-mosque-hazrama-town-damascus-suburbs-january-12/>

Union Activists Revolution (UAR): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQQkIEOugAQ>

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<sup>102</sup> <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/12/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-fateh-mosque-hazrama-town-damascus-suburbs-january-12/>

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQQkIEOugAQ>



Video still of damage to al-Fateh Mosque (Union Activists Revolution; May 6, 2016)



Video still of damage to al-Fateh Mosque (Union Activists Revolution; May 6, 2016)





Video still of damage to interior of al-Fateh Mosque (Union Activists Revolution; May 6, 2016)

## SHI 17-0008

**Report Date:** January 13, 2017

**Site Name:** Northern Mosque (المسجد الشمالي)

**Date of Incident:** January 12, 2017

**Location:** Madaya, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG shelling damages a mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 13, 2017 SNHR reported that on January 12 SARG artillery shelling were “fired on the northern mosque in Madaya,” causing severe damage to the building and its furniture.<sup>104</sup> Photographs show damage to the interior of the mosque.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0003**, **SHI 17-0007**, and **SHI 17-0018**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Fateh Mosque and the Northern 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/2017/01/13/syrian-regime-targeted-northern-mosque-madaya-town-damascus-suburbs-governorate-january-12/>

Syrian Revolution Network:

<https://www.facebook.com/Syrian.Revolution/posts/10158290136060727:0>

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<sup>104</sup> <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/13/syrian-regime-targeted-northern-mosque-madaya-town-damascus-suburbs-governorate-january-12/>



Damage to the building and furniture at the Northern Mosque in Madaya (SNHR; January 13, 2017)



Damage to the Northern Mosque in Madaya (Syrian Revolution Network; January 12, 2017)



**SHI 17-0009**

**Report Date:** January 14, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Khalaf Mosque (مسجد الخلف)

**Date of Incident:** January 14, 2017

**Location:** al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya, Dara'a Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Mosque.

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG artillery damages mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 14, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG artillery shelled al-Khalaf Mosque in al-Ghariya al-Gharbiya town, causing severe damage.<sup>105</sup> A photograph released by SNHR shows shattered glass and rubble inside the mosque.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Khalaf 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/2017/01/14/syrian-regime-forces-targeted-al-khalaf-mosque-al-ghariya-al-gharbiya-town-daraa-governorate-january-14/>

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<sup>105</sup> <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/14/syrian-regime-forces-targeted-al-khalaf-mosque-al-ghariya-al-gharbiya-town-daraa-governorate-january-14/>



Damage to the interior of al-Khalaf Mosque (SNHR; January 14, 2017)

**SHI 17-0010**

**Report Date:** January 14, 2017

**Site Name:** Local Cemetery

**Date of Incident:** January 14, 2017

**Location:** Saraqib, Idlib Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Local cemetery in Saraqib.

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to local cemetery.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 14, 2017 Edlib Media Center (EMC) released video footage showing explosives damage to a cemetery in the town of Saraqib, a result of reported Russian aerial bombardment.<sup>106</sup> Saraqib has been under heavy bombardment by Russian and SARG forces. A large crater is seen on the edge of the cemetery, with damage to gravesites surrounding it.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the local cemetery in Saraqib, 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:

Edlib Media Center: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S95LY2VZgIc>

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<sup>106</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S95LY2VZgIc>



Video still shows a large crater on the edge of the cemetery, likely caused by an explosive (Edlib Media Center; January 14, 2017)



Video still of damage to the cemetery (Edlib Media Center; January 14, 2017)





Video still of damage to the cemetery (Edlib Media Center; January 14, 2017)



Video still of damage to the cemetery, the crater is in the upper right corner of the photograph (Edlib Media Center; January 14, 2017)

## SHI 17-0011

**Report Date:** January 18, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Thanouyia Obeida Ibn al-Jarah Institute (ثانوية أبي عبيدة ابن الجراح)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** Turkman Bareh, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** A religious law institute complex containing an education building and mosque.

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage inside mosque and education institute.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 18, 2017 Halab Today TV released a video report detailing the condition of al-Thanouyia Obeida Bin al-Jarah.<sup>107</sup> According to the video report, ISIL militants used the mosque building as a trash dump. According to the man speaking on the video, ISIL militants placed an explosive underneath the trash dump inside the mosque that detonated as people worked to clear the garbage. The explosion killed three people and wounded several others. Turkman Bareh was recaptured by a coalition of Turkish and US-backed Syrian opposition forces in early-October 2016.<sup>108</sup>

Also present in the video is a large pile of satellite dishes are present inside the mosque. ISIL militants have previously seized satellite dishes from local residents as a way of controlling the flow of information into areas under their control. The interior of the mosque appears to have sustained some explosives damage. On October 8, 2016 Reuters released photographs of satellite dishes collected inside the mosque as well as sandbags piled up inside the religious law institution.<sup>109</sup> A Syrian opposition group also released photographs of the exterior of the institution following the recapturing of the area from ISIL.<sup>110</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0002.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives, occupation/militarization.

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

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<sup>107</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10zdK6kzBuY>

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-dabiq-idUSKCN1230RI>

<sup>109</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN1280JS>

<sup>110</sup> <https://twitter.com/FkoUnion/status/783334516928700416>

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

FKO Union: <https://twitter.com/FkoUnion/status/783334516928700416>

Halab Today TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=10zdK6kzBuY>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKCN1280JS>



Satellite dishes inside al-Thanawiya Mosque (Reuters; October 7, 2016)





Sandbags piled up inside the religious law institution (Reuters; October 7, 2016)



Syrian opposition fighters from Fataqim Union stand outside the mosque and religious institution (FTO; October 4, 2016)

**SHI 17-0012**

**Report Date:** January 19, 2017

**Site Name:** Palmyra - Theater (المسرح الروماني بتدمر)

**Date of Incident:** December 26, 2016 - January 10, 2017

**Location:** Palmyra, Homs Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Palmyra's 2nd century CE Severan period theater is located southwest of the colonnaded decumanus. The theater is actually unfinished, consisting only of the lowest level of seating, the ima cavea (the media cavea and summa cavea would normally be above this lowest section, which is reserved for higher classes).<sup>111</sup>

**Site Date:** 2nd century CE

**Incident Summary:** ISIL carried out executions in the theater and destroyed the facade.

**Incident Source and Description:** Recently released DigitalGlobe satellite imagery showed new damage to the Roman Theater in Palmyra. The damage occurred between December 26, 2016 and January 10, 2017. This damage is likely the result of intentional destruction by ISIL, but the exact cause is still unknown. On January 20, 2017, Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director General of Antiquities and Museums, confirmed this damage took place stating he had been alerted to the damage by local residents.<sup>112</sup>

On January 19, 2017 multiple news outlets reported that ISIL militants carried out executions inside the ancient ruins of Palmyra, including inside the Roman Theater, outside the Palmyra museum, and inside the former Russian military base located within the archaeological site.<sup>113</sup> According to reports, ISIL militants executed four Palmyrene citizens, thought to be teachers and state employees, arrested by ISIL outside the Palmyra Museum in the "museum square." ISIL also executed four Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters and four pro-regime fighters at the Roman Theater and the abandoned Russian military base.<sup>114</sup> According to Palmyra monitor, 75 Palmyrene citizens and dozens of SARG and pro-regime fighters remain under arrest by ISIL in Palmyra.<sup>115</sup>

ISIL previously used the Roman Theater as an execution site in May 2015 after capturing the area

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<sup>111</sup> Sear, F. 2006. p. 321.

<sup>112</sup> <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2191>

<sup>113</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189> ; <https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/631618496963093> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

<sup>114</sup> <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189> ; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html>

<sup>115</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html> ; <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/>

from SARG forces. One year later, in May 2016, a Russian orchestra performed following the recapture of the area from ISIL by Russian, SARG, and pro-regime forces.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other cultural sites that were damaged in Homs Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0013** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0014**.

For more information on previous damage see **ASOR Incident Report SHI 15-0096** in **Weekly Report 45**, **ASOR Incident Report SHI 15-0104** in **Weekly Report 47-48**, **ASOR Incident Report SHI 16-0026** in **Weekly Report 79-80**, **ASOR Incident Report SHI 16-0041** in **Weekly Report 85-86**, and **ASOR Incident Report SHI 16-0041 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 87-88**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: intentional destruction.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will attempt to gather further information on these reports via in country sources and is continuing to monitor the condition of the Roman Theater and Palmyra.

#### **Sources:**

##### Online Reporting:

ASOR CHI: <http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org/new-damage-in-palmyra-uncovered-by-asor-chi/>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189>

BBC Arabic: <http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-38674848>

##### HyperAllergic:

<http://hyperallergic.com/353412/satellite-imagery-suggests-isis-destroyed-two-more-ancient-sites-in-palmyra/>

##### Independent:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html>

##### Live Science:

January 20, 2017: <http://www.livescience.com/57575-photos-destruction-of-palmyra-monuments.html> ; <http://www.livescience.com/57574-isis-damages-iconic-monuments-in-palmyra.html>

##### New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/world/middleeast/palmyra-syria-isis-amphitheater.html>

##### NPR:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/20/510732864/isis-destroys-ancient-theater-tetrapylon-in-palmyra-syria-says>

##### Palmyra Coordination Committee:

<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/631618496963093>

Palmyra Monitor:

January 25, 2017: <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/> ; <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-execute-teachers-in-front-of-children-after-retaking-the-city-of-palmyra/>

Reuters:

January 19, 2016: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

January 20, 2017: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1540X3>

RFERL: <http://www.rferl.org/a/tracking-palmyras-destruction/28251302.html>

RT: <https://www.rt.com/op-edge/374554-syria-palmyra-war-isis/>

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR): <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=59355>

Time: <http://time.com/4640614/isis-roman-monument-syria-palmyra-destroyed/>

Travel + Leisure:

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/culture-design/architecture-design/isis-palmyra-syria-destruction-antiquities-archeology>



The Tetracylon and Theater prior to recent damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 26, 2016)





Significant damage to the Theater and Tetrapylon noted with red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; January 10, 2017)

**SHI 17-0013**

**Report Date:** January 19, 2017

**Site Name:** Palmyra Museum

**Date of Incident:** January 19, 2017

**Location:** Tadmor, Homs Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Built in 1961 to house artifacts from Palmyra and the surrounding area, the museum is located in the southwestern part of the modern day city of Palmyra in a location known as the Museum Square, which is a vital strategic cross section for the two vital roads linking the town; the road to Homs in the west and the road to Damascus in the southwest. The Museum Square is also considered as the northern entrance to the archaeological area. The museum building is surrounded by the relatively modern (ca. 1940) town of Palmyra to the north and to the east, and the archeological area to the south and west.

**Site Date:** 1961 CE

**Incident Summary:** ISIL executed prisoners outside the Palmyra Museum.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017 multiple news outlets reported that ISIL militants carried out executions inside the ancient ruins of Palmyra, including inside the Roman Theater, outside the Palmyra museum, and inside the former Russian military base located within the archaeological site.<sup>116</sup> According to reports, ISIL militants executed four Palmyrene citizens, thought to be teachers and state employees, arrested by ISIL outside the Palmyra Museum in the “museum square.”<sup>117</sup> According to Palmyra monitor, 75 Palmyrene citizens and dozens of SARG and pro-regime fighters remain under arrest by ISIL in Palmyra.<sup>118</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other cultural sites that were damaged in Homs Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0012** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0014**.

For previous damage to the Palmyra Museum see, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0114** in **Weekly Report 51-52**, **SHI 15-0116** in **Weekly Report 53-54**, **SHI 16-0043** in **Weekly Report 85-86**, **SHI 16-0043 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 87-88**, and **SHI 16-0043 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 99-100**.

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<sup>116</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189> ; <https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/631618496963093> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

<sup>117</sup> <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189> ; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html>

<sup>118</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html> ; <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/>

**Pattern:** Military activity: occupation/militarization.

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

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189>

BBC Arabic: <http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-38674848>

HyperAllergic:

<http://hyperallergic.com/353412/satellite-imagery-suggests-isis-destroyed-two-more-ancient-sites-in-palmyra/>

Independent:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html>

Live Science:

January 20, 2017: <http://www.livescience.com/57575-photos-destruction-of-palmyra-monuments.html> ; <http://www.livescience.com/57574-isis-damages-iconic-monuments-in-palmyra.html>

New York Times:

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NPR:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/20/510732864/isis-destroys-ancient-theater-tetrapylon-in-palmyra-syria-says>

Palmyra Coordination Committee:

<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/631618496963093>

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January 19, 2017: <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/> ; <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-execute-teachers-in-front-of-children-after-retaking-the-city-of-palmyra/>

Reuters:

January 19, 2016: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

January 20, 2017: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1540X3>

RFERL: <http://www.rferl.org/a/tracking-palmyras-destruction/28251302.html>

RT: <https://www.rt.com/op-edge/374554-syria-palmyra-war-isis/>

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR): <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=59355>

Time: <http://time.com/4640614/isis-roman-monument-syria-palmyra-destroyed/>

Travel + Leisure:

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/culture-design/architecture-design/isis-palmyra-syria-destruction-antiquities-archeology>



**SHI 17-0014**

**Report Date:** January 19, 2017

**Site Name:** Tetrapylon (التتراييل)

**Date of Incident:** January 19, 2017

**Location:** Palmyra, Homs Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unlike most Roman cities in the region, Palmyra did not conform to the standard city plan of two intersecting streets (a decumanus running east-west and a cardo running north-south). The main colonnaded street of Palmyra changes direction twice, and at these points unique architectural devices, namely as the Triumphal Arch and the Tetrapylon, were built to make the route appear more harmonious. The Tetrapylon consists of four large plinths, each supporting four columns topped by a massive corinth. This type of tetrapylon is called a tetrakionion, in which the four corners of the structure are not connected overhead. Only one of the original pink Egyptian granite columns survives--the other are modern reproductions.<sup>119</sup>

**Site Date:** late 2nd-century CE

**Incident Summary:** New satellite imagery shows damage to the Tetrapylon.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017, recently released DigitalGlobe satellite imagery showed new damage to the Tetrapylon in Palmyra. The damage occurred between December 26, 2016 and January 10, 2017. This damage is likely the result of intentional destruction by ISIL, but the exact cause is still unknown. On January 20, 2017, Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director General of Antiquities and Museums, confirmed this damage took places stating he had been alerted to the damage by local residents.<sup>120</sup> The Tetrapylon appears to have been intentionally destroyed using explosives, possibly in a similar manner to how ISIL militants destroyed the Temple of Bel, the Baalshamin Temple, the Triumphal Arch, and several tower tombs located within the Valley of the Tombs. Two columns of the Tetrapylon remain standing, but the majority of the structure has been severely damaged and column drums and debris are visible on the ground around the structure.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other cultural sites that were damaged in Homs Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0012** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0013**.

For more information on previous damage, see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0041** in **Weekly Report 85-86**, and **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0041 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 87-88**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: intentional destruction.

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<sup>119</sup> Darke (2006): 238

<sup>120</sup> <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?id=314&id=2191>

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will attempt to gather further information on these reports via in country sources and is continuing to monitor the condition of the Tetrapylon and Palmyra.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38678189>

BBC Arabic: <http://www.bbc.com/arabic/middleeast-38674848>

HyperAllergic:

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<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-palmyra-syria-executions-islamic-state-retake-city-russia-assad-ruins-roman-theatre-civilians-a7535026.html>

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/world/middleeast/palmyra-syria-isis-amphitheater.html>

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<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/631618496963093>

Palmyra Monitor:

January 19, 2017: <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-carries-out-mass-executions-in-palmyra-ancient-theatre/> ; <http://www.palmyra-monitor.net/isis-execute-teachers-in-front-of-children-after-retaking-the-city-of-palmyra/>

Reuters:

January 19, 2016: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1530XM>

January 20, 2017: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1540X3>

RFERL: <http://www.rferl.org/a/tracking-palmyras-destruction/28251302.html>

RT: <https://www.rt.com/op-edge/374554-syria-palmyra-war-isis/>

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR): <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=59355>

Time: <http://time.com/4640614/isis-roman-monument-syria-palmyra-destroyed/>

Travel + Leisure:

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/culture-design/architecture-design/isis-palmyra-syria-destruction-antiquities-archeology>



The Tetracylon and Theater prior to recent damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 26, 2016)



Significant damage to the Theater and Tetrapylon noted with red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; January 10, 2017)



**SHI 17-0015**

**Report Date:** January 23, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Tabiya Mosque

**Date of Incident:** January 23, 2017

**Location:** Tabiya al Shamiya, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG forces shell mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 23, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that Syrian Regime warplanes fired missiles on al-Tabiya Mosque. No photographs were released at the time of the report.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0016**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Tabiya 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/2017/01/23/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-tabiya-mosque-al-tabiya-al-shamiya-mosque-deir-ez-zour-governorate-january-23/>

**SHI 17-0016**

**Report Date:** January 23, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Nour Mosque

**Date of Incident:** January 20, 2017

**Location:** al-Boleel, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Reported SARG forces fired on a mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 20, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG forces fired missiles on al-Nour Mosque, partially damaging it.<sup>121</sup> Video footage released on January 30 shows structural damage to the interior of the mosque.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Deir ez-Zor Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0015**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Nour 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:

January 20: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/21/syrian-regime-forces-targeted-al-nour-mosque-rowaida-neighborhood-al-boulayl-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-january-20/>

January 30, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdfxYWVjyiU>

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<sup>121</sup> <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/21/syrian-regime-forces-targeted-al-nour-mosque-rowaida-neighborhood-al-boulayl-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-january-20/>



Damage to al-Nour Mosque (SNHR; January 20, 2017)



Video still of damage to interior of mosque (SNHR; January 30, 2017)



Video still of damage to interior of mosque (SNHR; January 30, 2017)



Video still of damage to interior of mosque (SNHR; January 30, 2017)



**SHI 17-0017**

**Report Date:** January 23 2017

**Site Name:** al-Tabiya Cemetery

**Date of Incident:** January 22, 2017

**Location:** Tabiya, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** ISIL footage shows fighting occurring in a cemetery.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 22, 2017 ISIL affiliated Amaq Agency published a video showing fighting taking place in the al-Tabiya Cemetery. The cemetery looks to be relatively untouched, with gravestones and above ground tombs still standing.

**Pattern:** Military activity: occupation/militarization.

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



An ISIL member firing a weapon in the al-Tabiya Cemetery (Amaq Agency; January 22, 2017)

**SHI 17-0018****Report Date:** January 25, 2017**Site Name:** al-Mahmoudi Mosque (مسجد المحمدي)**Date of Incident:** January 25, 2017**Location:** Wadi Barada, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria**Site Description:** Mosque**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** Video footage shows damage to interior of mosque.**Incident Source and Description:** On January 25, 2017 Qasioun News Agency released a video showing damage to al-Mahmoudi Mosque in the village of Wadi Barada.<sup>122</sup> Video footage shows damage to furniture inside the mosque and interior damage. The perpetrator of the damage is not mentioned in the video.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Rif Dimashq Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0003, SHI 17-0007, and SHI 17-0008.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to al-Mahmoudi 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:Qasioun News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8A1lYOjt7o>

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<sup>122</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8A1lYOjt7o>



Video still of damage to interior of al-Mahmoudi Mosque (Qasioun News; January 25, 2017)



Video still of damage to courtyard of al-Mahmoudi Mosque (Qasioun News; January 25, 2017)

## Incident Reports: Iraq

### IHI 15-0050 UPDATE

**Report Date:** January 22, 2017

**Site Name:** Mar Gorgis Monastery

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

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

**Site Date:** 10th century, 17th-century CE, rebuilt in 1931 CE

**Incident Summary:** New photographs show damage to monastery.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 22, 2017 various news sources released photographs showing damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery located on the northern outskirts of Mosul.<sup>123</sup> The monastery has sustained damage from military activity, as well as intentional damage from ISIL. The exterior of the monastery and the courtyard are damaged, and graffiti is apparent on some walls.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0033 UPDATE**.

For more information on previous damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0050** in **Weekly Report 32**; **IHI 15-0050 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 125-128**; and **IHI in 17-0034** in **May 2017 Monthly Report 141-144**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives; gunfire/light weaponry; vandalism.

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

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<sup>123</sup> <http://heavy.com/news/2017/01/isis-islamic-state-iraqi-army-american-coalition-mosul-battle-january-22-2017-photo-report/2/>; <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4147366/ISIS-boss-charge-executing-women-killed-Mosul.html>



**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images:

<http://heavy.com/news/2017/01/isis-islamic-state-iraqi-army-american-coalition-mosul-battle-january-22-2017-photo-report/12/>

Daily Mail:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4147366/ISIS-boss-charge-executing-women-killed-Mosul.html>

Heavy:

<http://heavy.com/news/2017/01/isis-islamic-state-iraqi-army-american-coalition-mosul-battle-january-22-2017-photo-report/5/>

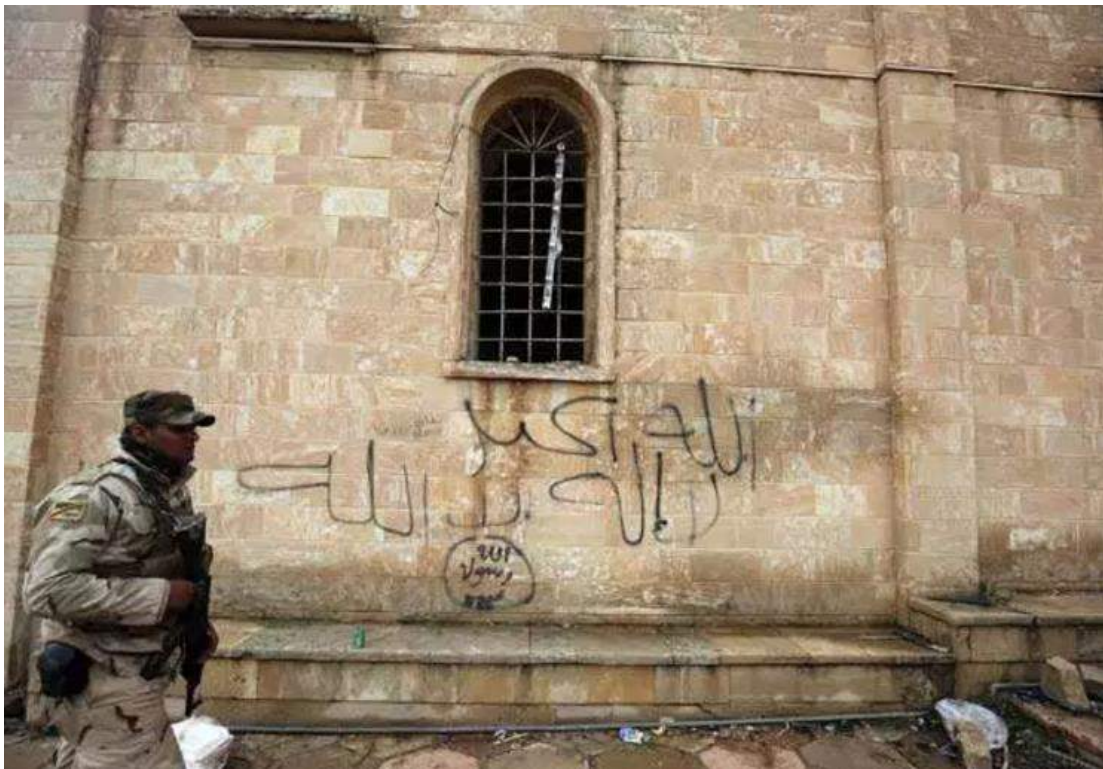


Graffiti present including the 'N' letter used to mark Christian buildings (Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; January 22, 2017)



© AFP/Getty Images

Damage to Mar Gorgis Monastery (Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; January 22, 2017)



Graffiti on the exterior wall of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; January 22, 2017)





A cross on top of the roof of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; January 22, 2017)



Courtyard of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Daily Mail; January 23, 2017)



© AFP/Getty Images

Rubble in the exterior of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Daily Mail; January 23, 2017)



## IHI 16-0026 UPDATE

**Report Date:** January 23, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Remah Palace (قصر الرماح)

**Date of Incident:** January 19, 2017

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** One of Saddam Hussein's 82 palaces, this palace in Mosul was constructed during Saddam's reign. Like many palaces, this building was occupied by the US Army, who used the palace as a base/command center after 2003. ISIL captured the palace in 2014, following their invasion of Mosul.

**Site Date:** Built by Saddam Hussein (1979-2003)

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows condition of the palace.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017 Iraqi News reported Iraqi forces liberated al-Remah Palace from ISIL.<sup>124</sup> On January 25, 2017 Reuters released a new photograph of the palace. There is severe structural damage to the main building, including the walls and roof, from various episodes of bombing.<sup>125</sup> There is complete destruction of some outbuildings. Inside the main palace, there are leftover munitions, ISIL banners, graffiti, and vandalism of murals. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery does not show any more visible damage to the palace.

For more information on previous damage to al-Remah Palace see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0026** in **Weekly Report 105-106**.

**Pattern:** Site management: tourism/visitor activity.

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

### Sources:

#### Online Reporting:

Iraqi News:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-army-seizes-presidential-palaces-in-northern-mosuls-tel-kaif/>

Reuters:

<http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/on-the-frontlines-of-mosul?articleId=USRTSWZR1>

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<sup>124</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/iraqi-army-seizes-presidential-palaces-in-northern-mosuls-tel-kaif/>

<sup>125</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-36957247/raf-attacks-is-base-at-saddam-hussein-palace-in-mosul>

The Sun: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2685465/saddam-husse-in-mosul-palace-isis/>



Video still of the front of al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still of interior of al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still showing ISIL banner inside al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still showing complete destruction of outbuilding (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)





Video still of the roof of al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still of munitions in al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)





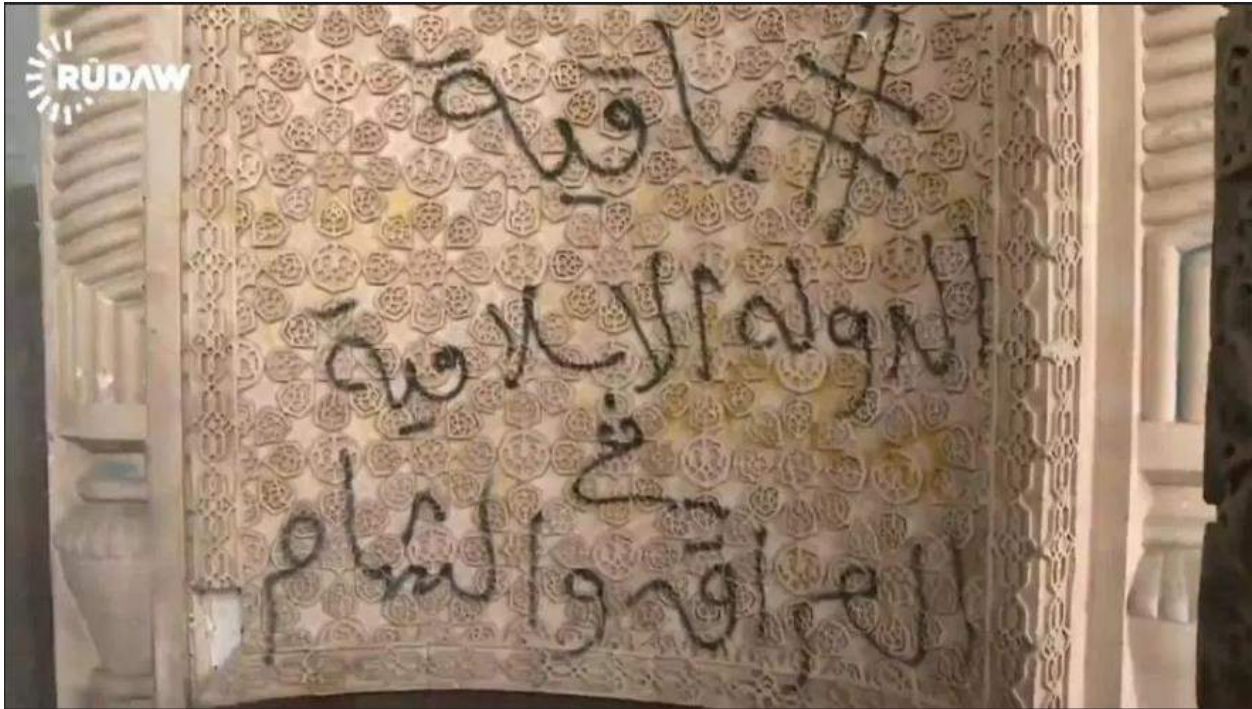
Video still of the interior of al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still of rubble inside al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still of the interior of al-Remah Palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)



Video still of graffiti inside al-Remah palace (The Sun/Rudaw; January 23, 2017)





Complete destruction of part of al-Remah palace, and outbuilding (Reuters; January 25, 2017)



Outside al-Remah Palace with defaced figures in background (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 19, 2017)



Close-up of defacement of a mural at al-Remah Palace (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 19, 2017)

## **IHI 16-0033 UPDATE**

**Report Date:** January 11, 2017

**Site Name:** Chaldean Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit (كنيسة روح القدس; Ark Church)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul constructed to look like Noah's Ark.

**Site Date:** early 2000s CE

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows condition of church.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 11, 2017 al-Mosuliya Channel released video footage of the Chaldean Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit showing some damage to the interior, including damage that appears to have been intentional destruction.<sup>126</sup> Damage to the church appears similar to other intentional destruction carried out by ISIL at other Christian sites across Ninawa Governorate.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0050 UPDATE**.

For more information on previous damage to the Chaldean Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0033** in **Weekly Report 121-122** and **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0033 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.

**Pattern:** Vandalism.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor damage to the area around the Chaldean Catholic Church of the Holy Spirit, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

### **Sources:**

#### Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lksRQ3iwww>

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<sup>126</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lksRQ3iwww>





Video still of the exterior of the 'Ark Church' showing minimal damage (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of the exterior of the 'Ark Church' showing minimal damage, broken windows are seen (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of damage to the exterior of the church (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of the church (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of the church (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of the church (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)





Video still of damage to a placard at the church (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



**IHI 17-0001**

**Report Date:** December 23, 2016

**Site Name:** al-Khatib Mosque (جامع الخطب)

**Date of Incident:** Between November 20, 2016 and December 30, 2016

**Location:** al-Jazar Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to a mosque in Mosul.

**Incident Source and Description:** On December 23, 2016 ISIL-affiliated media agency Amaq published a video showing damage to the exterior of the al-Khatib Mosque reportedly caused by US-led Coalition airstrikes. Present in the courtyard of the mosque are listings for prayer times, suggesting that this mosque was being used for prayer underneath ISIL occupation. There is moderate to severe damage including shrapnel/bullet holes, collapse of the roof, missing windows, and graffiti, but the dome and minaret are intact.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms that the mosque was damaged sometime between November 20, 2016 and December 30, 2016.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike; gunfire/light weaponry; vandalism.

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

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency



Video still of extensive damage to the exterior of al-Khatib Mosque (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)



Video still of extensive damage to the exterior of al-Khatib Mosque (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)





Video still of extensive damage to the exterior of al-Khatib Mosque (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)



Video still of extensive damage to the exterior of al-Khatib Mosque, prayer times exhibited in the center of the still (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)



Video still of extensive damage to the area surrounding al-Khatib Mosque, the minaret is seen in the background (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)



Video still of extensive damage to the area surrounding al-Khatib Mosque, the minaret and dome are seen in the background (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)





Video still of extensive damage to the area surrounding al-Khatib Mosque including the mosque's gate, the minaret is seen in the background (Amaq News Agency; December 23, 2016)



Al-Khatib Mosque prior to destruction shown within the red square (DigitalGlobe NextView License; November 20, 2016)



Destruction to mosque indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 30, 2016)

**IHI 17-0002****Report Date:** January 14, 2017**Site Name:** al-Sayegh Mosque**Date of Incident:** Unknown**Location:** al-Baladyat Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq**Site Description:** Unknown**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** New photographs shows damage to a mosque.**Incident Source and Description:** On January 14, 2017 Documenting Oppression Against Muslims (DOAM) posted photographs of damage to the al-Sayegh Mosque<sup>127</sup>. DOAM claims this was due to Iraqi army airstrikes. The interior of the mosque is full of rubble and one wall is missing due to military activity.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives - airstrike.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of mosques in Mosul, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.**Sources:**Online Reporting:

Documenting Oppression Against Muslims (DOAM):  
<https://twitter.com/doamuslims/status/820212833636024320>

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<sup>127</sup> <https://twitter.com/doamuslims/status/820212833636024320>





Rubble inside the al-Sayegh Mosque (DOAM; January 14, 2017)



Shattered glass inside the al-Sayegh Mosque (DOAM; January 14, 2017)



Missing front wall of al-Sayegh Mosque (DOAM; January 14, 2017)



**IHI 17-0003**

**Report Date:** January 15, 2017

**Site Name:** Unidentified Mosque in Mosul

**Date of Incident:** January 15, 2017

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unidentified mosque in the city of Mosul. Based on the date the video was taken, it is likely that the mosque in question is located in the west bank of Mosul. By mid-January 2017 Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) had recaptured the majority of the eastern bank, making it increasingly difficult for ISIL to hold any such events in the area. The video footage shows a large, likely two story mosque. Despite ongoing airstrikes and combat throughout the east bank of Mosul, the mosque's interior appears undamaged.

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Amaq video footage shows recruitment taking place inside mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 15, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency published a video showing recruitment activities occurring inside a mosque in Mosul. The name of the mosque was not released.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: occupation/militarization.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor recruitment activities taking place inside cultural heritage sites in ISIL-held areas of Iraq. As ISIL continues to suffer heavy casualties in Mosul, it is likely that recruitment activities will pick-up, targeting any able-bodied males in the near area.



Video still showing recruitment taking place inside an unnamed mosque in Mosul (Amaq News Agency; January 15, 2017)



Video still showing recruitment taking place inside an unnamed mosque in Mosul (Amaq News Agency; January 15, 2017)



Video still showing recruitment taking place inside an unnamed mosque in Mosul (Amaq News Agency; January 15, 2017)

**IHI 17-0004**

**Report Date:** January 11, 2017

**Site Name:** al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque (جامع الرحمن الرحيم)

**Date of Incident:** Undetermined.

**Location:** al-Hadbaa Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** Video footage shows damage to mosques in newly liberated areas of Mosul.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 11, 2017 video footage released online shows damage to the al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque in al-Hadba neighborhood.<sup>128</sup> The damage appears to have been caused by military explosives during clashes between Iraqi Security Forces and ISIL militants. A white board present at the mosque with listed prayer times suggests that the mosque was continually used for prayer during the ISIL occupation of Mosul. There is slight damage to the mosque including shrapnel/bullet holes, and missing windows.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives; gunfire/light weaponry.

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

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU3wDNxhSA&t=243s>

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<sup>128</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JU3wDNxhSA&t=243s>





Video still showing damage to the exterior of al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still showing damage to the exterior of al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still of damage to the exterior of al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque, broken windows visible (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)

**جدول مواقيت الصلاة**

العشاء	المغرب	العصر	الظهر	الشرق	الفجر	التاريخ	يوم
٦,١٨	٥,٠٦	٦,٤٤	١٢,١٠	٧,١٨	٦,٠٢	٢٠	الجمعة
٦,١٩	٥,٠٣	٦,٤٥	١٢,١١	٧,١٨	٦,٠٣	٢١	السبت
٦,١٩	٥,٠٣	٦,٤٥	١٢,١١	٧,١٨	٦,٠٣	١	الأحد
٦,٢١	٥,٠٤	٦,٤٦	١٢,١٢	٧,١٩	٦,٠٣	٢	الاثنين
٦,٢١	٥,٠٥	٦,٤٧	١٢,١٢	٧,١٩	٦,٠٣	٣	الثلاثاء
٦,٢٢	٥,٠٦	٦,٤٨	١٢,١٣	٧,١٩	٦,٠٣	٤	الأربعاء

Video still of prayer times listed at al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)



Video still showing minimal damage to the interior of al-Rahman al-Rahim Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 11, 2017)

## IHI 17-0005

**Report Date:** January 16, 2017

**Site Name:** Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Nebi Yunus Shrine)

**Date of Incident:** January 16, 2017

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex - The site is located on the mound south of the Neo-Assyrian capital of Nineveh. The mound includes a palace built by King Esarhaddon (681-669 BCE), renovated by Ashurbanipal (669-627 BCE), and destroyed in 621 BCE when Nineveh was attacked. A Nestorian-Assyrian church was later built on the mound and was eventually became associated with the Prophet Jonah. In the late 14th century CE, the site was converted into a mosque and was still considered to be the location of Jonah's tomb, as the prophet is revered in both Christianity and Islam. The mosque was subsequently the subject of a number of restorations, including modern additions. The site was an important pilgrimage destination.

**Site Date:** Nebi Yunus Shrine - The original Christian remains date to approximately the 7th century CE, and the earliest Islamic remains date to the 14th century CE. The contemporary mosque is largely made of modern additions.

**Incident Summary:** Iraqi forces capture Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex exposing the extent of ISIL damage.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 16, 2017 Iraqi forces recaptured the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex from ISIL. According to a Rudaw journalist, reportedly the first journalist to reach the site with Iraqi forces, "nothing remains inside the shrine. It is all destroyed."<sup>129</sup> Video footage released by Rudaw confirms this extensive damage.<sup>130</sup> According to an Iraqi Special Forces spokesman, only the fences of the site were found alongside the ruins of the mosque.<sup>131</sup> According to the speaker of the Iraqi National Mobilization Forces, ISIL militants dug several tunnels under the site in order to look for artifacts.<sup>132</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

The Nebi Yunus Shrine was heavily damaged when it was intentionally destroyed by ISIL in July 2014. For previous detail on damage to Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex and Nebi Seeth Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0028** in **Weekly Report 39** and **IHI 16-0004** in **Weekly Report 79-80.**

**Pattern:** Military activity; intentional destruction; Illegal excavation.

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<sup>129</sup> <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120172>

<sup>130</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/RudawArabi/videos/1288711744547189/>

<sup>131</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/01/17/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>

<sup>132</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/a/iraqi-forces-say-is-destroyed-historic-tomb-of-jonah-in-mosul/3681118.html>



**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex and will work with in-country sources to determine the extent of the damage.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

Daily Mail:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4166894/ISIS-destruction-popular-Mosque-prophet-Jonah.html>

Iraqi News:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/joint-forces-liberate-nabi-yunus-mosque-mosul/>

Middle East Eye:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/battle-mosul-iraq-forces-retake-bombed-jonahs-tomb-854389548>

Mosul Eye:

January 16, 2016: <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1128920717229429> ;  
<https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/posts/1129042317217269:0>

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zkvyyymEHR4>

Mujtahid al-Anbar (مجتهد الأنبار):

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1215699735134471&id=926514604052987](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1215699735134471&id=926514604052987)

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<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/01/17/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>

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January 16, 2017: <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120172>

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Turner, George (1970), "Tell Nebi Yunūs: The Ekal Māšarti of Nineveh," Iraq 32.1: 68-72.

Walker, J. (2011) "Nineveh," In Gorgias Encyclopedic Dictionary of the Syriac Heritage. Gorgias Press, pp. 309-310.



People gather outside Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)



Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)



Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)



Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)





Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)



Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)





Damage seen inside the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Rudaw; January 16, 2017)



An unidentified Iraqi force member takes a photograph of damage at the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Mosul Eye; January 16, 2016)





Damage seen to the exterior of the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Iraqi News; January 26, 2017)



Damage to the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Reuters/Daily Mail; January 28, 2017)





Damage to the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (AP/Daily Mail; January 28, 2017)



Damage to the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Reuters/Daily Mail; January 28, 2017)





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Damage to the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex (Reuters/Daily Mail; January 28, 2017)

## IHI 17-0006

**Report Date:** January 19, 2017

**Site Name:** Tel Kaif Cemetery (مقبرة تلكيف)

**Date of Incident:** Between August 2014 and October 2016.

**Location:** Tel Kaif (Tel Keppe), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Built above a suspected archaeological “tel site dating back to the Assyrian and Akkadian periods”, as well as from a period known as the 5th Nineveh Level dating back to the 3rd millennium BC. Pottery from the 5th Nineveh Level has been found at the cemetery.

Archaeological artifacts from dating back to 2500 BCE to the 6th Millennia BCE have been discovered in Tel Kayf.<sup>133</sup> Churches in Tel Kayf contain Chaldean manuscripts dating back to the 16th century.

**Site Date:** 1900 CE

**Incident Summary:** Video footage shows damage to cemetery.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017 the Iraqi Army recaptured Tel Kaif, and Fadhiliya north of Mosul.<sup>134</sup> News sources are releasing photographs from this mainly Christian settlement. Video footage released on January 22, 2017 shows extensive damage to a cemetery in Tel Kaif.<sup>135</sup>

Video footage from August 20, 2015 following the re-capturing of the area by Kurdish Peshmerga forces shows some damage to the town and churches, including ISIL shelling damage to the Tel Kaif Cemetery.<sup>136</sup>

For previous damage to the Tell Kaif Cemetery, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0074** in **WR 33**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry; occupation/militarization; vandalism.

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

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<sup>133</sup> <http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle.35680.html>

<sup>134</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-recaptures-tel-kaif-fadhiliya-storms-mosul/>; <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190120171>

<sup>135</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttP4awrzC94>

<sup>136</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttP4awrzC94>

**Sources:**

**Online Reporting:**

AJ+: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttP4awrzC94>

**Iraqi News:**

<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/army-recaptures-tel-kaif-fadhiliya-storms-mosul/>

**Nahrain Post:**

January 21, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/995020377308528/>

January 25, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/998390926971473/>

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190120171>



Video still of shelling damage to Tel Kaif Cemetery (AJ+; August 20, 2015)



Video still of shelling damage to Tel Kaif Cemetery (AJ+; August 20, 2015)





Video still of damage to Tel Kaif Cemetery (Nahrain Post; January 25, 2017)



Video still of damage to Tel Kaif Cemetery (Nahrain Post; January 25, 2017)

**IHI 17-0007**

**Report Date:** January 19, 2017

**Site Name:** Mart Shmone Church (كنيسة مارت شموني)

**Date of Incident:** Exact date unknown, August 2014 - October 2016.

**Location:** Tel Kaif (Tel Keppe), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** ISIL militants reused church as military base and training camp

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017, the Iraqi Army recaptured Tel Kaif, and Fadhiliya north of Mosul.<sup>137</sup> Various news sources then released photographs from this mainly Christian area.<sup>138</sup> ISIL removed Christian symbols and damaged the exteriors of the Mart Shmone Church. Once the town was liberated, a cross was lifted over church and replaced where it once stood. According to a report by Nahrain Post, the Mart Shmone Church was re-purposed into a mosque called “al-Imam Malik.”

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry; occupation/militarization; vandalism.

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

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

Nahrain Post:

January 20, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/994286994048533/>

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[https://www.facebook.com/pg/NahrainPost/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=997378437072722](https://www.facebook.com/pg/NahrainPost/photos/?tab=album&album_id=997378437072722)

Personal Twitter Account

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/middleeast/turkey/23012017>

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<sup>137</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-recaptures-tel-kaif-fadhiliya-storms-mosul/>; <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190120171>

<sup>138</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/pg/NahrainPost/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=997378437072722](https://www.facebook.com/pg/NahrainPost/photos/?tab=album&album_id=997378437072722)



Mar Shmone Church as it stands today (Twitter; January 22, 2017)





Mar Shmone Church as it stands today (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)



A view of Mar Shmone Church as it stands today (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)



Damage to Mar Shmone Church (Twitter; January 22, 2017)





Damage to Mar Shmone Church (Twitter; January 22, 2017)





Damage to Mar Shmone Church (Twitter; January 22, 2017)



Damage inside Mar Shmone Church (Twitter; January 22, 2017)





Damage seen to Mar Shmone Church (Twitter; January 22, 2017)





The raising of a cross atop Mart Shmone Church (Nahrain Post; January 24, 2017)

## IHI 17-0008

**Report Date:** January 19 2017

**Site Name:** Mar Yousif Church (كنيسة مار يوسف)

**Date of Incident:** Exact date unknown, August 2014 - October 2016.

**Location:** Tel Kaif (Tel Keppe), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** ISIL militants reuse church as military base and training camp

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017, the Iraqi Army recaptured Tel Kaif and Fadhiliya north of Mosul.<sup>139</sup> Video footage taken inside Mar Yousif Church shows intentional destruction to the interior of the church. Much of the destruction includes defacement of religious iconography.<sup>140</sup>

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry; occupation/militarization; vandalism.

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

### Sources:

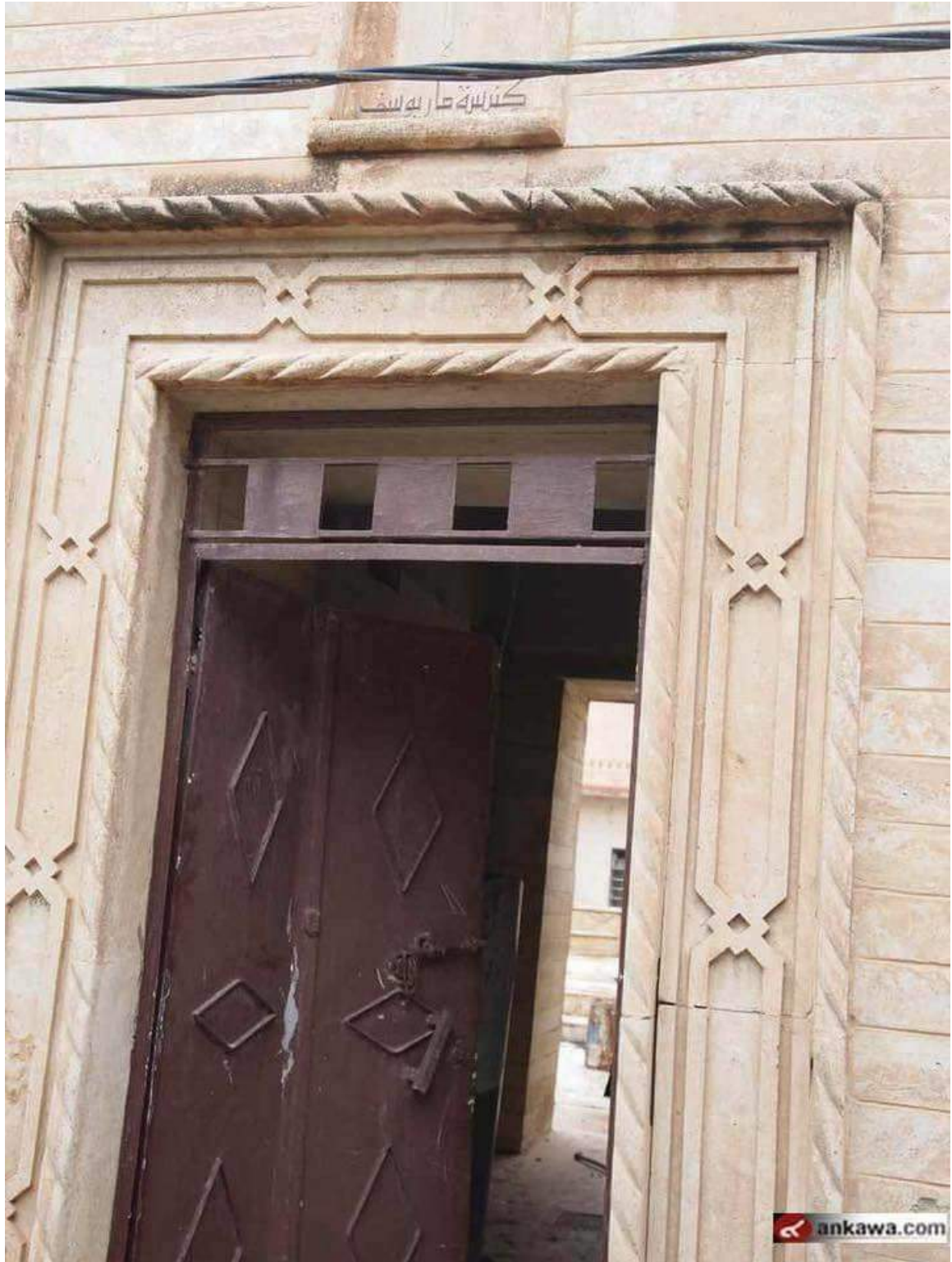
#### Online Reporting:

Nahrain Post: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/997611293716103/>

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<sup>139</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-recaptures-tel-kaif-fadhiliya-storms-mosul/>; <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190120171>

<sup>140</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/997611293716103/>



Mar Yousif Church as it stands today (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)





Damage to interior of Mar Yousif Church (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)



Damage to interior of Mar Yousif Church (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)



Damage to a cross on the exterior of Mar Yousif Church (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)





Damage to a cross at Mar Yousif Church (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)

## IHI 17-0009

**Report Date:** January 19 2017

**Site Name:** al-Andalus Mosque (جامع الاندلس)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** al-Andalus Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** New photograph shows damage to mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017, The Atlantic published a photograph of the dome of an unnamed mosque in the al-Andalus neighborhood.<sup>141</sup> Part of the dome is missing, and bullet/shrapnel holes cover the dome and building.<sup>142</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry.

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

### Sources:

#### Online Reporting:

The Atlantic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/01/halfway-through-the-battle-for-mosul/515178/>

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<sup>141</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/01/halfway-through-the-battle-for-mosul/515178/>

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/01/halfway-through-the-battle-for-mosul/515178/>



Damage to the dome of the al-Andalus Mosque (The Atlantic; January 19, 2017)



## IHI 17-0010

**Report Date:** January 20, 2017

**Site Name:** Grand Mosul Mosque (جامع الموصل الكبير) (Saddam Mosque)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** al-Zarawi Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** An unfinished mosque once known as Saddam Mosque. It has been under construction since the Saddam regime. The mosque served as a backdrop of ISIL propaganda in which militants beheaded captives.

**Site Date:** Saddam Hussein's Reign (1979-2003)

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 18, 2017 al-Mosuliya released a video showing the Grand Mosul Mosque.<sup>143</sup> The footage shows damage to the exterior and interior of the mosque from military activity. On January 22, 2017 Kurdistan 24 published a video report showing that the Grand Mosque of Mosul was turned into a bomb-making factory, where booby-traps and car bombs were manufactured.<sup>144</sup> In addition, the minarets and the mosque building were used as ISIL sniper positions, as well as a reported launch site for explosive drones.<sup>145</sup> On January 24, 2017 Stripes published an article detailing the use of the Grand Mosque of Mosul as a storage space for air conditioners confiscated from houses in and around Mosul.<sup>146</sup> Most of these air conditioners are reportedly from Christian homes.

In 2014, ISIL militants were reported to have executed an Imam of the Grand Mosul Mosque.<sup>147</sup> Since the mosque was never finished, the aspects of damage include rubble in the courtyard, signs of fire, and the stacks of air conditioners.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0011, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.

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

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<sup>143</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgPWuNGMLqS>

<sup>144</sup> <http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/video/49e39f60-1dc6-4818-8b1c-9b8e8fa1c8de/VIDEO--IS-turned-Mosul-s-Great-Mosque-into-bomb--VBIED-factory>

<sup>145</sup> <http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/video/49e39f60-1dc6-4818-8b1c-9b8e8fa1c8de/VIDEO--IS-turned-Mosul-s-Great-Mosque-into-bomb--VBIED-factory>

<sup>146</sup> <http://www.stripes.com/news/kill-zone-protects-troops-from-terrorists-in-mosul-1.450537>

<sup>147</sup> <http://www.manar.com/page-22881-ar.html> ; <https://www.ushmm.org/m/pdfs/Iraq-Bearing-Witness-Report-111215.pdf>

## Sources:

### Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgPWuNGMLqs>

Kurdistan 24:

<http://www.kurdistan24.net/en/video/49e39f60-1dc6-4818-8b1c-9b8e8fa1c8de/VIDEO--IS-turned-Mosul-s-Great-Mosque-into-bomb--VBIED-factory>

Mujtahid al-Anbar: <https://www.facebook.com/mujtahadalanbar2016/posts/1216352291735882>

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/arabic/middleeast/iraq/190120175>

Rudaw English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWLYKEjUFUw>

Stripes:

<http://www.stripes.com/news/kill-zone-protects-troops-from-terrorists-in-mosul-1.450537>

The Sun:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2673545/blasted-buildings-and-shattered-streets-of-mosul-laid-bare-as-iraqi-troops-sweep-isis-from-half-of-war-ravaged-city/>

W.G. Dunlop, AFP Correspondent:

January 20, 2017: <https://twitter.com/wgdunlop/status/822449950273503234> ; <https://twitter.com/wgdunlop/status/822450912157437952>



The view inside the Grand Mosul Mosque (Stripes; January 24, 2017)



Stockpiled, reportedly stolen, air conditioners were stored inside the Grand Mosul Mosque (Stripes; January 24, 2017)





Damage to the exterior of the Grand Mosul Mosque (Rudaw; January 19, 2017)



Damage to a mosque building (Rudaw; January 19, 2017)



A view of the Grand Mosul Mosque (Rudaw; January 19, 2017)

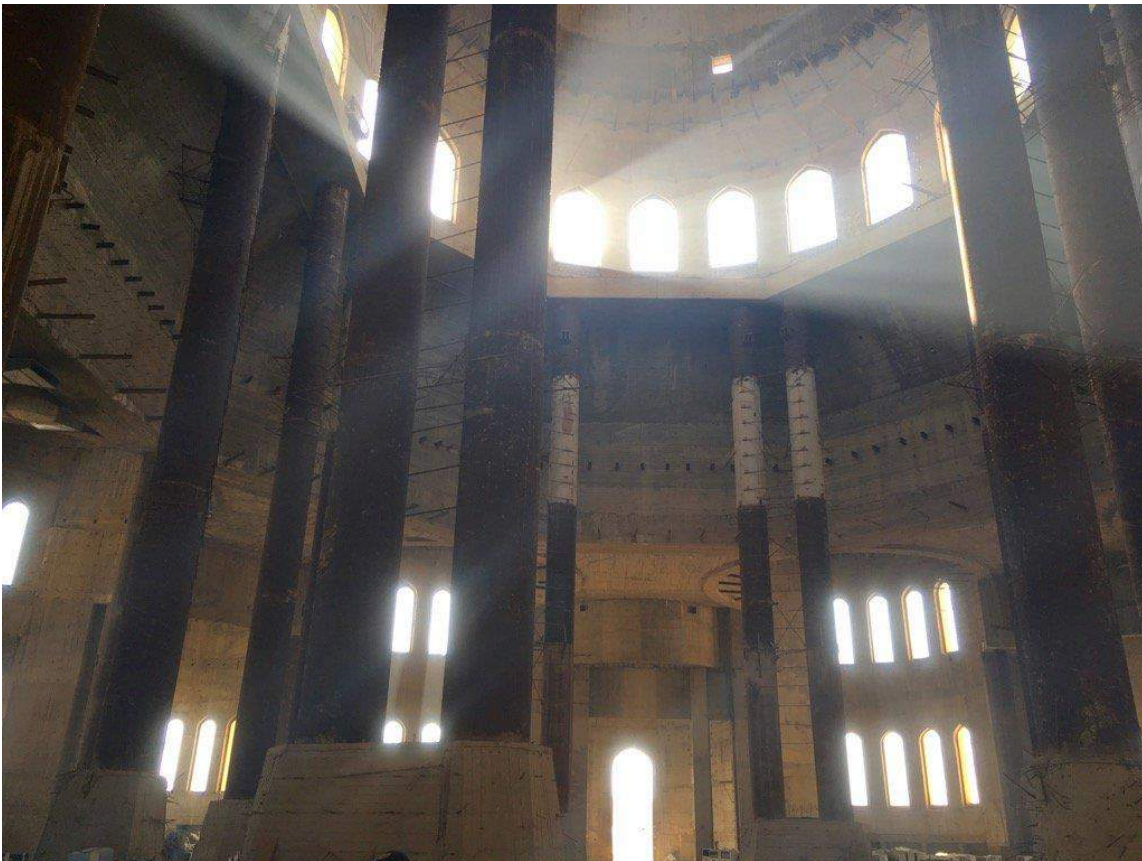


Air conditioners inside the unfinished Grand Mosul Mosque (W.G. Dunlop; January 20, 2017)





Air conditioners inside the unfinished Grand Mosul Mosque (W.G. Dunlop; January 20, 2017)



A view inside the Grand Mosul Mosque (W.G. Dunlop; January 20, 2017)





A view of the Grand Mosul Mosque as seen from the minaret (W.G. Dunlop; January 20, 2017)



An unexploded mortar shell in front of the Grand Mosque of Mosul (Kurdistan24; January 21, 2017)

## IHI 17-0011

**Report Date:** January 20, 2017

**Site Name:** Abu Obeida Amer Bin al-Jarah Mosque (عبيدة عامر بن الجراح جامع أبو)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** al-Hadbaa Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown, likely modern.

**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 9, 2017 al-Mosuliya posted video footage showing damage to Abu Obeida Amer Bin al-Jarah Mosque.<sup>148</sup> The mosque appears to have been the site of clashes between ISIL militants and Iraqi Security Forces, as have many of its surrounding buildings. There is slight damage to the building, including shrapnel/bullet holes, and some graffiti.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0012, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry; vandalism.

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

### Sources:

#### Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNBeXOlhn9w>

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<sup>148</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GNBeXOlhn9w>



Video still of damage to the exterior of Abu Obeida Amer Bin al-Jarah (al-Mosuliya; January 9, 2017)



Video still of the exterior of Abu Obeida Amer Bin al-Jarah Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 9, 2017)



**IHI 17-0012****Report Date:** January 20, 2017**Site Name:** al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque (جامع ذياب العراقي)**Date of Incident:** Unknown**Location:** al-Mharbeen Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq**Site Description:** Unknown**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to mosque.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 20, 2017 al-Mosuliya published new video footage showing a sermon taking place inside al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque in the al-Mharbeen neighborhood of Mosul.<sup>149</sup> The exterior of the mosque appears to have suffered minor damage, possibly from nearby combat or as a result of poor infrastructure. The interior of the mosque appears to be in good condition.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, and IHI 17-0013.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry.

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

**Sources:**Online Reporting:al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMeJkgKmTYk>

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<sup>149</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yMeJkgKmTYk>



Exterior of al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 20, 2017)



Exterior of al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 20, 2017)



Sign marking al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 20, 2017)



al-Haj Diab al-Iraqi Mosque (al-Mosuliya; January 20, 2017)



**IHI 17-0013****Report Date:** January 20, 2017**Site Name:** Talib Othman Mosque**Date of Incident:** Unknown**Location:** al-Mohandeseen Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa**Site Description:** Unknown**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** New video footage shows damage to mosque.**Incident Source and Description:** On January 18, 2017 Rudaw published new video footage showing damage to the Talib Othman Mosque. Newly released photographs also show damage to the mosque, and it appears to be either under construction or long, thin poles have been erected on the exterior walls possibly for defense.<sup>150</sup>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Muslim heritage sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0001, IHI 17-0002, IHI 17-0003, IHI 17-0004, IHI 17-0005, IHI 17-0009, IHI 17-0010, IHI 17-0011, and IHI 17-0012.**

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of mosques in Mosul, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.**Sources:**Online Reporting:

Personal Facebook Account

Rudaw English: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yWLYKEjUFUw>

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<sup>150</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/mujtahadalanbar2016/posts/1216412318396546>



Iraqi Security Forces in front of Talib Othman Mosque (Personal Facebook Account: January 18, 2017)



Iraqi Security Forces in front of Talib Othman Mosque (Personal Facebook Account: January 18, 2017)



**IHI 17-0014**

**Report Date:** January 22, 2017

**Site Name:** Sacred Heart Church (كنيسة قلب يسوع الأقدس) and Library (Sacred Heart Chaldean Rite Catholic Church; Heart of Jesus Church)

**Date of Incident:** Exact date unknown, August 2014 - October 2016.

**Location:** Tel Kaif (Tel Keppe), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** One of the largest churches in Tel Kaif and in Iraq overall, it once held around 10,000 worshippers.<sup>151</sup> The Sacred Heart Church is comprised of two churches and a small temple in one complex with the largest being built after the name of Heart of Jesus and built on the ruins of an old and small church that was called Martyr St. Quryoqos Church in 1911.<sup>152</sup> The church size is 1280 Sq. Ft. and 16 meters high. The Temple of the Virgin Mary was built in 1940 over the ruins of another church called The Assumption of the Virgin Mary.<sup>153</sup> St. Peter and Paul Church is adjacent to the Sacred Heart Church.<sup>154</sup>

**Site Date:** 1911 CE

**Incident Summary:** ISIL militants reuse church as military base and training camp.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 19, 2017, the Iraqi Army recaptured Tel Kaif, and Fadhiliya north of Mosul.<sup>155</sup> On January 22, 2017 Rudaw released a video showing damage to the Sacred Heart Church in the town of Tel Kaif, north of Mosul. According to the report, ISIL militants converted the church to a military headquarters that they used to train new recruits, including children. The children were taken to the church for 10-15 day training periods. The headquarters was reportedly named Abu-Talha al-Ansari, and was operating from the church as ISIL militants believed that US-led coalition airstrikes would not target a church.<sup>156</sup> The video footage and other photographs released by various media outlets show bullet holes in the church walls, possibly a result of target practice, as well as clear intentional destruction to religious icons and what appears to be fire damage to the interior of the church and courtyard.<sup>157</sup> Much of the area and cemetery appears to have been intentionally damaged. Video footage shows that the library attached to the Sacred Heart Church has been destroyed by fire.<sup>158</sup>

**Pattern:** Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry; occupation/militarization; vandalism.

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<sup>151</sup> [http://www.cus.wayne.edu/media/1360/arab\\_factsheet1.pdf](http://www.cus.wayne.edu/media/1360/arab_factsheet1.pdf)

<sup>152</sup> <http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35680.html>

<sup>153</sup> <http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35680.html>

<sup>154</sup> <http://www.ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle,35680.html>

<sup>155</sup> <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/army-recaptures-tel-kaif-fadhiliya-storms-mosul/>; <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/190120171>

<sup>156</sup> <http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/middleeast/turkey/23012017>

<sup>157</sup> <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2673545/blasted-buildings-and-shattered-streets-of-mosul-laid-bare-as-iraqi-troops-sweep-isis-from-half-of-war-ravaged-city/>

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/997962027014363/>

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

**Sources:**

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January 26, 2017: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucs4D\\_26dBI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ucs4D_26dBI)

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January 21, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/995035097307056/>

January 24, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/997168650427034/>

January 25, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/videos/997962027014363/>

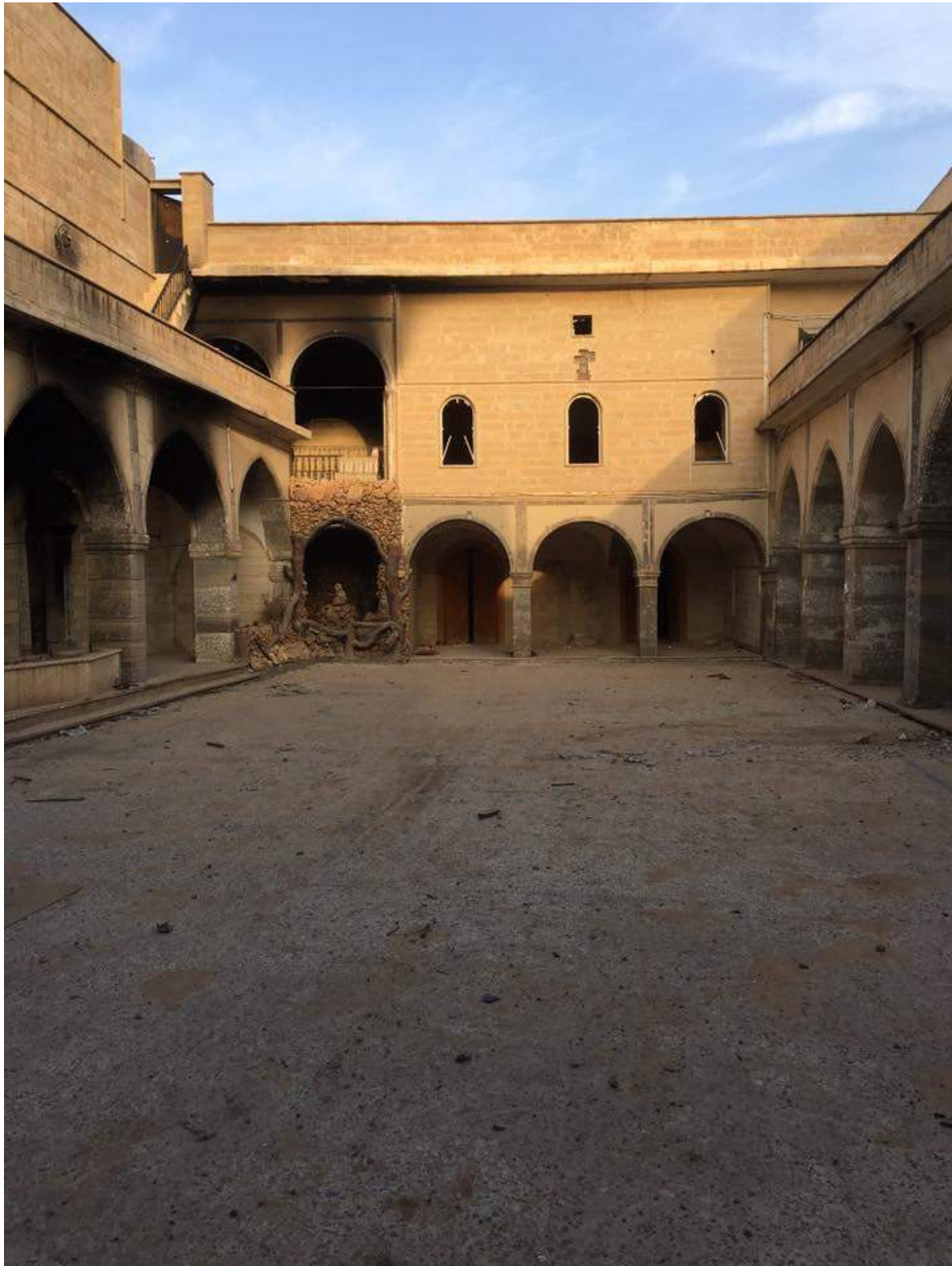
January 26, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/NahrainPost/posts/998933310250568>

Personal Twitter Account

Rudaw: <http://www.rudaw.net/mobile/english/middleeast/turkey/23012017>

The Sun:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2673545/blasted-buildings-and-shattered-streets-of-mosul-laid-bare-as-iraqi-troops-sweep-isis-from-half-of-war-ravaged-city/>



The interior courtyard of Sacred Heart Church as it stands today (Twitter; January 23, 2017)





A view of Sacred Heart Church as it stands today (Twitter; January 19 2017)



Damage to the interior of Sacred Heart Church, including to religious materials (Getty Images/The Sun; January 22, 2017)



Damage, including broken glass and graffiti, seen at Sacred Heart Church (Nahrain; January 24, 2017)



A cross is raised over Sacred Heart Church (Nahrain Post; January 26, 2017)



A view of Sacred Heart Church as it stands today (Twitter; January 23, 2017)



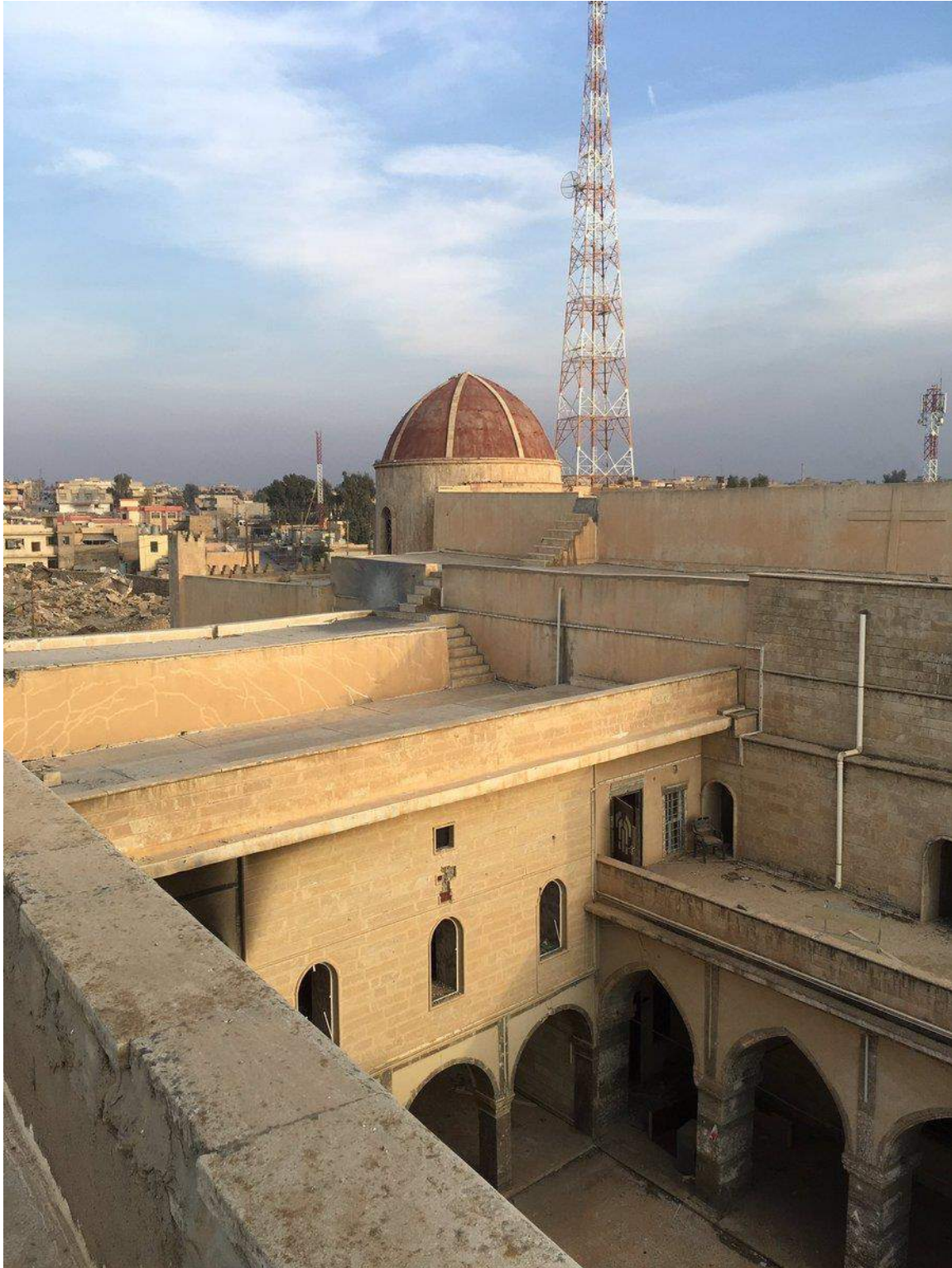


An Iraqi flag flies over Sacred Heart Church (Twitter; January 23, 2017)



Another view of a damaged Sacred Heart Church (Twitter; January 23, 2017)





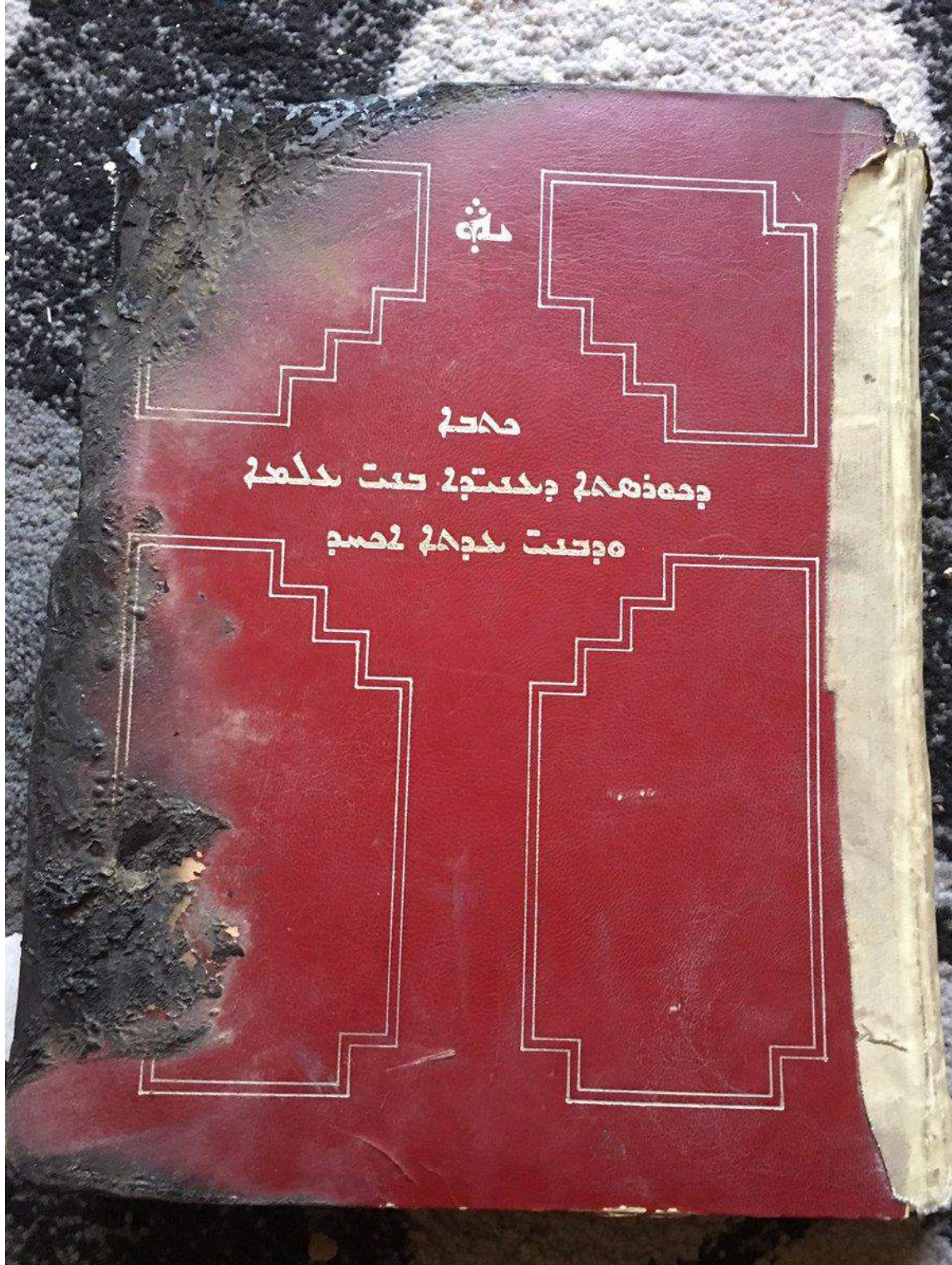
Sacred Heart Church with damage visible (Twitter; January 23, 2017)





Burned religious material in courtyard of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Twitter ; January 21, 2017)





Damage to religious material in courtyard of Mar Gorgis Monastery (Twitter: January 21, 2017)





Sacred Heart Church (Twitter: January 23, 2017)





A cross is raised over Sacred Heart Church (Nahrain Post; January 26, 2017)



A cross is raised over Sacred Heart Church (Nahrain Post; January 26, 2017)

**IHI 17-0015**

**Report Date:** January 26, 2017

**Site Name:** Unknown House Storing Antiquities

**Date of Incident:** January 26, 2017

**Location:** al-Zirai Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Unknown

**Site Date:** Unknown

**Incident Summary:** A cache of artifacts dating to the Assyrian Period was found in a house in Mosul.

**Incident Source and Description:** On January 26, 2017 al-Mosuliya reported that that Iraqi forces had uncovered “more than 100 priceless Assyrian artefacts” inside the home of an ISIL commander in the neighborhood of az-Zirai (al-Zirai), Mosul.<sup>159</sup> Iraqi National Security forces released photographs of “more than a dozen clay pots, a handful of large vases, “Palace War” pottery and a hand mill, among other smaller pieces.” According to the Telegraph, archaeologists and historians confirmed that the objects dated back to the Assyrian Empire and were likely dug up from “nearby Nineveh sites,” including the newly recaptured ancient site of Nimrud. Also found inside the home along with the artifacts were documents recording each object and the anticipated price for which each artifact could sell.

**Pattern:** Illegal excavation.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of antiquities in Mosul, as well as the condition of sites located in regions subject to illegal excavation and antiquities trafficking.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLNxwX7r4A5570SKFQ2h4NwnCrXgDhV2wz>

Telegraph:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/26/priceless-ancient-artifacts-found-hidden-isil-commanders-house/>

Iraqi Day Twitter: [https://twitter.com/iraqi\\_day/status/824585683629178880](https://twitter.com/iraqi_day/status/824585683629178880)

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<sup>159</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLNxwX7r4A5570SKFQ2h4NwnCrXgDhV2wz>





Clay pots found in the house (Telegraph; January 26, 2017)



Clay pots found in the house (Telegraph; January 26, 2017)



Video still of artifacts found in cache (al-Mosuliya; January 25, 2017)



Video still of artifacts found in cache (al-Mosuliya Satellite Channel; January 25, 2017)





Video still of artifacts found in cache (al-Mosuliya Satellite Channel; January 25, 2017)



Video still of artifacts found in cache (al-Mosuliya Satellite Channel; January 25, 2017)





Artifacts found in cache (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 26, 2017)



Artifacts found in cache (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 26, 2017)





Artifacts found in cache (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 26, 2017)



Artifacts found in cache (Iraqi Day/Twitter; January 26, 2017)

**IHI 17-0016**

**Report Date:** January 31, 2017

**Site Name:**

- Mosul University - Main Campus (جامعة الموصل)
- Central Library of Mosul University
- Main Hall
- Technical College
- Mosul University Student Center

**Date of Incident:** Ongoing

**Location:** Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

**Site Description:** Mosul University (جامعة الموصل) - Main Campus - The University of Mosul, established 1967 CE, is the second largest university in Iraq, after the University of Baghdad.<sup>160</sup> The university once hosted 4,200 faculty members and 30,000 students.<sup>161</sup> Located within the main campus is the College of Agriculture, University Publishing Center, Sport College Courts, Sport College Court, Headquarters of Mosul University President, Headquarters of Tel Afar University President, Girls Hostel, Department of Statistics in the College of Administration and Economics, Department in the College of Administration and Economics, College of Nursing, Mosul University Main Warehouse, Faculty of Science, Department of Mechanics in the College of Engineering, Department of Electrics in the College of Engineering, Institute of Technology, and the College of Islamic Science. The university had been damaged during the 1991 Gulf War and the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq.<sup>162</sup>

**Site Date:** Mosul University - Established 1967 CE

**Incident Summary:** New satellite imagery and photographs show level of destruction to Mosul University.

**Incident Source and Description:** In early January 2017, new satellite imagery and photographs became available detailing the extent of damage to Mosul University. Mosul University was previously looted and vandalized by ISIL after the group captured the city. Later, US-led Coalition airstrikes targeted several campus buildings under the suspicion that the buildings were being used by ISIL for military purposes including housing ISIL militants and building weapons.<sup>163</sup>

Digital Globe imagery from January 13, 2017 shows damage to the Mosul University Central Library. ISIL militants “set fire to the main library, which contained many rare books, manuscripts, and maps.”<sup>164</sup> There are multiple holes in the roof from airstrikes, as well as likely fire damage from the military activity. The University Gate leading towards the library was damaged, with the

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<sup>160</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/Mosul>

<sup>161</sup> <http://www.ibtimes.com/isis-takeover-iraq-mosul-university-students-faculty-uncertain-about-future-higher-1731468>

<sup>162</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/mosul-university-isil-damaged-defiant-170120090207277.html>

<sup>163</sup> <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120171>

<sup>164</sup> <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120171>



southern edge collapsed. The Main Hall of the university, also known as the student center, shows possible damage due to the nearby airstrikes at the Library. Photographs released by Mujtahid al-Anbar show what appears to be fire-damage at the student center.<sup>165</sup>

Photographs released by local activist group Mosul Eye detailed some of the damage to the campus.<sup>166</sup> Many buildings have been damaged by explosives and fire likely as a result of airstrikes and subsequent clashes in the area between Iraqi forces and ISIL militants. For previous information on damage to Mosul University and its affiliated buildings, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0017** in **Weekly Report 30** and **IHI 16-0026** in **Weekly Report 105-106**.

**Pattern:** Military activity: explosives; occupation/militarization.

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

### Sources:

#### Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera:

January 15, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuYE3C292Y4>

January 26, 2017: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/mosul-university-isil-damaged-defiant-170120090207277.html>

AFP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOhz4kiAC40>

AP: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nj4VOvI6J9k>

Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images:

<http://heavy.com/news/2017/01/isis-islamic-state-iraqi-army-american-coalition-mosul-battle-january-22-2017-photo-report/12/>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38608719>

Independent:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-university-isis-battle-northern-iraq-forces-retake-city-terror-group-jihadis-a7526401.html>

Mosul Eye:

January 15, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/posts/1128323907289110> ; <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/photos/a.552572524864254.1073741828.552514844870022/1128241643964003/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/posts/1128052440649590>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/whats-left-of-mosuls-university>

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<sup>165</sup> [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1214826231888488&id=926514604052987](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1214826231888488&id=926514604052987)

<sup>166</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/posts/1128323907289110> ; <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/photos/a.552572524864254.1073741828.552514844870022/1128241643964003/> ; <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/posts/1128052440649590>

Rudaw: <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120171>

Mujtahid al-Anbar:

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1214826231888488&id=926514604052987](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1214826231888488&id=926514604052987)

W.G. Dunlop, AFP Correspondent: <https://twitter.com/wgdunlop/status/820861725062864897>



Portion of Mosul University prior to recent damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; November 20, 2016)



Damage to the Central Library of Mosul University and a University Gate (DigitalGlobe NextView License; January 13, 2017)



Damage to the Central Library at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)





Damage to the reported Technical College building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)



Detail of damage to the reported Technical College building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)



Damage to a campus building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)



Damage to a campus building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)





Damage to a campus building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)



Damage to a campus building at Mosul University (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)





Damage to the Mosul University campus (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)





Damage to the Mosul University campus (Mosul Eye; January 15, 2017)



Fire damage and rubble seen at Mosul University Student Center (مجتهد الأنبار; January 16, 2016)



Fire damage seen at Mosul University Student Center (مجتهد الأنبار; January 16, 2016)





Damage to a building at Mosul University due to airstrikes (AFP; January 22, 2017)



The main entrance to Mosul University (Ahmad Al-Rubaye/AFP/Getty Images; January 22, 2017)





Mosul University building hallway (W.G. Dunlop; January 16, 2017)





Mosul University room with explosive shown (W.G. Dunlop; January 16, 2017)





A burned out building at Mosul University (W.G. Dunlop; January 20, 2017)



Damage seen inside a Mosul University building (W.G. Dunlop; January 16, 2017)



Damage seen inside a Mosul University building (W.G. Dunlop; January 16, 2017)





Iraqi forces and civilians in front of a Mosul University building (Al Jazeera; January 26, 2017)

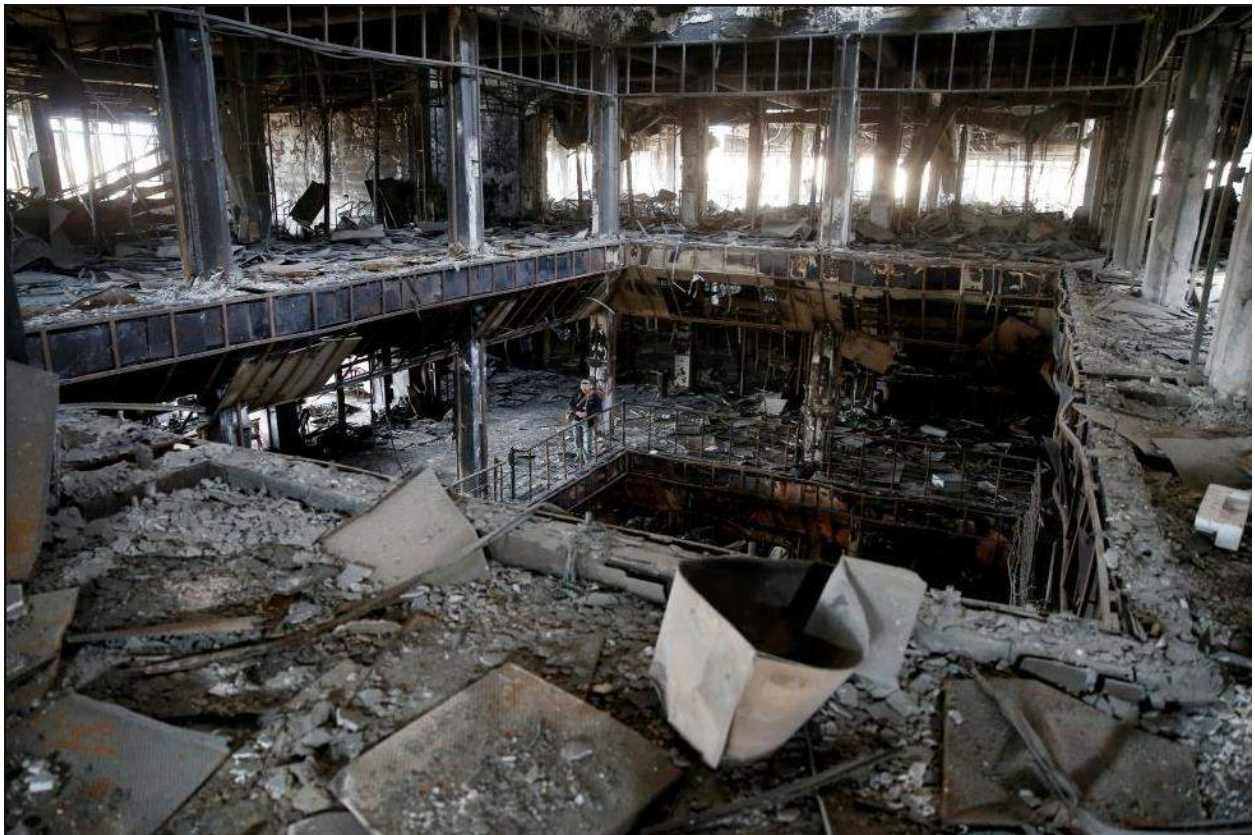


A heavily damaged classroom at Mosul University (Al Jazeera; January 26, 2017)





Damage seen to a Mosul University building (Al Jazeera; January 26, 2017)



General view of damage to the Mosul Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Damage to books inside the Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Books burned at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Books burned at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Damage seen at the Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Damage seen at the Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Books burned at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Damage seen at the Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Damage seen at the Central Library (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Damage seen at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Damage to a building at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



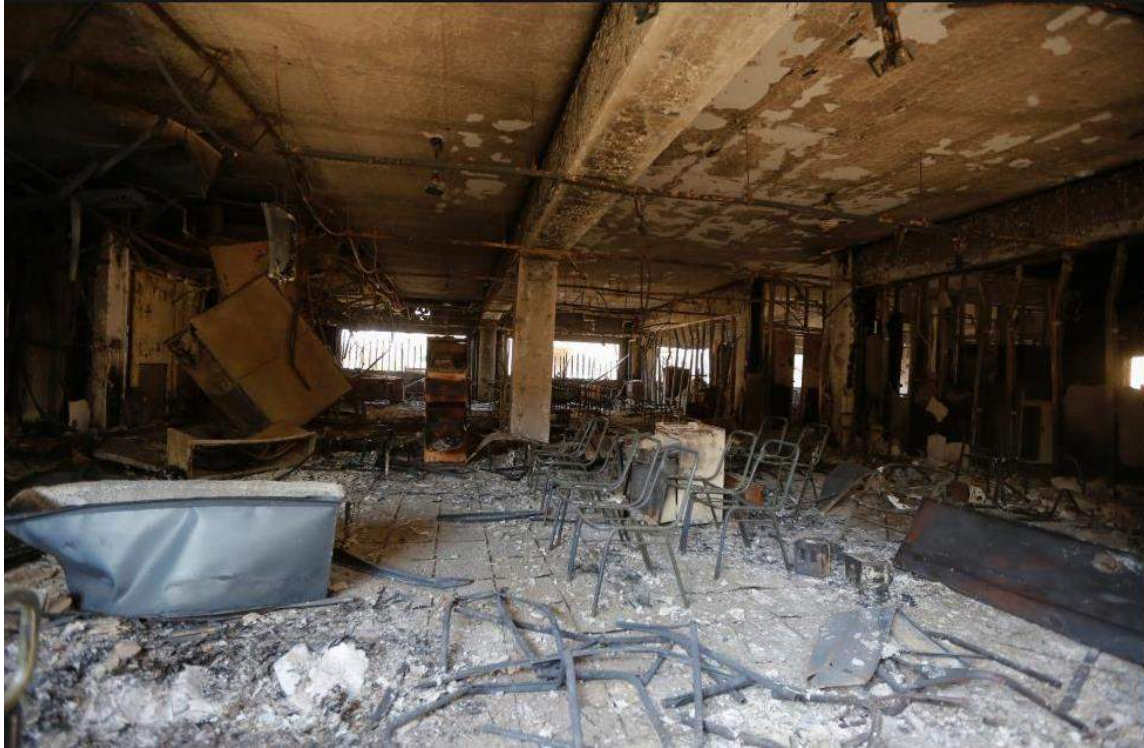


Damage to a building at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Damage to a building at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Damage to a classroom at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Damage to a classroom at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)





Fire damage to a classroom at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



Empty shells, possibly used by ISIL for making bombs, seen at Mosul University (Reuters; January 31, 2017)



## SNHR Videos:

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

1. Ayn al-Fijah Spring, damaged by reported SARG barrel bombs on December 23, 2016 in Rif Dimashq Governorate.<sup>167</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0186** in **Weekly Report 122-123**.
2. Local mosque, damaged by reported SARG barrel bombs on December 26, 2016 in al-Husseiniya, Rif Dimashq Governorate.<sup>168</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0189** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.
3. Othman bin Affan Mosque, damaged by reported Russian airstrikes on December 27, 2016 in al-Jeena, Aleppo Governorate.<sup>169</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0190** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.
4. Halfaya al-Kabir Mosque, damaged by reported SARG airstrikes on December 30, 2016 in Halfaya, Hama Governorate.<sup>170</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0188** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.
5. Um Habiba Mosque, damaged by SARG aircraft shelling on December 29, 2016 in Douma, Rif Dimashq Governorate.<sup>171</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0189** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.
6. al-Rahman Mosque, damaged by reported SARG barrel bombings on December 12, 2016 in Bisema, Rif Dimashq Governorate.<sup>172</sup> See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0185** in **Weekly Report 123-124**.

## Heritage Timeline

January 31, 2017

*National Geographic History* published an article titled “**Beautiful Babylon: Jewel of the Ancient World**” (by Juan Luis Montero Fenollos). An article on the history of Babylon that will be featured in the January/February 2017 issue of *National Geographic History* magazine. <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/archaeology-and-history/magazine/2017/01-02/babylon-mesopotamia-ancient-city-iraq/>

January 30, 2017

*Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Iraq welcomes return of foreign archaeological missions**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). British archaeologists have arrived at ancient sites in southern Iraq as part of a new contract with the General Authority of Iraqi Antiquities. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/iraq-nasiriyah-khyber-british-exploration-mission.html>

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<sup>167</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK\\_5lsFUIvE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK_5lsFUIvE)

<sup>168</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFBi9TFxd1w>

<sup>169</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03YnOez7AWQ>

<sup>170</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB5s\\_5arAiU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kB5s_5arAiU)

<sup>171</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4yYyOXI98h8>

<sup>172</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4glg9LL4ctU> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JsltmGr-wE>

- UNESCO Office in Beirut** released an article titled “**Documentation Training Will Help Create 3D Models of Damascus Sites.**” Ten Syrian engineers and architects from DGAM recently took part in a training hosted by Project Anqa and conducted by CyArk on “reality capture technologies.”  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/single-view/news/documentation-training-will-help-create-3d-models-of-damascu/>
- January 28, 2017 *Ruptly TV* published a video report titled “**Syria: Ancient Citadel of Aleppo reopens for visitors after liberation of city.**” The Citadel has reopened since the recapture of the area by SARG and pro-regime forces in December 2016.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dGRRyP0hUuc>
- January 27, 2017 **DGAM** published an article titled “**UNESCO emergency mission to the old city of Aleppo.**” Staff from the UNESCO Beirut and DGAM conducted an “emergency mission” to old Aleppo between January 16-19, visiting the Umayyad Mosque, Citadel, souks, and the old city gates.  
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2201>
- DGAM** published an article titled “**The 3rd phase of the emergency recording and archiving of cultural heritage in Beirut.**” 10 DGAM employees completed the training course that occurred between January 16-26, 2017.  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2203>
- January 26, 2017 *The Telegraph* published an article titled “**‘Priceless’ ancient artefacts found hidden in ISIL commander’s house in Mosul**” (by Josie Ensor). Iraqi authorities searching the home of an ISIL commander found more than 100 Assyrian artifacts. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0015**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/01/26/priceless-ancient-artifacts-found-hidden-isil-commanders-house/>
- January 25, 2017 *Azerbaijan State News Agency* published a report titled “**Looted Syrian antiquities for sale in Denmark.**” Danish police are investigating evidence surrounding the “attempted sale of looted Syrian antiquities” inside the country.  
<http://azertag.az/en/xeber/1029737>
- January 24, 2017 **UNHCR** released a video report titled “**Syria: Displaced Syrian traders return to Aleppo’s old market.**” Residents of east Aleppo speak to the camera of what was once there, and how much has been destroyed.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02kUJ3PMhvs>

- Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Iraqis celebrate addition of Khidr Elias feast to UNESCO heritage list**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The Khidr Elias feast is a “religious and social tradition” in Iraq that is celebrated in February. The Iraqi government is now planning to restore the al-Khidr shrine.  
<http://al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/khidr-elias-unesco-world-heritage-list-iraq.html>
  - DGAM** published an article titled “**Conclusion of the First Part of Training Course: Preventing the illicit trafficking of Cultural Property.**” The first part of a new training course took place in Lebanon from January 20-24, 2017. The training occurred on the “illicit trafficking of Cultural Property.”  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2199>
- January 23, 2017
- Verde News* published an article titled “**Spence Gustav to Present Program on Archaeological Sites in Libya.**” The monthly meeting of the Verde Valley Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society will host Spence Gustav.  
<http://www.verdenews.com/news/2017/jan/23/spence-gustav-present-program-archaeological-sites/>
- January 22, 2017
- Multiple media outlets reported that ISIL militants reportedly blew up the Nineveh Owbrawi Hotel in Mosul to prevent Iraqi forces from utilizing the building as a military base.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hotel-idUSKBN1560HG>  
<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/blows-mosul-hotel-iraq-prepares-attack-western-bank-tigris-404246489>  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/mosul-iraqi-forces-liberate-east-isil-fighters-170122185024443.html>
- The New York Times* published an article titled “**75 Arrested in European Crackdown on Art Trafficking,**” (by Raphael Minder). European Police recovered around 3,500 stolen archaeological artifacts from war-stricken countries.  
<https://mobile.nytimes.com/2017/01/22/world/europe/75-arrested-in-european-crackdown-on-art-trafficking.html>
- January 21, 2017
- RT* published an article titled “**‘Destroying Palmyra is cultural cleansing of Syrian people’ – UNESCO.**” Detail of Nada Al Hassan, Chief of the Arab States Unit for UNESCO, comments on recent destruction of Palmyra.  
<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/374554-syria-palmyra-war-isis/>



January 20, 2017

*Associated Press* published an article titled “**UNESCO: 30 percent of Aleppo’s ancient city destroyed.**” UNESCO officials recently visited Aleppo and met with council members and NGOs, leading to a declaration that the city should be declared an “emergency zone.” According to UNESCO, “60 percent of the old city of Aleppo has been severely damaged” and 30 percent has been “totally destroyed.”  
<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/d4a641c030334b19b26dc8b970f48cc5/unesco-30-percent-aleppo-ancient-city-destroyed>

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*The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**Russian team creates 3D model to preserve Palmyra as fighting intensified,**” (by Sophia Kishkovsky). The Russian State Hermitage Museum and Archaeological Institute are working together to build a “virtual model of Palmyra.”  
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/museums/russian-team-creates-3d-model-to-preserve-palmyra-as-fighting-rages-on/>

January 19, 2017

Multiple media outlets reported that ISIL militants carried out executions in the modern town of Tadmor, including within the Palmyra archaeological site and near the Palmyra museum. Satellite imagery from over the area showed the destruction of the Tetrastyle and Roman theatre. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0012, ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0013, and ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0014**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38689131>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-palmyra-idUSKBN1540X3>

<http://www.livescience.com/57575-photos-destruction-of-palmyra-monuments.html>

<http://www.travelandleisure.com/culture-design/architecture-design/isis-palmyra-syria-destruction-antiquities-archeology>

<http://www.seeker.com/isis-damages-iconic-theater-and-monument-in-ancient-syrian-city-2209251164.html>

<http://www.rferl.org/a/tracking-palmyras-destruction/28251302.html>

<http://hyperallergic.com/353412/satellite-imagery-suggests-isis-destroyed-two-more-ancient-sites-in-palmyra/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/20/world/middleeast/palmyra-syria-isis-amphitheater.html>

<https://www.rt.com/op-edge/374554-syria-palmyra-war-isis/>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/01/20/510732864/isis-destroys-ancient-theater-tetrapylon-in-palmyra-syria-says>

<http://time.com/4640614/isis-roman-monument-syria-palmyra-destroyed/>

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/6ef15fee2076485e91fe8b6ddedf385f/syria-destroys-part-roman-amphitheater-palmyra>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Middle-East/2017/0120/Recaptured-by-ISIS-ancient-Palmyra-loses-two-more-monuments-to-antiquities-destruction>

- *Rudaw* published an article titled “**Will anything remain of Mosul’s Jewish history after ISIS?**” (by Hannah Lynch). Speculation as to what remains of Jewish sites in Iraq that fell under ISIL-control.  
<http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/19012017>

- **UNESCO** published an article titled “**UNESCO reports on extensive damage in first emergency assessment mission to Aleppo.**” In a visit to Aleppo from January 16-19, UNESCO led an emergency mission and undertook a “preliminary assessment of the extent of damage at the World Heritage Site of the Ancient City of Aleppo.”  
<http://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-reports-extensive-damage-first-emergency-assessment-mission-aleppo>

January 18, 2017

*The Guardian* published an article titled “**Iraq’s Marsh Arabs test the waters as wetlands ruined by Saddam are reborn**” (by Peter Schwartzstein). Efforts to rebuild Iraq’s marshes, a UNESCO World Heritage site, are discussed.  
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2017/jan/18/iraq-marsh-arabs-test-the-waters-wetlands-ruined-by-saddam-reborn-southern-marshes>

January 17, 2017

*BBC* published a video report titled “**Syrian conflict: What’s left of Aleppo’s Great Mosque.**” The BBC’s Jeremy Bowen visits the Umayyad Mosque in old Aleppo.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38655603>

- *Reuters* published an article and video titled “**Iraqi artist recreates ancient works destroyed by Islamic State**” (by Bushra Shakhshir). An 18-year-old Christian Iraqi, who once studied art at Mosul University, creates miniature replicas of statues destroyed by ISIL.  
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-mideast-crisis-iraq-artist-idUKKBN15122D>

January 16, 2017

*Rudaw* published an article titled “**Bombed and burnt Mosul University hopes to once again be top Iraqi school.**” President of Mosul University Dr. Obay Saeed a-Dewachi, is interviewed by *Rudaw* regarding his hopes that Mosul University will be rebuilt and become one of the top schools in Iraq. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0016**

<http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120171>

- Iraqi forces recaptured the Nebi Yunus Mosque Complex in Mosul. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0005**

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2017/01/17/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/indepth/2017/1/23/mosul-after-islamic-state-the-rubble-of-jonahs-tomb>

<http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/160120172>

<http://www.voanews.com/a/iraqi-forces-say-is-destroyed-historic-tomb-of-jonah-in-mosul/3681118.html>

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/joint-forces-liberate-nabi-yunus-mosque-mosul/>

- *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**What will be the cost of Aleppo victory for Damascus?**” (by Fehim Tastekin). A discussion of rebuilding efforts by local Aleppo residents and the Syrian regime; includes an interview with DGAM director Maamoun Abdulkarim who describes the damage to the city as a disaster with more than 1,500 historic structures damaged. <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/01/turkey-syria-was-aleppo-a-pyrrhic-victory.html>

- *The Daily Star* published an article titled “**Lebanon first to return looted Syria artifacts**” (by Federica Marsi). Lebanese authorities repatriated 79 stolen artifacts from Syria.

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/Jan-16/389504-lebanon-first-to-return-looted-syria-artifacts.ashx>

January 15, 2017

*The Daily Beast* published an article titled “**Will The Crac des Chevaliers Survive The Syrian Civil War**” (by Allison McNearney). Continuing damage to the Crac des Chevaliers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, threatens its existence.

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2017/01/15/will-the-crac-des-chevaliers-survive-the-syrian-civil-war.html>



- **DGAM published an article titled “In Photos: Damage of Souq, Khan Al-Hebal, Al-Fustok Square and Souq Al-Masamireh in old Aleppo.”**  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2190>
  - *Reuters* published a series of photographs titled “**What’s Left of Mosul University**” (by Ahmed Jadallah). The photographs detailed extensive damage to Mosul University buildings, including the Central Library as a result of ongoing clashes to recapture the city.  
<http://www.reuters.com/news/picture/whats-left-of-mosuls-university>
  - **DGAM published an article titled “In Photos: Damage of Souq, Khan Al-Hebal, Al-Fustok Square and Souq Al-Masamireh in old Aleppo.”** <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2190>
- January 14, 2017
- BBC* published an article titled “**Jeremy Bowen: A walk through Aleppo.**” BBC correspondent Jeremy Bowen shares photographs of the Old City of Aleppo including the Umayyad Mosque and Aleppo Citadel.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38624237>
- **DGAM published an article titled “Participation of Director General of Antiquities and Museums in Colloquium on Initiatives to strengthen international capacities for the protection of cultural property in the Premises of Council of Europe-Strasbourg, 13 January 2017.”**  
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2188>
  - *Indian Times* published an article titled “**During Five Years of War Major Syrian Heritage Sites Were Damaged, Now UNESCO Wants to Restore Them**” (by Maninder Dabas). UNESCO representatives are expected to soon visit Damascus to discuss preserving cultural heritage sites in Aleppo.  
<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/world/during-five-years-of-war-major-syrian-heritage-sites-were-damaged-now-unesco-wants-to-restore-them-269485.html>
- January 13, 2017
- NPR News* published an article titled “**In England, An Effort to Preserve Ancient, Epic Assyrian Poetry**” (by Alice Fordham). Released on NPR broadcast *All Things Considered*, researcher and Assyrian Iraqi Nineb Lamassu discusses efforts to preserve epic Assyrian poetry.  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/01/13/509140180/in-england-an-effort-to-preserve-ancient-epic-assyrian-poetry>

- *Counter Currents* released an article titled “**Obama’s Stellar Effort To Preserve Our Cultural Heritage in Syria**” (by Franklin Lamb). A review of cultural heritage laws enacted under President Obama.  
<http://www.countercurrents.org/2017/01/13/obamas-stellar-effort-to-preserve-our-cultural-heritage-in-syria/>
  - *GEOPOL Monitor* published an article titled “**Chechen government to restore Aleppo’s Great Mosque**” (by GEOPOLMonitor Staff). Representatives of the Chechen government have reportedly confirmed their intentions to “rebuild the mosque and the minaret of the Umayyad Mosque” in old Aleppo.  
<http://www.geopolmonitor.com/chechen-government-restore-aleppos-great-mosque/>
- January 12, 2017
- Al Jazeera* published an article titled “**Syria’s Civil War: Aleppo’s heritage sites ‘in danger’**” (by India Stoughton). Syrian antiquity official Maamoun Abdulkarim discusses the “disaster” in Aleppo as UNESCO officials are expected “next week” in Damascus. According to Abdulkarim, “more than 150 heritage buildings [have] different levels of damage.”  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/01/syria-civil-war-aleppo-heritage-sites-danger-170111121954224.html>
- *Al Monitor* released an article titled “**Return to Aleppo: A squandered legacy**” (by Fehim Tastekin). Al-Monitor Correspondent details his recent tour of Aleppo’s old city including a visit to the Citadel, the Carlton Hotel, the Baron Hotel, and the Umayyad Mosque, as well as several old city neighborhoods.  
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2017/01/turkey-syria-return-to-aleppo-squandering-legacy.html>
- January 10, 2017
- The Global Coalition released an article titled “**Daesh destruction of Nimrud: a war crime?**” A review of the importance of the site of Nimrud as well as efforts to protect and restore sites damaged by ISIL.  
<http://theglobalcoalition.org/daesh-destruction-of-nimrud/>
- SNHR published their vital facilities report titled “**1373 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civil Facilities in 2016.**”  
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/01/10/30912/>
- January 8, 2017
- DGAM* released an article titled “**Photo: Damage of Al-Awqaf Directorate and Bab Al-Nairab in old Aleppo.**”  
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2184>

- NPR* published an article titled “**In Ancient Syrian City, Fighting Has Stopped But Rebuilding Is Scarce,**” (by Alice Fordham). An interview with Syrian architect and author Marwa al-Sabouni on the history of the old city of Homs and UNDP-sponsored rebuilding efforts including at the old souk. al-Sabouni and Fordham also visit the al-Nouri Mosque.  
<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/01/08/507376949/in-ancient-syrian-city-fighting-has-stopped-but-rebuilding-is-scarce>
- January 6, 2017 *Reuters* released an article titled “**U.S.-backed force seizes Syria citadel from Islamic State.**” Syrian Democratic Forces capture the Jabar Citadel.
- January 5, 2017 *CNN* released a video report titled “**CNN walks through a city destroyed by ISIS.**” CNN correspondent Ben Wedeman reports on the destruction at Nimrud.  
<http://edition.cnn.com/videos/world/2017/01/05/wedeman-iraq-nimrud-archaeological-site-isis-destruction-pkg.cnn/video/playlists/the-fight-against-isis/>
- January 3, 2017 *BBC* released an article titled “**Syria monuments damage ‘akin to looting Welsh castles’.**” Dr. Nigel Pollard, of Swansea University, is interviewed and advocates for protection of Syrian heritage.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-south-west-wales-38496928>
- January 2, 2017 *DGAM* released an article titled “**Photo: Inside Aleppo Citadel.**”  
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2181>
- DGAM* released an article titled “**In Photo: Damage of Al-Haddadin Mosque in old Aleppo.**”  
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2179>
- International Policy Digest* published an article titled “**The Treasure Long-Lost.**” (by Anant Mishra). A history of destruction of cultural heritage sites during wars.  
<https://intpolicydigest.org/2017/01/02/the-treasures-long-lost/>
- Council of Europe* published an article titled “**Council of Europe colloquy on protecting cultural heritage from destruction and trafficking.**” A colloquy took place between “high-level representatives from international organisations and national government, as well as academic experts.” The event focused on the acquisition and sale of cultural property, illegal excavation, and ongoing trade as it relates to the support of organized crime and terrorism. <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/council-of-europe-colloquy-on-protecting-cultural-heritage-from-destruction-and-trafficking>