

**ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI):
Safeguarding the Heritage of the Near East Initiative¹**

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July 2017 Monthly Report — Appendices

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

Other Key Points

Syria

- **Raqqa Governorate:**
 - US-led Coalition airstrikes damaged the city wall of Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0122**
 - Artillery fire damaged the dome of the Othman bin Affan Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0126**
 - A car bomb damaged the Bab Baghdad in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0127**
 - A reported US-led Coalition airstrike damaged ar-Rahman Mosque in Ghanim Ali, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0130**
 - A suspected Russian airstrike destroyed al-Rahman Mosque in al-Khamisiyah Foqani, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0138**
 - DigitalGlobe satellite imagery showed the destruction of Safa Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0139**
- **Hama Governorate:**
 - Reported SARG-Russian airstrike damaged the Abu Dali Village Mosque in Hama Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0123**
 - Reported SARG-Russian airstrike damaged the al-Mushayrifa Village Mosque in Hama Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0124**
- **Deir ez Zor Governorate:**
 - Reported SARG airstrike damaged the Khalid bin al-Walid Mosque in Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0125**
 - A SARG airstrike damaged al-Eman Mosque in al-Sabha, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0129**
 - A SARG airstrike damaged the Sa'ed Bin Mo'ath Mosque in al-Shamitiyah, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0133**
 - A SARG airstrike damaged the Othman bin Affan Mosque in al-Mayadin, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0137**
- **Rif Dimashq Governorate:**
 - SARG artillery damaged the minaret of al-Aqoula Mosque in Duma, Rif Dimashq. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0131**
 - SARG-Russian airstrikes damaged an unnamed mosque in Arbin, Rif Dimashq. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0134**
- **Idlib Governorate:**
 - Hayat Tahrir al-Sham reportedly fired heavy weapons at Qal'at Harim, Idlib Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0132**
- **Damascus Governorate:**
 - A fire broke out in al-Sinaniyah Suq in Damascus, Damascus Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0135**
- **Homs Governorate:**
 - New photographs show damage to the Ain Afqa Springs at Palmyra, Homs Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0128**

Iraq

- **Ninawa Governorate:**

- New video footage shows condition of Omar al-Aswed Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE**
- New video footage shows interior of al-Ziwani Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0048 UPDATE**
- New photographs show condition of al-Hamidin Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0051**
- New video footage shows the condition of the Kanisat al-Sa'a in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0052**
- New video footage shows condition of al-Safar Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0053**
- New photographs show damage to Dar Thun Hadid in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0054**
- New video footage shows condition of al-Aghwat Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0055**
- New video footage shows damage to al-Juwayjati Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0056**
- New photographs show the condition of the Umayyad Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0057**
- New video footage shows the Mosque and Shrine of Nebi Jarjis in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate has been turned into parking lot. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0058**
- New video footage shows damage to al-Qataneen Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0059**
- New video footage and photographs show damage to Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0060**
- New video footage shows damage to al-'Abdal Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0061**
- New photos show graffiti on the al-Hadba Minaret and al-Nouri Mosque in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0062**
- New photographs show condition of the Syriac Orthodox Church of al-Tahira in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0063**
- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the demolition of the Sheikh al-Shut Mosque and surrounding portion of Hayy Nebi Jarjis in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0064**
- The battle for Mosul damages the Old City of Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0065**
- DigitalGlobe imagery shows damage to Archbishopric of Chaldean Catholic Church in Mosul, Ninawa governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0066**
- New photographs show the condition of the Mosque of the Pasha in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0067**

Libya

- **Cyrenaica**

- One dome of al-Atiq Mosque in Awjila, Cyrenaica, collapsed. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0007**
- A looted Roman bust was recovered in wreckage of the Souq al-Hout in Benghazi, Cyrenaica. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0008**

- A new site, Cave of Omar al-Mukhtar, near Near Zawiyat Janzur, Cyrenaica, was uncovered and recorded. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0009**
- An ancient statue with modern modifications was found by the police in al Marj, Cyrenaica. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0011**
- The interior of the Former Headquarters of DoA Benghazi, in Souq al Rabea, Benghazi, Cyrenaica, was heavily damaged and some walls collapsed. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0012**
- One wing of the Ottoman Municipal Building in Benghazi, Cyrenaica collapsed during recent fighting in Benghazi. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0013**
- The Benghazi storeroom in Souq al Hout, Benghazi, Cyrenaica, was damaged but the collection of antiquities was recovered entirely intact. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0014**
- **Tripolitania**
 - A Torah scroll, purchased in Zintan, Tripolitania, was recovered from two smugglers in Tunisia. **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0010**

Military and Political Context

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

1. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
 - On July 16, Russia reportedly brokered a ceasefire between SARG and opposition forces in the besieged opposition-held area in the Eastern Qalamoun Mountains.²
 - On July 19, the Syrian opposition group known as the “Army of Islam” staged an ambush near the town of al-Riah, Eastern Ghouta, killing at least 28 SARG and pro-regime forces.³
 - On July 21, SARG and Hezbollah forces launched an offensive against Syrian opposition forces, including members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, and ISIL militants.^{4 5}
 - On July 22, the Syrian army announced a pause of fighting in opposition-held areas of Eastern Ghouta. According to Russia, a de-escalation agreement had been reached between the regime and “moderate” opposition forces.⁶
 - On July 24, Hezbollah-run media reported that the battle with “Nusra Front” was almost over, with Hezbollah and pro-regime forces having “almost beaten” Islamist opposition forces located in the mountainous area near the Lebanese town of Arsal. Aerial bombardment by SARG or Russian forces killed at least eight civilians in the town of Arbin, Eastern Ghouta despite the area being included in the so-called “de-escalation zone.”⁷
 - On July 24, Russia announced the deployment of military police to monitor two safe zones in opposition-held areas of Syria including Eastern Ghouta and an area southwest of Damascus.⁸
 - On July 26, Syrian opposition forces clashed with SARG forces in the district of Ain Tarma. SARG airstrikes also targeted the district.⁹

² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³ <http://www.france24.com/en/20170720-rebel-ambush-kills-28-regime-fighters-near-damascus-monitor>

⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40679619> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-lebanon-idUSKBN1A608S> ; <https://www.voanews.com/a/hezbollah-syrian-army-insurgents-lebanese-border/3953365.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-lebanon-syria-idUSKBN1A30XK>

⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-lebanon-syria-idUSKBN1A30XK>

⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40691000>

⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-lebanon-idUSKBN1A90JQ> ; <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/deadly-strike-kills-eight-syria-rebel-town-despite-truce-says-monitor-293829551> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ghouta-idUSKBN1AA0JV> ; <https://au.news.yahoo.com/world/a/36493767/deadly-strike-hits-syria-rebel-town-despite-truce/>

⁸ <https://www.yahoo.com/news/russia-says-deployed-forces-police-syria-safe-zones-135401735.html> ; <http://www.qasioun.net/en/news/show/85672/First-Russian-Checkpoint-Around-Eastern-Ghouta> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40703105> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-talks-idUSKBN19P21I> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-russia-retaliation-dacha-idUSKBN1AG23M> ; <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/russia-military-police-battalions-deployed-syria-48859633>

⁹ <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2017/07/26/Clashes-rock-Syria-truce-zone-Monitor.html>

- On July 27-31, Hezbollah and Syrian Islamist opposition group Nusra Front agreed to a ceasefire near the Lebanese town of Arsal, located on the Syria-Lebanon border. Nusra Front fighters reportedly agreed to relocate to Idlib Governorate, where other Syrian opposition groups have also relocated however evacuations had been delayed as of the end of this reporting period.¹⁰
2. Raqqa Governorate:
- On July 4, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) breached Raqqa’s Old Wall in their advancement against ISIL.¹¹
 - On July 11, SDF captured the town of al-Ukeirshi, ten miles south from Raqqa on the Euphrates River. ISIL had previously established a “major military base and training camp” in the town where, in 2015, they executed dozens of their own forces on charges of desertion or treachery.¹²
 - On July 15-23, SARG forces, backed by Russian air strikes, captured dozens of villages and oil wells in Raqqa Governorate as they advance towards the border between Raqqa and Deir ez Zor Governorates.¹³
 - On July 26, US-led Coalition airstrikes and shelling by US-backed forces killed at least 36 civilians and wounded 50 more in Raqqa.¹⁴
 - On July 27, the US-backed SDF reported that they now controlled almost half of the city of Raqqa, but were being slowed by ISIL resistance and “large amounts of explosives” planted by the group.¹⁵
3. Aleppo Governorate:
- On June 30-July 2, ISIL withdrew from its remaining positions in Aleppo Governorate, moving towards Raqqa Governorate. SARG forces recaptured at least ten villages following the militants withdrawal and secured the Ithriya-Resafa Highway that connects Hama and Raqqa Governorates.¹⁶
 - On July 5, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported tens of thousands of local residents protested in the countryside of Afrin after Turkish forces killed an Arab family in an SDF controlled village.¹⁷
 - On July 10, Syrian-Kurdish YPG forces clashed with Turkish forces in Kurdish-held towns north of the city of Aleppo. Shelling struck several towns including Tal Rifaat and Sheikh Issa, located in the Afrin region.¹⁸

¹⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-russia-syria-idUSKBN1AC1R9> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-lebanon-idUSKBN1AG0KK> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-lebanon-idUSKBN1AF06N>

¹¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40490058> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

¹² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-sdf-idUSKBN19W0QZ>

¹³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-army-idUSKBN1A00PC> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-oil-idUSKBN1A223D> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKBN1A80DE> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/07/air-strikes-shelling-kill-civilians-syria-raqqa-170726061215232.html> ; <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/us-backed-coalition-liberates-half-syrias-raqqa-59260270> ; <https://apnews.com/177997cb672f4c5faed5925c66905c29/US-backed-Syrian-fighters-control-almost-half-of-Raqqa>

¹⁵ <https://apnews.com/177997cb672f4c5faed5925c66905c29/US-backed-Syrian-fighters-control-almost-half-of-Raqqa>

¹⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

¹⁷ <http://www.syriaahr.com/en/?p=69468>

¹⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-afrin-idUSKBN19V20A>

- On July 13, a Syrian opposition group affiliated with Ahrar al-Sham and Hayat Tahrir al-Sham detonated three IEDS in the Baath Party Headquarters of Aleppo City.¹⁹
 - On July 17, Turkish-backed opposition forces clashed with Kurdish YPG and SDF forces near the village of Ain Daqna and the nearby Menagh Airbase.²⁰
4. Deir ez Zor Governorate:
- On July 11, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) reported that it had “confirmed information” that ISIL leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in Deir ez Zor Governorate, where he has been in hiding for the last three months. Kurdish, Iraqi, and American officials were unable to confirm al-Baghdadi’s death. On July 17, Kurdish and Iraqi officials stated their belief that al-Baghdadi is still alive, and likely hiding out south of the city of Raqqa.²¹
 - On July 20, SARG forces and ISIL militants clashed near the Deir ez Zor Military Airport in an area now known as the “Jafra Frontline.” SARG airstrikes targeted ISIL positions in the neighborhood of Kanamat, Deir ez Zor city.²²
5. Idlib Governorate:
- On July 4, a car bombing attack targeted a religious institute run by Syrian opposition group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in Quneitra, near Idlib City, killing up to 25 people. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.²³
 - On July 5, members of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham arrested a suspected nine-member ISIL cell that reportedly was preparing suicide bombing equipment for future attacks in Idlib Governorate.²⁴
 - On July 9–11, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham carried out an arrest campaign that detained more than 120 ISIL fighters located in Idlib Governorate.²⁵
 - On July 13, unidentified militants detonated a suicide bombing in Idlib City killing at least 12 Hayat Tahrir al-Sham fighters. Local activists blamed ISIL for the attack.²⁶
 - On July 19-20, Syrian opposition groups Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and Ahrar al-Sham clashed in Idlib Governorate including in the towns of Saraqib, Dana, Sarmada, and Bab al-Hawa.²⁷
 - On July 20, Syrian opposition forces have reported that 150 Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces arrived in Idlib Governorate to reinforce Ahrar al-Sham’s “escalating conflict” with rival Islamist opposition group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham.²⁸
 - On July 23, Syrian opposition forces and local residents reported that Hayat Tahrir al-Sham had consolidated their hold of large areas of Idlib Governorate following the departure of military equipment and hundreds of fighters exited the area near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey.²⁹

¹⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN1A2122> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-baghdadi-idUSKBN19W1AW> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-baghdadi-idUSKBN1A20JD>

²² <http://qasioun.net/en/news/show/84694>

²³ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idlib-idUSKBN1A40VN> ;

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idlib-idUSKBN1A52BX> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

²⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-turkey-idUSKBN1A52ID>

²⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idlib-idUSKBN1A80T1>

- On July 26, Syrian opposition forces reopened the Bab al-Hawa border crossing with Turkey following a week-long closure caused by Syrian opposition infighting. The opening of the border crossing has allowed for goods, including humanitarian aid, to enter Idlib Governorate.³⁰
6. Homs Governorate:
 - On July 11, the US-led Coalition and the Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated Mughawir al-Thawra are reportedly negotiating the relocation of the group from the al-Tanf border crossing area to Shaddadi in Hasakah Governorate.³¹
 - On July 14–18, pro-regime forces captured the Hayl Gas Field from ISIL, within ten miles from the town of al-Sukhna.³²
 - On July 19, an IED detonated at the Syrian IDP Rukban Camp located on the Syrian-Jordanian Border, killing at least three people. No group claimed responsibility for the attack, however ISIL has carried out similar attacks on the camp.³³
 - On July 27–29, SARG forces advanced against ISIL in Homs Governorate, reaching al-Sukhna, the “last major town” held by the militants in the governorate.³⁴
 7. Damascus Governorate:
 - On July 2, coordinated suicide attacks killed 21 people and wounded dozens more in heavily trafficked areas of Damascus, including in the Old City.³⁵
 8. Hama Governorate:
 - On July 5, Russian “strategic bombers” based in Russia launched long-range cruise missiles against ISIL positions in the town of Uqayribat, reportedly destroying “three ammunition depots and a command-and-control facility.”³⁶
 - On July 6, a suicide bomber targeted a bus station in the southwest of the city of Hama, killing two people and injuring nine others. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack.³⁷
 9. Al-Suwayda Governorate:
 - On July 10, SARG and pro-regime Iranian-backed militias, supported by Russian airstrikes, launched an assault on opposition-held Bedouin villages in southeastern Syria. Eight villages were targeted in the attack, and the Syrian army later stated that they had captured at least seven villages and towns, as well as strategic hilltops.³⁸

³⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-crossing-idUSKBN1AC2PD>

³¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³³ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³⁴ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/eyeing-deir-ezzor-syrian-army-advances-islamic-state-town-1298479596> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN1AE0IK>

³⁵ <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/damascus-bombing-kills-least-21-people/> ; <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-blast-idUSKBN19N04U> ; <http://www.cnbc.com/2017/07/02/three-car-bombs-hit-damascus-seven-people-killed.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40472202> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-blast-idUSKBN19R13A> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

³⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-south-idUSKBN19V1SQ>

10. Latakia Governorate:

- During the reporting period, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new law ratifying a deal with the Syrian regime that allows Russia to maintain Hmeimim Air Base in Latakia Governorate for the next 49 years with optional 25-year extension periods.³⁹
- On July 16, Syrian opposition group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham detonated a car bomb in the Mina al-Bayda Naval Base, causing an unknown number of casualties. Pro-regime media attributed the blast to a technical error at the base.⁴⁰

11. Hasakah Governorate:

- On July 18, ISIL detonated two suicide car bombs targeting Kurdish forces at a checkpoint near the village of Manajir and a Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD) in the town of Mabrouka.⁴¹

12. Daraa Governorate:

- On July 11–12, Russia reportedly opened a new joint operations Syria with Iran and Syria to monitor de-escalation zones between the US, Russia, and Jordan. Syrian activists reported pro-regime soldier rotations at SARG headquarters in Daraa City and the towns of Izraa and Atman.⁴²

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Deir ez Zor, Raqqa, and Shadaddi. The US-led Coalition also announced the death of several ISIL leaders.⁴³
- During the reporting period, Russian airstrikes targeted Homs, Hama, and Deir ez Zor Governorates.⁴⁴
- On July 2–5, the Syrian Arab Army announced a “unilateral ceasefire” from 9:00am on July 2 to midnight on July 5 in Quneitra, Daraa, and Suwayda Governorates.⁴⁵
- On July 7, the United States, Russia, and Jordan reached a ceasefire agreement in southwestern Syria along a Syrian opposition and SARG-agreed upon line, covering the regions of Daraa, Quneitra, and Sweida. The ceasefire came into effect on July 9.⁴⁶
- On July 8–11, pro-regime forces launched “the second phase of ‘Operations Great Dawn’ against Syrian opposition forces in Eastern Suwayda and Rif Dimashq Governorate.⁴⁷

³⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-russia-syria-idUSKBN1AC1R9>

⁴⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁴¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁴² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁴³ See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1263377](#), [1262022](#), [1261968](#), [1259978](#), [1259414](#), [1255346](#), [1258118](#), [1256677](#), [1252831](#), [1253904](#), [1255160](#), [1255217](#), [1251828](#), [1246136](#), [1247411](#), [1248774](#), [1248661](#), [1248964](#), [1244191](#), [1239015](#), [1236456](#), [1236358](#), [1236942](#), [1237131](#), [1242749](#), [1240670](#), [1241509](#), [1241276](#), [1241359](#)

⁴⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/07/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-pre-and.html>

⁴⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁴⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40539535> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un-idUSKBN19T0IE> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ceasefire-idUSKBN19S2DG> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40547138> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/world/middleeast/syria-truce-jordan-golan-trump-russia-united-nations.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-iran-idUSKBN19V0QU> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ceasefire-idUSKBN19R2U9> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁴⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

- On July 14, another round of Syrian peace talks in Geneva closed. UN Syria envoy Staffan di Mistura used this round of peace talks to focus on combating international terrorism⁴⁸
- On July 17, the European Union (EU) imposed new sanctions on 16 Syrian scientists and military officials for their “suspected involvement in a chemical attack” that occurred in northern Syria in April 2017.⁴⁹
- On July 19, US President Donald Trump ended the CIA clandestine program that provided weapons and supplies to US-backed Syrian opposition groups. US-backed Syrian opposition forces voiced their displeasure at the announcement, with many stating that they felt abandoned by the US.⁵⁰
- On July 29, Kurdish administrators in northern Syria set dates for local council and regional assembly elections planned for late-summer and November 2017. Kurdish YPG forces hold an estimated 30–40% of Syria.⁵¹

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

1. Ninawa Governorate:
 - On July 5, ISIL militants attacked the village of Imam Gharbi, south of Mosul, killing several people including two Iraqi journalists.⁵²
 - On July 10, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared victory over ISIL in Mosul from the Old City. Clashes continued to be reported in some areas in Mosul, where clearing operations took place.⁵³
 - On July 11, Reuters reported that ISIL had captured more than 75% of the village of Imam Gharbi, south of Mosul, and ISIL reinforcements are expected to arrive.⁵⁴
 - On July 12, ISF and ISIL militants clashed in the Old City of Mosul. Residents reported hearing gunfire and seeing clouds of smoke rise from areas inside the old city. ISF reinforcements arrived outside the village of Imam Gharbi in response to ISIL’s recapturing of the village last week.⁵⁵
 - On July 20, Iraqi forces recaptured the village of Imam Gharbi from ISIL.⁵⁶

⁴⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-talks-idUSKBN19Z2IU>

⁴⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-eu-idUSKBN1A20ZI>

⁵⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40667229> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-usa-idUSKBN1A52AE> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/19/world/middleeast/cia-arming-syrian-rebels.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-minister-idUSKBN1AA1NX> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2017/08/syria-situation-report-june-29-july-27.html>

⁵¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-kurds-idUSKBN1AE0LQ> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-aleppo-kurds-idUSKBN1AC1SY> ; <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/06/turkey-russia-offer-moscow-idlib-in-return-for-afrin.html>

⁵² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19S1GR>

⁵³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40558836> ; <https://twitter.com/HaiderAlAbadi/status/884464192023138304> ; <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1242101/iraqi-forces-liberate-mosul-from-isis/source/GovDelivery/> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/world/middleeast/mosul-isis-liberated.html> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19V105>

⁵⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19W0NN>

⁵⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19X14G> ; <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/12/world/middleeast/mosul-civilians-isis-drone-video.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40569090>

⁵⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-fighting-idUSKBN1A50LO> ; <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/07/imam-gharbi-mosul-saladin-iraq-isis-swat-qayyarah-shirqa.html>

- On July 26, a military commander from the “Al-Bunyan al-Marsous,” a group allied with the UN-backed GNA, announced that the group would increase patrols in Misrata in order to prevent ISIL from regrouping and planning attacks in Misrata.⁶⁵
2. Cyrenaica:
- On July 7, General Khalifa Haftar, the leader of the Libyan National Army (LNA), announced in a speech the liberation of eastern Benghazi city following years of fighting with Islamist militant forces. Clashes continued in the area following the speech.⁶⁶
 - On July 28, unknown forces shot down an LNA fighter jet over the district of Dahr al-Hamer, Derna remains under the control of Islamist militants and “ex-rebels” known as “Majlis Shura Mujahideen Derna.”

Other Key Points:

- On July 16, the head of Libya’s GNA, Fayeze Seraj, called for parliamentary and presidential elections to occur in March 2018.⁶⁷
- On July 18, the UN called on the LNA to investigate reports of summary executions of prisoners held by the group. The LNA denied the accusations.⁶⁸
- On July 25, rival leaders of the LNA and GNA, Khalifa Haftar and Fayeze Seraj, met for talks in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron. The two leaders later agreed to a “conditional ceasefire.”⁶⁹

Other significant political and military events during the reporting period:

- On July 7, a suicide car bombing and armed gunman attack targeted Egyptian soldiers outside the town of Rafah, a border town near the Gaza strip, killing at least 23 soldiers and wounding 26 more. The attack was later claimed by ISIL.⁷⁰
- On July 14, the Pentagon confirmed that US forces had killed Abu Sayed, the leader of ISIL-Khorasan in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.⁷¹
- On July 17, Airwars released a report stating that US-led Coalition airstrikes in Syria and Iraq had killed 2,200 civilians since the start of the new administration under President Trump.⁷²
- On July 31, a suicide bombing and gunmen attack struck the Iraqi embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.⁷³

⁶⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-militants-idUSKBN1AB1W9>

⁶⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40515325> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN19S2SH>

⁶⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-politics-idUSKBN1A10DA>

⁶⁸ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-un-idUSKBN1A30ZW> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-torture-idUSKBN1A52F8> ; <https://www.voanews.com/a/video-islamic-state-style-mass-killing-jihadists-libya/3957079.html>

⁶⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-france-idUSKBN1A5285> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-40718476> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-france-idUSKBN1AA1I8>

⁷⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40535593> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-egypt-security-idUSKBN19T0N2>

⁷¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/14/politics/us-kills-isis-leader-afghanistan/index.html>

⁷² <http://www.thedailybeast.com/president-trumps-air-war-kills-12-civilians-per-day> ; <https://airwars.org/news/trumps-air-war-kills-12-civilians-per-day/>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 17-0122

Report Date: July 4, 2017

Site Name: al-Rafiqah Wall

Date of Incident: July 3, 2017

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

Site Description: The al-Rafiqah Wall originally surrounded al-Rafiqah, a garrison town built next to the city of Raqqa by the Abbasid caliph al-Mansur in 771–772 CE.⁷⁴ Under Harun al-Rashid, al-Mansur's grandson, the dual city of al-Raqqa/al-Rafiqah served as the residence of the caliph and capital city of the Abbasid Caliphate.⁷⁵ Harun al-Rashid's sons moved the imperial capital back to Iraq, but the city continued to serve as a provincial capital and military base. The settlement fell into a deep decline following its sacking by the Mongols during the 13th century.⁷⁶

The al-Rafiqah defenses consisted of a main wall, an outer wall, and a moat.⁷⁷ The defenses ran for a total length of around 5 km, enclosing an area of 1.47 km². Roughly 2.6 km of the northern, eastern, and southeastern sections of the main wall remain standing. Semi-circular towers project from the face of the main wall every 25–28 m.⁷⁸

The DGAM began restoration of the Abbasid-period Raqqa in 1976. The al-Rafiqah Wall received repair and consolidation in a number of areas, primarily along its eastern and northern sides.⁷⁹

Site Date: 8th century CE

Incident Summary: US-led Coalition airstrikes damaged the ancient city wall of Raqqa.

Incident Source and Description: On July 4, 2017, USCENTCOM reported that US-led Coalition airstrikes struck two 25 m-long sections of the Rafiqah Wall.⁸⁰ The US-led Coalition targeted the wall segments on July 3, 2017 in order to open new access points into the Old City of Raqqa located away from sections fortified by ISIL. USCENTCOM asserted that the strikes will help preserve the majority of the wall by allowing the frontline to advance further into Raqqa's Old City with a minimum of resistance. Fighting occurred along three axes following the airstrikes, including in the vicinity of the Bab Baghdad and Qasr al-Banat.⁸¹

⁷³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40774155> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN1AG00M> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-blast-idUSKBN1AG00M>

⁷⁴ Heidemann 2003: 23

⁷⁵ Heidemann 2003: 30

⁷⁶ Heidemann 2003: 9

⁷⁷ Becker 2004: 3

⁷⁸ Becker 2004: 3

⁷⁹ al-Khalaf 1985: 129–130

⁸⁰ <http://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/1236906/sdf-breaches-old-city-of-raqqah/>

⁸¹ <http://www.raqqapost.com/27506/2017/07/05>; <https://apnews.com/851145f687544627b2a01e66ad7d8ad6>

On July 5, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage of a “martyrdom” attack targeting PKK forces that occurred near Bab Baghdad, causing unknown additional damage.

In the days following the strikes, many local and international news organizations covered the incident.⁸² On July 6, 2017 Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) posted a satellite image, from unknown sources, of one of the breaches in the eastern section of the wall.⁸³ On July 7, 2017 Hawar News Agency released drone footage of the wall prior to the airstrikes showing previously unreported damage along the southern side of the second tower south of the northern breach.⁸⁴

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from July 7, 2017 shows the two areas where the wall was breached. The northern area also shows fresh tracks over the damaged wall debris, further damaging the remnants of the wall. Video and photography confirm that these tracks are a footpath.⁸⁵

For more information on previous damage to al-Rafiqah Wall, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0072** in **Weekly Report 38** and **SHI 15-0132** in **Weekly Report 59-60**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency

AP News: <https://apnews.com/851145f687544627b2a01e66ad7d8ad6>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40490058>

CNN: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/07/politics/syria-raqqa-isis-us/index.html>

CNN Arabic:

<https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/2017/07/12/me-120717-cnn-inside-raqqa-fighting-isis>

⁸² <https://apnews.com/851145f687544627b2a01e66ad7d8ad6>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40490058>; <https://twitter.com/24Raqqa/status/882661236390932484>; <http://www.raqqapost.com/27506/2017/07/05>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19P1HK>; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-backed-forces-breach-the-wall-of-raqqas-old-city-in-the-heart-of-the-isis-capital/2017/07/04/902744da-60c1-11e7-80a2-8c226031ac3f_story.html

⁸³ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1608017072542871/>

⁸⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbYaVfeytII>

⁸⁵ <https://arabic.cnn.com/middle-east/2017/07/12/me-120717-cnn-inside-raqqa-fighting-isis>

Fox News:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/07/04/in-syrias-raqqa-old-city-wall-testimony-glorious-days.html>

Hawar News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbYaVfeytII>

Personal Twitter Account

Qasioun News Agency: <http://qasioun.net/en/news/show/84644>

Raqqa 24: <https://twitter.com/24Raqqa/status/882661236390932484>

Raqqa Campaign: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wEZt-CGZpU>

Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently:

July 5, 2017: https://twitter.com/Raqqa_SL/status/882376325641764866

July 6, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/photos/a.780113668666553.1073741828.780110825333504/1608017072542871/>

July 26, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/videos/1630790126932232/>

Raqqa Post: <http://www.raqqapost.com/27506/2017/07/05>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19P1HK>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/09/international-coalition-forces-shelled-raqqa-historical-wall-raqqa-city-o-jul-5/>

USCENTCOM:

July 4, 2017: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1236950/oir-officials-syrian-democratic-forces-breach-raqqa-old-city/source/GovDelivery/>; <http://www.centcom.mil/MEDIA/PRESS-RELEASES/Press-Release-View/Article/1236906/sdf-breaches-old-city-of-raqqah/>

Washington Post:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-backed-forces-breach-the-wall-of-raqqas-old-city-in-the-heart-of-the-isis-capital/2017/07/04/902744da-60c1-11e7-80a2-8c226031ac3f_story.html

Scholarly:

Becker, Andrea (2004) "Die 'abbäsische Stadtmauer,'" in *Baudenkmäler und Paläste I*, ed. Verena Daiber and Andrea Becker. Raqqa III. Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 3–4.

Heidemann, Stefan (2003) "Die Geschichte von ar-Raqqa/ar-Rāfiqa – ein Überblick," in *Die islamische Stadt*, ed. Stefan Heidemann and Andrea Becker. Raqqa II. Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 9–56.

al-Khalaf, Murhaf (1985) "Die 'abbäsische Stadtmauer von ar-Raqqa/ar-Rāfiqa.'" *Damaszener Mitteilungen* 2, 123–131.



Video still of drone footage of Qasr al-Banat and the area of the southern breach prior to the airstrike (Hawar News Agency; July 7, 2017)



Video still of drone footage of the area of the northern breach prior to the airstrike; damage is visible along the southern side of the fourth tower from the bottom (Hawar News Agency; July 7, 2017)



Video still of drone footage of the northeastern portion of the wall prior to the airstrike (Hawar News Agency; July 7, 2017)



Video still of the wall near the northeastern end of the Old City; no new damage is visible (CNN; July 7, 2017)



Satellite image of the northern breach in the eastern section of the wall (RBSS; July 6, 2017)



Video still of the northern breach to the left of the rounded tower, seen from the east (Personal Twitter Account; July 6, 2017)



Campaign Of Liberating Al Raqqa
Youtube://Raqqa Campaign
Twitter:// @RaqqaCampaign

Video still of a gunman firing in front of the northern breach prior to the creation of the footpath into the Old City, seen from east (Raqqa Campaign; July 12, 2017)



Video still of the entire northern breach, seen from the east (CNN Arabic; July 12, 2017)



The northern breach with a footpath over the debris, seen from the east (Personal Twitter Account; July 7, 2017)



Video still of people using the footpath through the northern breach, seen from the east (CNN Arabic; July 12, 2017)



View of the southern breach from the northeast (Qasioun News Agency; July 20, 2017)



View of the northern end of the wall where a road passes through it south of the Qasr al-Banat, seen from the west (RBSS; July 26, 2017)



View of the wall from the west; the southern breach is visible beyond the ruined vehicles at the left end of the image (RBSS; July 26, 2017)



View of the blocked roadway through the wall south of the Qasr al-Banat, seen from the west (RBSS; July 26, 2017)



Close-up of the northern wall breach showing damage on July 7, 2017 with a small footpath across the remains of the wall (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 7, 2017)



Close-up of ongoing damage resulting from foot and possible vehicle travel on July 25, 2017 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 25, 2017)



al-Rafiqah wall before the airstrikes
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 1, 2017)



Two areas where the wall was breached
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 7, 2017)

SHI 17-0123

Report Date: July 5, 2017

Site Name: Abu Dali Village Mosque (مسجد قرية أبو دالي)

Date of Incident: July 4, 2017

Location: Abu Dali, Hama Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG-Russian airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 5, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG-Russian aircraft fired on a mosque in the village of Abu Dali on July 4, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”⁸⁶ No photographs of damage to the mosque were available at the time of publication. SARG forces were in the middle of an offensive at the time of the incident.⁸⁷

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Araby al-Jadeed:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2017/7/6/سورية-النظام-يقاتل-شرقي-حماة-وعينه-على-دير-الزور/>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-abu-dali-village-hama-governorate-july-4/>

⁸⁶ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-abu-dali-village-hama-governorate-july-4/>

⁸⁷ <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2017/7/6/سورية-النظام-يقاتل-شرقي-حماة-وعينه-على-دير-الزور/>

SHI 17-0124

Report Date: July 5, 2017

Site Name: al-Mushayrifah Village Mosque (مسجد قرية المشيرفة)

Date of Incident: July 5, 2017

Location: al-Mushayrifah, Hama Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG-Russian airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 5, 2017, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG-Russian aircraft fired on a mosque in the village of al-Mushayrifah on July 5, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”⁸⁸ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Araby al-Jadeed:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2017/7/6/السوريون-يقاتلون-الزور-على-عينه-وحماة-شرقي-حملة-وعينه-على-دير-الزور>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-al-mshairfa-village-hama-governorate-july-5/>

⁸⁸ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-al-mshairfa-village-hama-governorate-july-5/>

SHI 17-0125

Report Date: July 7, 2017

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

Date of Incident: July 5, 2017

Location: Marat (قرية مراط), Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 5, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG aircraft conducted an airstrike targeting Khalid bin al-Walid Mosque, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”⁸⁹ Deir ez-Zor 24 also reported this attack.⁹⁰ No video or photography is currently available.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Deir ez Zor 24: <https://twitter.com/DeirEzzor24/status/882592583066816512>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-khaled-bin-al-walid-mosque-marat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-5/>

⁸⁹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-khaled-bin-al-walid-mosque-marat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-5/>

⁹⁰ <https://twitter.com/DeirEzzor24/status/882592583066816512>

SHI 17-0126

Report Date: July 9, 2017

Site Name: Othman bin Affan Mosque (جامع عثمان بن عفان)

Date of Incident: Between June 17 and June 24, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: ca. 1985 CE⁹¹

Incident Summary: Artillery fire damaged the dome of a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 7, 2017 Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that artillery fire partially damaged the dome of Othman bin Affan Mosque.⁹² Video footage of the mosque shows a shell hole through the northern side of the dome.⁹³

According to DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, the dome of the mosque was first damaged between June 17 and June 24, 2017. Besides the hole in the dome, the rest of the mosque appears intact, though airstrikes hit the building directly to the west between June 11–17, 2017, possibly damaging the mosque's facade and interior.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Personal Twitter Account

RBSS: <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1608859322458646>

⁹¹ ASOR CHI Source

⁹² <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1608859322458646>

⁹³ Personal Twitter Account



Video still of damage to the dome of the mosque, seen from the east (Personal Twitter Account; July 6, 2017)



Damage to building directly west of the mosque while the mosque has dust covering the roof (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 17, 2017)



Small hole on the northern side of the dome (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 24, 2017)

SHI 17-0127

Report Date: July 16, 2017

Site Name: Bab Baghdad (باب بغداد)

Date of Incident: July 5, 2017

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

Site Description: Bab Baghdad (Baghdad Gate) lies at the southeastern corner of the outer wall of the al-Rafiqah defenses, which consisted of a main wall, an outer wall, and a moat.⁹⁴ These defenses originally surrounded al-Rafiqah, a garrison town built next to the city of Raqqa by the Abbasid caliph al-Mansur in 771–772 CE.⁹⁵ The east–west oriented gate provided access to the area along the southern side of the main city wall.

Roughly one-quarter of the gate remains intact. The structure originally covered an area of ca. 18 x 14.5 m and was ca. 11 m high.⁹⁶ Its architectural qualities suggest that it was conceived primarily as a ceremonial gateway rather than as an essential part of the city's defenses.⁹⁷

Suggested dates for the construction of the Bab Baghdad range from the early 10-century CE to the mid-12th century CE.⁹⁸ Based on stylistic criteria, the early 10th century CE is the most likely option.⁹⁹

Site Date: Early 10th-century CE

Incident Summary: A car bomb damaged the Bab Baghdad.

Incident Source and Description: On July 5, 2017 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage of a “martyrdom” attack that targeted PKK forces near the Bab Baghdad. No photographs were available at the time of publication.

As seen in the DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, it appears an explosion took place directly south of the gate between June 11, 2017 and June 17, 2017. This has damaged the southern facade of the gate. There is no further visible damage to the Bab Baghdad.

For more information on previous damage to Bab Baghdad see [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0109](#) in [June Monthly Report 145–149](#).

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

⁹⁴ Becker 2004: 3

⁹⁵ Heidemann 2003: 23

⁹⁶ Korn 2004: 11

⁹⁷ Korn 2004: 14–15

⁹⁸ Hillenbrand 1985: 35–36; Korn 2004: 18

⁹⁹ Korn 2004: 18

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency

Scholarly:

Heidemann, Stefan (2003) “Die Geschichte von ar-Raqqa/ar-Rāfiqa – ein Überblick,” in *Die islamische Stadt*, ed. Stefan Heidemann and Andrea Becker. Raqqa II. Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 9–56.

Hillenbrand, Robert (1985) “Eastern Islamic Influences in Syria: Raqqa and Qal’at Ja’bar in the Later 12th Century,” in *The Art of Syria and the Jazira 1100–1250*, ed. Julian Raby. Oxford Studies in Islamic Art 1. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 21–48.

Korn, Lorenz (2004) “Das Baghdad-Tor (Südosttor der Halbrundstadt),” in *Baudenkmäler und Paläste I*, ed. Verena Daiber and Andrea Becker. Raqqa III. Mainz am Rhein: Verlag Philipp von Zabern, 11–18.



Video still that shows the dust cloud from the attack (Amaq News Agency; July 5, 2017)



Bab Baghdad prior to the explosion
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 11, 2017)



Visible crater from explosion and damage on southern facade of Bab Baghdad indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 7, 2017)

SHI 17-0128

Report Date: July 19, 2017

Site Name: Ain Afqa

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Palmyra, Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Ain Afqa hot spring was the location of the first settlement in the Palmyra area. Four small altars inscribed in Greek and the Palmyrene language were found in the area of the spring, dedicated to Yarhibol, the god of the spring.¹⁰⁰ Some of these altars were moved to the Palmyra Museum. Others remain in the spring and may be seen in the photographs below. The spring was in use in the Neolithic period.¹⁰¹ The remaining structures, including the stairs leading down into the spring and the altars, probably date to the 1st to 4th century CE. The hot spring dried up in 1994.¹⁰²

Site Date: 1st to 4th century CE

Incident Summary: New photographs show damage to ancient monument at Palmyra.

Incident Source and Description: On July 15, 2017 Palmyra Coordination Committee (PCC) posted a photograph on Twitter showing a before and after photograph of the Ain Afqa Spring at Palmyra.¹⁰³ The wall of the southeast corner of the spring appears to have collapsed. No date or cause for the collapse was provided, although the Palmyra Coordination Committee Twitter account attributed the damages to Russian forces.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms the collapse of the southeast corner of the spring. This occurred sometime between January 9, 2012 and May 22, 2015.

ISIL militants took Palmyra and the surrounding area from SARG forces between May 15th and May 30, 2015. Russia entered the conflict in September of 2015, and as such are not responsible for this damage. The PCC may have only recently accessed the site and assumed Russian forces were responsible due to the heavy bombardment of Palmyra by Russian forces in 2016 and 2017.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; site management.

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

¹⁰⁰ Smith 2013, 63–4.

¹⁰¹ Piacentini 2001-2002, 528–33.

¹⁰² <http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/tourism/5880-afqa-spring-the-mystery-of-life-in-syrian-badia>

¹⁰³ <https://twitter.com/PalmyraRev1/status/886175084829868032>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Palmyra Coordination Committee:

July 15, 2017: <https://twitter.com/PalmyraRev1/status/886175084829868032> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/revo.palmyra3/posts/744382739020001:0>

Syria Times:

<http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/tourism/5880-afqa-spring-the-mystery-of-life-in-syrian-badia>

Scholarly:

Piacentini, Danila (2001-2002). "Palmyra's Springs in the Epigraphic Sources" in *ARAM* 13-14. pp. 525-34.

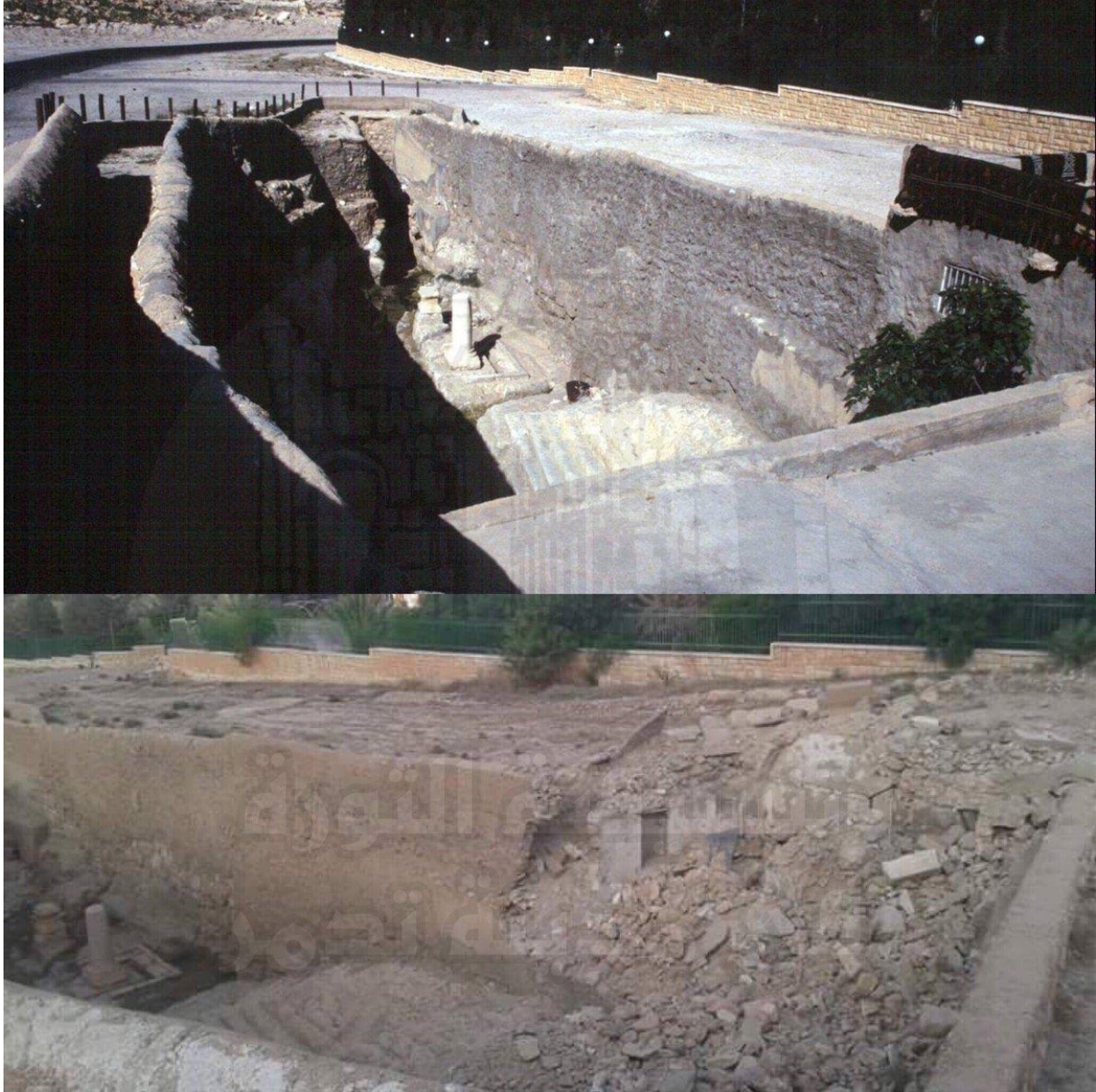
Smith II, Andrew (2013) *Roman Palmyra: Identity, Community, and State Formation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.



Ain Afqa prior to any damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; January 9, 2012)



Collapsed wall visible along southwestern edge; indicated by a red arrow (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 22, 2015)



Before and after photographs of Ain Afqa spring. The latter shows destruction in the southeast corner of the spring (Palmyra Coordination; July 15, 2017)

SHI 17-0129

Report Date: July 19, 2017

Site Name: al-Eman Mosque (مسجد الإيمان)

Date of Incident: July 16, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A SARG airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 18, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a SARG airstrike damaged al-Eman Mosque in the village of al-Sabha.¹⁰⁴ No video or photography is currently available.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-eman-mosque-al-sabha-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-16/>

¹⁰⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-eman-mosque-al-sabha-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-16/>

SHI 17-0130

Report Date: July 19, 2017

Site Name: al-Rahman Mosque (مسجد الرحمن) (al-Hamidat Mosque مسجد الحميدات)

Date of Incident: July 17, 2017

Location: Ghanim Ali, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

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

Incident Source and Description: On July 18, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a US-led Coalition airstrike hit al-Rahman Mosque, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”¹⁰⁵ The airstrike resulted in the collapse of part of the roof and toppled at least one exterior wall.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-ghanem-al-ali-village-raqqa-suburbs-july-17/>

¹⁰⁵ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-ghanem-al-ali-village-raqqa-suburbs-july-17/>



Damage to al-Rahman Mosque (SNHR; July 18, 2017)

SHI 17-0131

Report Date: July 19, 2017

Site Name: al-Aqoula Mosque (مسجد العاقولة)

Date of Incident: July 17, 2017

Location: Duma, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: SARG artillery damaged the minaret of a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 18, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG artillery damaged the minaret of al-Aqoula Mosque.¹⁰⁶ A shell hole is visible in the side of the minaret, which remains standing. On July 31, 2017 SNHR published additional footage that shows the damage to the mosque from a different direction.¹⁰⁷

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

July 18, 2017: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-aqoula-mosque-douma-city-damascus-suburbs-july-17/>

July 31, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBwWSFZHWCw>

¹⁰⁶ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-aqoula-mosque-douma-city-damascus-suburbs-july-17/>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBwWSFZHWCw>



Damage to the minaret of al-Aqoula Mosque (SNHR; July 18, 2017)



Damage to the minaret of al-Aqoula Mosque (SNHR; July 31, 2017)



Damage to the minaret of al-Aqoula Mosque (SNHR; July 31, 2017)

SHI 17-0132

Report Date: July 21, 2017

Site Name: Qal'at Harim (قلعة حارم) (Harim Citadel)

Date of Incident: July 19, 2017

Location: Harim, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Qal'at Harim is located 40 m above the surrounding plain on top of a conical hill that overlooks a major route between Aleppo and Antakya.¹⁰⁸ The citadel partially rests on the remains of a late-4th to mid-3rd millennium BCE settlement.¹⁰⁹ The recovery of 2nd millennium BCE, Hellenistic–Roman, and Late Antique–Byzantine remains in secondary contexts suggests the existence of occupation during those times as well. Recognized as a national monument in 1959, the citadel received restoration from the Syrian government in 1989.¹¹⁰ A joint Italian and Syrian DGAM project excavated at the site in 1999, 2000, and 2002.¹¹¹

According to medieval Muslim sources, the citadel was founded by the Byzantines.¹¹² Conquered in 1098 CE during the First Crusade (1096–1099 CE), it functioned as an important stronghold for the defense of the Principality of Antioch, a newly-founded crusader state.¹¹³ Control over the citadel alternated between Crusader and Muslim forces in the ensuing years before its final capture by Nur al-Din Zengi in 1164.¹¹⁴ Besieged by the Mongols during 1260 and 1271, the citadel lost its military importance during the late Mamluk era (14th–15th centuries). Excavations demonstrate that it continued to be occupied under Ottoman rule.¹¹⁵

Site Date: Late Byzantine–Ottoman Period

Incident Summary: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham reportedly fired heavy weapons at Qal'at Harim.

Incident Source and Description: On July 19, 2017 Jabhat al-Nusra posted video footage showing gunfire hitting Qal'at Harim.¹¹⁶ The sources of the footage attributed the incident to the militia Hayat Tahrir al-Sham firing at Ahrar al-Sham, a rival militia. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from July 29, 2017 does not show any visible damage from the gunfire hitting the archaeological site. Minor looting and combat damage occurred in Qal'at Harim between 2012 and 2014. Weathering and general neglect have also impacted the site. For more information on previous damage, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0082 in Weekly Report 16–17.**

Pattern: Military activity: gunfire/light weaponry.

¹⁰⁸ Gelichi 2006: 184

¹⁰⁹ Gelichi 2006: 190

¹¹⁰ Gelichi 2006: 184

¹¹¹ Gelichi 2006: 187

¹¹² Gelichi 2006: 186

¹¹³ Buck 2016: 115

¹¹⁴ Buck 2016: 113

¹¹⁵ Gelichi 2006: 196

¹¹⁶ https://twitter.com/IAN_Violations/status/887644102715744256

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Jabhat al-Nusra Violations: https://twitter.com/IAN_Violations/status/887644102715744256

Personal Twitter Account

Scholarly:

Buck, Andrew D. (2016) “The Castle and Lordship of Ḥārim and the Frankish-Muslim Frontier of Northern Syria in the Twelfth Century.” *Al-Masāq* 28:2, 113–131.

Gelichi, Sauro (2006) “The Citadel of Ḥārim,” in *Muslim Military Architecture in Greater Syria: From the Coming of Islam to the Ottoman Period*, ed. Hugh Kennedy. Leiden: Brill, 184–200.



Video still of dust from the impact of gunfire on the citadel (JAN Violations; July 19, 2017)

SHI 17-0133

Report Date: July 26, 2017

Site Name: Sa'ad bin Mo'ath Mosque (مسجد سعد بن معاذ)

Date of Incident: July 24, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A SARG airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 24, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a SARG airstrike hit Sa'ad bin Mo'ath Mosque, damaging the mosque's walls and contents.¹¹⁷ The photograph shows structural damage to the walls and the cleaning up of rubble inside the mosque.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Sa'ad bin Mo'ath Mosque, as well as the condition of other religious sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/24/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-saed-bin-moath-mosque-al-shamitiya-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-24/>

¹¹⁷ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/24/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-saed-bin-moath-mosque-al-shamitiya-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-24/>



Damage to the walls and contents of the Sa'ad bin Mo'ath Mosque (SNHR; July 24, 2017)

SHI 17-0134

Report Date: July 27, 2017

Site Name: Unnamed Mosque

Date of Incident: July 24–25, 2017

Location: Arbin, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: SARG-Russian airstrikes damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 25, 2017 the Arbin Media Information Office released footage that showed damage to an unnamed mosque that was caused by SARG-Russian airstrikes.¹¹⁸ The strikes damaged the bottom of the mosque's minaret and collapsed nearby structures. The area of Arbin has recently been under heavy bombardment.¹¹⁹

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Arbin Media Information Office: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKrZ2FovSsM>

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ghouta-idUSKBN1AA0JV>

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=70658>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKrZ2FovSsM>

¹¹⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-ghouta-idUSKBN1AA0JV?il=0>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=70658>



View of damage to the mosque's minaret (Arbin Media Information Office; July 25, 2017)



View of the damaged minaret behind a collapsed building (Arbin Media Information Office; July 25, 2017)

SHI 17-0135

Report Date: July 27, 2017

Site Name: al-Sinaniyah Suq (سوق السنانية)

Date of Incident: July 27, 2017

Location: Damascus, Damascus Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Al-Sinaniyah Suq is a market built by the Ottoman Governorate of Damascus Sinan Pasha in 1590 CE.¹²⁰

Site Date: 1590 CE

Incident Summary: A fire broke out in a historic market.

Incident Source and Description: On July 26, 2017 AFP journalist Maher al-Mounes reported via Twitter that al-Sinayah Suq on the southwestern edge of the Old City of Damascus had caught fire.¹²¹ The fire reportedly originated in a shoe store located within the market. The extent of the damage to the suq is currently unknown. Photographs published by Maher al-Mounes show smoke rising from the market and the surrounding area.

Pattern: Natural impacts.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Sinaniyah Suq, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to fire damage.

Sources:

Scholarly:

E-Syria:

<http://www.esyria.sy/edamascus/index.php?p=stories&category=ruins&filename=201308251105031031>

¹²⁰ <http://www.esyria.sy/edamascus/index.php?p=stories&category=ruins&filename=201308251105031>

¹²¹ https://twitter.com/Maher_mon/status/890631013453381632



Smoke is seen rising above al-Sinaniyah Suq (Personal Twitter Account/Maher al-Mounes; July 26, 2017)



Smoke is seen rising above al-Sinaniyah Suq from the south entrance (Personal Twitter Account/Maher al-Mounes; July 26, 2017)



Smoke is seen rising above al-Sinaniyah Mosque from the roof of a nearby building (July 26, 2017)



Smoke is seen rising above al-Sinaniyah Suq, from just inside the south entrance of the suq (July 26, 2017)

SHI 17-0136

Report Date: July 27, 2017

Site Name: al-Mustafa Mosque (جامع المصطفى)

Date of Incident: July 25, 2017

Location: Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: US-led coalition airstrike damaged a mosque in Raqqa.

Incident Source and Description: On July 25, 2017 the activist group Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported ISIL militants had targeted the area surrounding al-Mustafa Mosque with car bombs, although no damage to area was specified.¹²² On July 26, 2017 RBSS reported on Facebook that al-Mustafa Mosque had been destroyed in a US-led coalition airstrike.¹²³

On July 26, 2017 a Twitter account belonging to PYD Rojava also reported on that Syrian Democratic Forces had captured the mosque and the surrounding area.¹²⁴ Neither the tweet nor a news article detailing the capture of the area discuss damage to the mosque.¹²⁵

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from July 25, 2017 shows severe damage to al-Mustafa Mosque. The dome has collapsed inward, and the minaret has broken apart and fallen onto the roof of the mosque. The southwest corner of the mosque has also collapsed. The courtyard and street to the north of the mosque have also been damaged.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Mustafa Mosque.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently:

July 25, 2017 <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1629297007081544>

July 26, 2017 <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1630777746933470>

PYD Rojava: https://twitter.com/PYD_Rojava/status/890286220214980615

¹²² <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1629297007081544>

¹²³ <https://www.facebook.com/Raqqa.SI/posts/1630777746933470>

¹²⁴ https://twitter.com/PYD_Rojava/status/890286220214980615

¹²⁵ <http://gul.fm/قوات-سوريا-الديمقراطية-تواصل-تقدمها/>

Gul FM: <http://gul.fm/قوات-سوريا-الديمقراطية-تواصل-تقدمها/>



al-Mustafa Mosque prior to damage
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 19, 2017)



Mosque after the airstrike with damage to the dome, minaret, and multiple walls
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 25, 2017)

SHI 17-0137

Report Date: July 29, 2017

Site Name: Othman bin Affan Mosque (مسجد عثمان بن عفان)

Date of Incident: July 28, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A SARG airstrike damaged a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 28, 2017, the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a SARG airstrike hit Othman bin Affan Mosque, causing severe damage and “rendering it inoperable.”¹²⁶ No photography or video of the damage was available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/28/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-othman-bin-affan-mosque-al-mayadeen-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-28/>

¹²⁶ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/28/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-othman-bin-affan-mosque-al-mayadeen-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-28/>

SHI 17-0138

Report Date: July 31, 2017

Site Name: al-Rahman Mosque (مسجد الرحمن)

Date of Incident: July 31, 2017

Location: al-Khamisiyah Foqani, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A suspected Russian airstrike destroyed a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 31, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a suspected Russian airstrike completely destroyed al-Rahman Mosque.¹²⁷ No video or photography of the damage was available at the end of the reporting period to confirm the destruction of al-Rahman Mosque.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/31/suspected-russian-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-khamisiya-foqani-village-raqqa-governorate-july-31/>

¹²⁷ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/31/suspected-russian-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-khamisiya-foqani-village-raqqa-governorate-july-31/>

SHI 17-0039

Report Date: July 25, 2017

Site Name: al-Safa Mosque

Date of Incident: Between July 19, 2017 and July 25, 2017

Location: Darayeh Neighborhood, Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: An explosion destroyed a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 25, 2017 DigitalGlobe satellite imagery showed the destruction of al-Safa Mosque due to explosives possibly attributable to airstrikes. The building was destroyed and the rubble of the minaret surrounds the site. Though no reports of this destruction appeared in the media, the western front was active on July 24–25 with US-led Coalition air support.¹²⁸

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Raqqa Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0126, SHI 17-0130, SHI 17-0137, and SHI 17-0139.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Syriac Military Council: <https://twitter.com/SyriacMFS/status/889438747955277824>

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=70548>

¹²⁸ <https://twitter.com/SyriacMFS/status/889438747955277824>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/?p=70548>



Al-Safa Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 19, 2017)



Severe damage to al-Safa Mosque, with the main building destroyed and the minaret lying on the debris (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 25, 2017)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 17-0020 UPDATE

Report Date: July 3, 2017

Site Name: Omar al-Aswed Mosque (مسجد الشيخ أبو العلاء)

Date of Incident: Between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Ottoman Period

Incident Summary: New video footage shows condition of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 4, 2017 Rudaw released video footage showing damage to the Omar al-Aswed Mosque.¹²⁹ The Omar al-Aswed Mosque was reportedly hit by French Coalition planes at the beginning of March 2017. The video footage shows the minaret was severely damaged, and the dome of the mosque has shrapnel holes in it. The front of the mosque facing the street suffered severe structural damage. DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms damage to the mosque as a result of airstrikes between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017.

In the background of the video two other heritage sites are visible — Kanisat al-Sa'a (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0052**) and al-Saffar Mosque (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0053**). Both sites appear to have suffered little damage.

For more information on previous damage to the mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020** in **March Weekly Report 133–136**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4-pl0s1x4M>

Rudaw:

July 4, 2017: <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/030720172>

July 10, 2017: <https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/884355539609825281>

¹²⁹ <http://www.rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/030720172>



Video still of the Omar al-Aswed Mosque showing damage to the minaret, which is missing its top half and outer facade of building (Rudaw; July 4, 2017)



Video still of the Omar al-Aswed Mosque, showing damage to the minaret and dome (Rudaw; July 4, 2017)



Video still of damage to the Omar al-Aswed Mosque and neighborhood (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



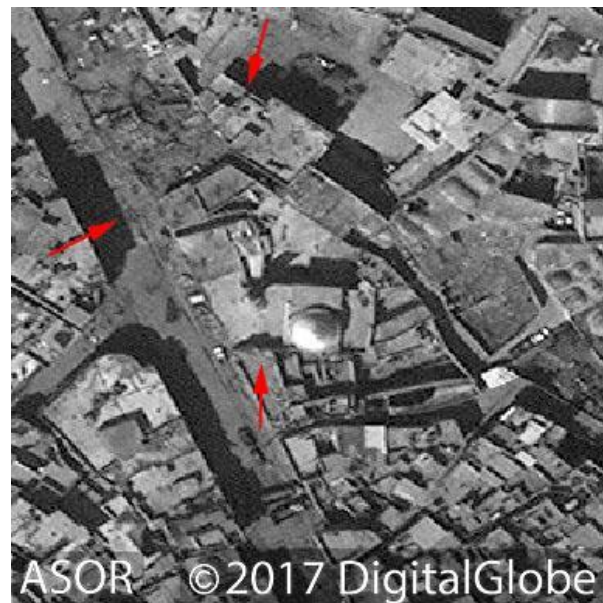
Video still of damage to the side of the Omar al-Aswed Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the Omar al-Aswed Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Omar al-Aswed mosque prior to any damage on March 8, 2017 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 8, 2017)



Red arrows indicating areas of damage to mosque from explosions (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 25, 2017)

IHI 17-0048 UPDATE

Report Date: July 10, 2017

Site Name: al-Ziwani Mosque

Date of Incident: Between March 8, 2017 and June 30, 2017

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

Site Description: The al-Ziwani Mosque was built by Suleiman Pasha al-Jalaili in 1779, on the site of an earlier mosque.¹³⁰

Site Date: 1779 CE

Incident Summary: New video footage shows interior of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 10, 2017 Rudaw released video footage of damage to the al-Ziwani Mosque.¹³¹ The main building of the mosque has combat related damage with holes from explosions in the walls, bullet/shrapnel marks, as well as damage to the dome of the mosque.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows several incidents where the the mosque was damaged. Between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017 there is visible damage to the southern part of the mosque as a result of an airstrike in the street south of the mosque. Another airstrike visibly damaged the mosque between June 18, 2017 and June 19, 2017. The final instance of damage visible in the imagery occurred between June 18, 2017 and June 30, 2017 wherein the western facade of the mosque was damaged by another airstrike.

For more information on previous damage to al-Ziwani Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0048** in the **June Monthly Report 145–148**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrikes, explosives, gunfire/light weaponry.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Rudaw: <https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/884355539609825281>

Scholarly:

Khoury, D. 1997. *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul 1540–1834*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 201

¹³⁰ Khoury, D. 1997. pp. 201

¹³¹ <https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/884355539609825281>



Video still of damage to the interior courtyard of al-Ziwani Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the front of al-Ziwani Mosque, the top of the minaret has been destroyed (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior courtyard and exterior doors of al-Ziwani Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



The mosque prior to any damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; February 25, 2017)



The mosque with damage due to several incidents (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)

IHI 17-0051

Report Date: June 24, 2017

Site Name: Mosque of al-Hamdeen (جامع الحامدين)(al-Mahmudin Mosque)

Date of Incident: Between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017

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

Site Description: Mosque in the Old City of Mosul, possibly with a courtyard roofed with metal sheet building materials.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: New photographs show condition of mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 24, 2017, Iraqi Day posted photographs of al-Hamdeen Mosque.¹³² The photographs show the interior of the mosque filled with rubble and some minor structural damage due to military activity. The courtyard has some roofing material on the ground, and gunfire or shrapnel damage apparent on the exterior walls. According to a local Facebook page, Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) liberated the mosque on June 19, 2017.¹³³

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery suggests that the mosque was damaged on its northern and western sides between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017 as a result of military activity.

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

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Iraqi Day: https://twitter.com/iraqi_day/status/878586603232473089

Mosul Habebti: <https://www.facebook.com/mosul.habebti/posts/1408568465877491>

WK Ahmed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cenRpQpyPrc>

¹³² https://twitter.com/iraqi_day/status/878586603232473089

¹³³ <https://www.facebook.com/mosul.habebti/posts/1408568465877491>



Video still of damage to the exterior of al-Hamdeen Mosque (WK Ahmed; June 23, 2017)



Video still of damage to the exterior of al-Hamdeen Mosque (WK Ahmed; June 23, 2017)



Video still of damage to the courtyard of al-Hamdeen Mosque (WK Ahmed; June 23, 2017)



Damage to the courtyard of al-Hamdeen Mosque (Iraqi Day; June 24, 2017)



Damage to the courtyard of al-Hamdeen Mosque (Iraqi Day; June 24, 2017)



Damage to the interior of al-Hamdeen Mosque (Iraqi Day; June 24, 2017)



Al-Hamidin Mosque on March 8, 2017 prior to any damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 8, 2017)



Different locations of damage to the mosque on April 15, 2017 indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 15, 2017)

IHI 17-0052

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: al-Sa'a Church (كنيسة الساعة)(Clock Church; Our Lady of the Hour Church; Latin Church)

Date of Incident: June 29, 2017

Location: al-Sa'a Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Roman Catholic Clock Church was constructed by Dominican Friars in the 1870s. In the 1880s, Empress Eugenie, wife of Napoleon III of France, donated the Clock Tower.¹³⁴ At this time a replica of the Lourdes Grotto with a statue of Our Lady of Miracles was also installed in the church. The church was damaged in 2006 during the Iraq War.¹³⁵

Site Date: 1873 CE; the clock tower was completed in 1882 CE.

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

Incident Source and Description: On June 29, 2017 al-Mosuliya released a video showing damage to al-Sa'a Church.¹³⁶ The clocktower and domes are still standing, but the building has been heavily damaged. The facing is missing from much of the building, and evidence of military activity such as explosions and gunfire/shrapnel is apparent. On July 22, 2017, Stars and Stripes posted new photos of the interior of the church, showing damage and left over remnants of ISIL including bullet proof vests.¹³⁷ Sgt. Bassam Nadhim Ibrahim states that the church was an ISIL base for a unit called, "the Devil's Battalion."¹³⁸ Graffiti on a wall reads Lt. Mohammed EOD-IED, which suggests the area has been cleared of explosive devices. Previous damage occurred in 2016 when ISIL began demolishing the church.

Recent damage to the church is not visible in DigitalGlobe satellite imagery.

For previous damage to al-Sa'a Church see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0039** in **Weekly Report 117-118**.

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

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

¹³⁴ <http://www.la-croix.com/Urbi-et-Orbi/Monde/A-Mossoul-Daech-a-detruit-l-eglise-Notre-Dame-de-l-Heure>

-2016-04-26-1200756074

¹³⁵ <https://worldcometomyhome.blogspot.com/2014/10/1317-iraq-dominican-clock-church-in.html>

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

¹³⁷ https://www.stripes.com/news/distinctive-church-among-the-survivors-in-mosul-1.479320#.WXS0nhR_wdc

¹³⁸ https://www.stripes.com/news/distinctive-church-among-the-survivors-in-mosul-1.479320#.WXS0nhR_wdc

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya:

June 29, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObyGkLLPfQk>

July 3, 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4-pI0s1x4M>

Stars and Stripes: https://www.stripes.com/news/distinctive-church-among-the-survivors-in-mosul-1.479320#.WXS0nhR_wdc



Video still of the clock tower and domes of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; June 29, 2017)



Video still of damage to the western side of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the northwestern corner of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the western side of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



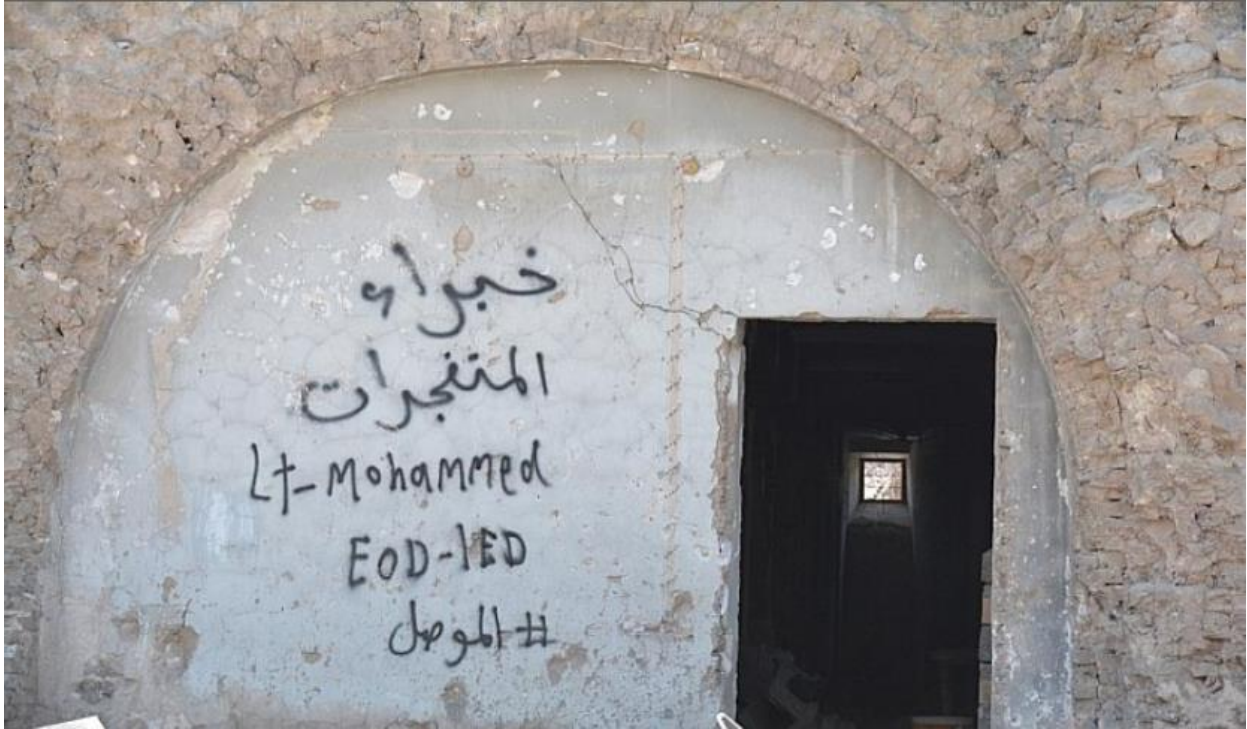
Video still of damage to the bell tower of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the front of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the clocktower of al-Sa'a Church (al-Mousilya; July 3, 2017)



Graffiti on an exterior wall of the church, stating the area has been cleared of explosive devices (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)



View of Old Mosul from top of al-Sa'a Church (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)



Damage to the interior courtyard from top of al-Sa'a Church (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)



Iraqi Security Forces removing ISIL flags from inside the al-Sa'a Church (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)



Bulletproof vest found in the interior of the al-Sa'a Church (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)



Damage to the clocktower of al-Sa'a Church (Seth Robson/Stars and Stripes; July 22, 2017)

IHI 17-0053

Report Date: June 29, 2017

Site Name: al-Safar Mosque (جامع الصفار)

Date of Incident: Between June 22, 2017 and June 30, 2017

Location: al-Sa'a Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Unknown

Site Date: Post 1932 CE

Incident Summary: New video footage shows condition of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 29, 2017 al-Mosuliya released video footage showing damage to al-Safar Mosque.¹³⁹ The two minarets of this mosque are still standing, with some shrapnel and fire damage present. The mosque itself is moderately damaged, with windows missing and possible damage to the roof. The neighborhood surrounding the mosque has been largely destroyed.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms that damage to the mosque occurred between June 22, 2017 and June 30, 2017. There was also previous damage visible to the southwest part of the mosque, which occurred between June 10, 2017 and June 16, 2017.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, IHI 17-0048 UPDATE, IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0055, IHI 17-0056, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0059, IHI 17-0061, and IHI 17-0067.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Hurra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiZk75l7bOo>

Iraq Pictures: <https://twitter.com/IraqPics/status/386927535826550784>

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

¹³⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObyGkLLPfQk>



Video still of damage to al-Safar Mosque with al-Sa'a Church in background (al-Mosuliya, June 29, 2017)



Video still of the minarets of al-Safar Mosque (al-Mosuliya June 29, 2017)



Video still of damage to al-Safar Mosque (al-Mosuliya June 29, 2017)



Video still of damage to al-Safar Mosque, the red material seen is part of roofing over the neighborhood to protect people from airstrikes (al-Mosuliya June 29, 2017)



al-Safar Mosque before damage (Iraqi Pictures; October 6, 2013)



Al-Safar Mosque showing previous damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 22, 2017)



Increased damage to the mosque indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 30, 2017)

IHI 17-0054**Report Date:** July 5, 2017**Site Name:** Dar Thun Hadid (دار ثنون حدید)**Date of Incident:** June 28, 2017**Location:** Mayasa Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq**Site Description:** A large house containing many rooms, awnings, and a large courtyard.¹⁴⁰ The site used as a caravanserai during the Ottoman Period.**Site Date:** 1850s CE¹⁴¹**Incident Summary:** New photographs show damage to site.**Incident Source and Description:** On June 27, 2017, an Iraqi journalist released a photograph of Dar Thun Hadid, labeling it the “Castle of Haj Said Jalimran.” An ASOR CHI in country source clarified that the photograph was not of a castle, but a caravanserai (Khan) from the late Ottoman Period.

On July 2, 2017 a local Facebook page uploaded more photographs of the site showing significant damage. This site was located on the frontline of fighting in the old city, and has suffered from shelling, weapon and shrapnel holes, and possible fire damage.¹⁴² The photographs show heavily armored vehicles parked outside the building.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; gunfire/light weaponry; occupation/militarization.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Dar Thun Hadid, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to intense military activity.**Sources:**Online Reporting:Daily Herald: <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170630/news/306309981>

¹⁴⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldmosul/permalink/1370634159638937/>

¹⁴¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldmosul/permalink/1370634159638937/>

¹⁴² <http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20170630/news/306309981>



Advancement of the army inside Dar Thun Hadid (Private Facebook Account; June 27, 2017)



The inside of Dar Thun Hadid showing shrapnel/bullet holes, fire damage, and rubble (Daily Herald; June 30, 2017)



Damage to Dar Thun Hadid with rubble in the courtyard (Private Facebook Account; July 3, 2017)



Damage to Dar Thun Hadid showing possible fire damage, rubble, shrapnel/bullet holes/ and graffiti (Private Facebook Account; July 3, 2017)

IHI 17-0055

Report Date: July 10, 2017

Site Name: al-Aghwat Mosque (جامع الأغوات)

Date of Incident: Between June 11, 2017 and June 16, 2017

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

Site Description: Al-Aghwat Mosque was built by Khalil Agha, Ibrahim Agha, and Ismael Agha in 1702 CE. The prayer hall was built in three sections, one section by each brother. Mullah Jarjis bin Darwish al-Musli built the school located inside the mosque in 1702 CE. The mihrab was constructed on top of two cylindrical basins. The minaret lies west of chapel.¹⁴³ The congregation in 2014 consisted of between 50 and 100 worshippers.¹⁴⁴

Site Date: 1702 CE

Incident Summary: New video footage shows condition of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 10, 2017 Rudaw released video footage showing damage to al-Aghwat Mosque.¹⁴⁵ The southern part of the mosque is almost completely destroyed, with only the dome remaining. The dome shows damage from explosions and gunfire/shrapnel. Interior photos show the courtyard and interior filled with rubble and the walls covered in pockmarks from gunfire/shrapnel.

On July 17, 2017, al-Mosuliya released video footage of the mosque from the north, showing less damage, the dome is almost intact on this side.¹⁴⁶ The minaret has been heavily damaged.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows three periods of damage to the mosque. Between February 11, 2017 and February 18, 2017, a small building by the southeast part of the mosque was damaged. Between March 8, 2017 and March 25, 2017 a depression appears just north of the mosque, indicating an airstrike which may have caused damage to the mosque. Finally, between June 11, 2017 and June 16, 2017, the mosque was seriously damaged by airstrikes, resulting in the destruction of the minaret.

For previous reports on damage to al-Aghwat Mosque see: Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Analysis in **Monthly Report 141-144**.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, IHI 17-0048 UPDATE, IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0053, IHI 17-0056, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0059, IHI 17-0061, and IHI 17-0067.**

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

¹⁴³ *Directory of Mosques and Archaeology and Heritage of Mosques*. p.108

¹⁴⁴ *Directory of Mosques and Archaeology and Heritage of Mosques*. p.108

¹⁴⁵ <https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/884355539609825281>

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEWGVQ3Ycmg>

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mayadeen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hnEOglElaBM>

Mosul.Ateka:

<https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/photos/pcb.1515496211806189/1515495938472883/>

Mosul-Photos: <http://mosul-photos.com/picture.php?/749>

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TEWGVQ3Ycmg>

Rudaw: <https://twitter.com/RudawEnglish/status/884355539609825281>

Scholarly:

The Sunni Endowment in Iraq. *Directory of Mosques and Archaeology and Heritage of Mosques.*



Video still of al-Aghwat Mosque in 2010 prior to damage (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the northern side of al-Aghwat Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 17, 2017)



Video still of damage to the northern side of al-Aghwat Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 17, 2017)



Video still of damage to the eastern side of al-Aghwat Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 17, 2017)



Damage to the southern side of al-Aghwat Mosque (Mosul Ateka; July 10, 2017)



Damage to the southern side of al-Aghwat Mosque, and surrounding area (Mosul Ateka; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to al-Aghwat Mosque (al-Mayadeen; July 8, 2017)



Video still of damage to al-Aghwat Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of al-Aghwat Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of al-Aghwat Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of damage to the interior of al-Aghwat Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



Video still of chandelier in the interior of al-Aghwat Mosque (Rudaw; July 10, 2017)



al-Aghwat Mosque prior to any damage on February 11, 2017 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; February 11, 2017)



Areas of damage to al-Aghwat Mosque on June 16, 2017 indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 16, 2017)



The most recent image of al-Aghwat Mosque
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 27,
2017)

IHI 17-0056

Report Date: July 16, 2017

Site Name: al-Juwayjati Mosque (جامع جويجاتي) (al-Jweiji Mosque)

Date of Incident: Between April 15, 2017 and April 26, 2017

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

Site Description: A historic mosque constructed in 1625 CE by Haj Abdullah al-Jweiji, which housed one of the the first libraries of Iraq. It has an area of 250 square meters, and could accommodate about 50 worshippers.¹⁴⁷ It housed 400 books in the 14th century, mostly works of writers from Mosul.¹⁴⁸

Site Date: 1625 CE, renovated 1959

Incident Summary: New video footage shows damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 3, 2017, al-Mosuliya released video footage showing damage to the al-Juwayjati Mosque.¹⁴⁹ The exterior of the building has light to moderate gunfire/shrapnel damage. The top half of the minaret is missing and the dome is intact. No photographs or video footage of the interior of the mosque were present at time of publication.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery suggests that damage occurred to the mosque between April 15, 2017 and April 26, 2017 as the result of an explosion in the street along the western facade of the mosque.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, IHI 17-0048 UPDATE, IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0053, IHI 17-0055, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0059, IHI 17-0061, and IHI 17-0067.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives, gunfire/light weaponry.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4-pl0s1x4M>

¹⁴⁷ *Directory of Mosques and Archaeology and Heritage of Mosques.* p.108

¹⁴⁸ al-Faraj. 2012. p.68

¹⁴⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4-pl0s1x4M>

Scholarly:

al-Faraj, Q.H. 2012. المكتبات العامة الموصلية منذ القرن الثامن عشر و حتى القرن العشرين (*Mosul public libraries from the 18th century until the 20th century*). Iraq.

The Sunni Endowment in Iraq. *Directory of Mosques and Archaeology and Heritage of Mosques*. p.108



Video still of damage to the sign over the front gate of al-Juwayjati Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the minaret of al-Juwayjati Mosque which is missing its top half (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the western side of al-Juwayjati Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the western side of al-Juwayjati Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



Video still of damage to the western facade of al-Juwayjati Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 3, 2017)



al-Juwayjati Mosque prior to any damage
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 15,
2017)



Red arrows indicating the area of explosion
damaging the minaret and western facade of
the mosque (DigitalGlobe NextView License;
April 26, 2017)

IHI 17-0057

Report Date: July 17, 2017

Site Name: Umayyad Mosque (al-Umawiyya Mosque)

Date of Incident: Between June 22, 2017 and July 7, 2017

Location: Hayy an Nebijarjis, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Umayyad Mosque is one of the oldest in Mosul, built in 637 CE by Utba bin Farqad al-Salami.¹⁵⁰ It was built in the vicinity of St. Paul's Church of the 40 Martyrs and renovated in 744. The minaret belongs to the original building while the mosque is a more recent construction.¹⁵¹

Site Date: 637 CE, renovated 744, reconstructed 13th century

Incident Summary: New photographs show the condition of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 7, 2017 al-Mosuliya posted video footage showing the current condition of a mosque they identified as Sheikh al-Shut Mosque.¹⁵² However previous reporting had confirmed that ISIL militants had destroyed Sheikh al-Shut Mosque (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0064**). Further analysis showed the mosque in question to be the Umayyad Mosque. This mosque was reported to have been destroyed by ISIL in January of 2015, although those reports were never confirmed.¹⁵³

On July 16, 2017 Mosul Eye posted a photograph of the remains of the minaret of the Umayyad Mosque, which is located near the mosque.¹⁵⁴ The minaret has been damaged as a result of operations to recapture Mosul from ISIL.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms the severity of damage seen in the video footage. Between June 22, 2017 and July 7, 2017 imagery shows the dome and center of the mosque are still standing, but all surrounding buildings have been destroyed.

For more information on previous damage to the Umayyad Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0057** in **Weekly Report 41**.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE**, **IHI 17-0048 UPDATE**, **IHI 17-0051**, **IHI 17-0053**, **IHI 17-0055**, **IHI 17-0056**, **IHI 17-0059**, **IHI 17-0061**, and **IHI 17-0067**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

¹⁵⁰ <https://twitter.com/MosulEye/status/886570193891229696>

¹⁵¹ Dabrowska, K and G. Hann. 2008. p. 163

¹⁵² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOGc3DyCkHA>

¹⁵³ <http://www.al-sharq.com/news/details/300157#.VLVXiyuG8bM>

¹⁵⁴ <https://twitter.com/MosulEye/status/886570193891229696>

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOGc3DyCkHA>

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40572326>

Mosul Eye: <https://twitter.com/MosulEye/status/886570193891229696>

Scholarly:

Dabrowska, K. and G. Hann. 2008. *Iraq Then and Now: A guide to the country and its people*. Bradt Travel Guides Ltd. p. 163.



Video still of damage to Umayyad Mosque (al-Mosuliya July 7, 2017)



Video still of damage to Umayyad Mosque (al-Mosuliya July 7, 2017)



Video still of damage to Umayyad Mosque (al-Mosuliya July 7, 2017)



Video still of damage to Umayyad Mosque (al-Mosuliya July 7, 2017)



Remains of the minaret of the Umayyad Mosque (Mosul Eye; July 16, 2017)



Umayyad Mosque appears intact (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 22, 2017)



Severe damage to the mosque and its surroundings post conflict (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)

IHI 17-0058

Report Date: July 24, 2017

Site Name: al-Nebi Jarjis Mosque

Date of Incident: Between July 19, 2014 and March 2015

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Complex built over the Quraysh cemetery which includes a shrine to the 1st-century CE martyr Jarjis (George). From ArchNet:

This still standing Timurid complex, dating to 1393, includes a small shrine dedicated to Nabi Jerjis (the saint/prophet George) built in the Quraysh cemetery in Mosul. Timur, leader of the Timurid Empire, commissioned for this site a mosque and a dome built above the sarcophagus. He also created several endowments or *waqfs* to sustain the complex.

The tomb chamber is a small square measuring 4.7 m on each side, topped with a dome with ribs visible from the outside. Interior surfaces are severely damaged. Its walls are covered with green and yellow glazed brick tiles to the height of two meters and are surmounted by a Quranic inscription band. Adjacent to it, and probably from the same period, is another room measuring 4.17 by 4.46 m with a central column to support the roof.

South of the tomb chamber lies the mosque built by Timur in 1393 that is recognizable from the outside for its high circular dome. It abides by a square plan and houses the minbar and the main mihrab that were transplanted from the tomb chamber at the time of construction. It is decorated with triangular geometric patterns similar to muqarnas and has two columns on its sides supporting a circular arch.

The second addition to the shrine is a prayer hall for the Sunni Hanafi rite. It is square in plan and is located east of the tomb chamber. Its plan is divided in nine equal bays supported by four central marble columns with decorated capitals. Later in 1735, another prayer hall was added to the north of the tomb chamber for the Sunni Shafi'i rite. It is rectangular in plan with elongated proportions. It is composed of five bays supported on pointed arches.

The minaret was built in 1853 to replace an older one. It is made of stone and has a muqarnas balcony topped by a pointed spire in the Turkish style. In 1910, after a major earthquake, the Timurid dome collapsed and was re-built with stone following Mosul building techniques. It is decorated with arabesque motifs executed in green glazed brick tiles.¹⁵⁵

Site Date: 1393 CE

Incident Summary: New video footage shows mosque has been turned into parking lot.

Incident Source and Description: On July 7, 2017, al-Mosuliya posted video footage showing that the Mosque and Shrine of Nebi Jarjis had been demolished and turned into a parking lot.¹⁵⁶ The shrine was intentionally destroyed on July 27, 2014 by ISIL. The video shows the area has been completely leveled and paved, and is now covered in rubble from the surrounding neighborhoods.

¹⁵⁵ <http://archnet.org/sites/3846>

¹⁵⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOGc3DyCkHA>

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the destruction of the entire area in which the shrine is located between July 19, 2014 and July 30th, 2014. The former shrine and mosque are a functioning parking lot by March 2015.

For more information on previous damage to Nebi Jarjis see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0031** in **Weekly Report 39**.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOGc3DyCkHA>

Scholarly:

Archnet: <http://archnet.org/sites/3846>



An ISF member points towards where Nebi Jarjis once stood (al-Mosuliya; July 7, 2017)



Area where Nebi Jarjis once stood (al-Mousliya; July 7, 2017)



Nebi Jarjis Mosque on July 19, 2014 prior to destruction (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 19, 2014)



The mosque and shrine amidst destruction on November 24, 2014 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; November 24, 2014)



The area after total destruction and conversion to parking lot on March 7, 2015 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 7, 2015)

IHI 17-0059

Report Date: July 24, 2017

Site Name: al-Qataneen Mosque (جامع القطانين) (al-Numaniya Mosque)

Date of Incident: Between May 11, 2017 and July 12, 2017

Location: Sargakhana Street, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Built by Numan Pasha al-Jalaili in 1798 CE on top of an earlier mosque.¹⁵⁷

Site Date: 1798 CE

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

Incident Source and Description: On July 7, 2017 al-Nujaba TV stated that Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) besieged al-Qataneen Mosque in Mosul in order to recapture it from ISIL.¹⁵⁸ Video footage from al-Mosuliya posted on July 12 shows the exterior of the mosque with damage to the dome and exterior walls from ongoing military activity.¹⁵⁹

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the al-Qataneen mosque was first damaged between April 26, 2017 and May 11, 2017 when the metal roof was broken and removed. Imagery from July 12, 2017 shows the damaged metal roof has been removed. The front wall and dome have been damaged.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, IHI 17-0048 UPDATE, IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0053, IHI 17-0055, IHI 17-0056, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0061, and IHI 17-0067.**

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

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Mosul.ateka: <https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/posts/1520568027965674>

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drLG8kJkq4c>

al-Nujaba TV: <http://alnujaba.tv/11015--.html>

¹⁵⁷ Khoury, D. 1997. pp. 201

¹⁵⁸ <http://alnujaba.tv/11015--.html>

¹⁵⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drLG8kJkq4c>

Scholarly:

Khoury, D. 1997. *State and Provincial Society in the Ottoman Empire: Mosul 1540–1834*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 201



Video still of damage to al-Qataneen Mosque and neighborhood (al-Mosuliya; July 12, 2017)



Video still of damage to the exterior of al-Qataneen Mosque (al-Mosuliya; July 12, 2017)



Damage to the dome of al-Qataneen Mosque (Mosul.ateka; July 14, 2017)



The mosque with a metal roof on the front over the street (DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 26, 2017)



The metal roof removed, and pieces visible on the ground (DigitalGlobe NextView License; May 11, 2017)



Minor damage to the dome and the front of the mosque (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)

IHI 17-0060

Report Date: July 24, 2017

Site Name: Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira

Date of Incident: Between July 1, 2017 and July 5, 2017

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

Site Description: The al-Tahira Church, dedicated to the Immaculate Conception, was founded in the seventh century and rebuilt in the thirteenth century. On December 7, 2004 unknown militants attacked the church and neighboring archbishopric, causing severe damage.¹⁶⁰ The compound includes an elementary school established in 1857.

Site Date: 7th century CE, rebuilt 13th-century, school added 1857, renovated 1996/1997

Incident Summary: New video footage and photographs show damage to church.

Incident Source and Description: On July 5, 2017 al-Mosuliya released new video footage of damage to the Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira.¹⁶¹ The footage shows damage to the tower on the east side of the church and to the tower on the west side of the church. The neighborhood surrounding the church was also heavily damaged.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows damage to the church occurring between July 1, 2017 and July 8, 2017.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0052**, **IHI 17-0063**, and **IHI 17-0066**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Mosuliya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df8gWTXQzkM>

Scholarly:

Baumer, Christopher. 2016. *The Church of the East: an Illustrated History of Assyrian Christianity*. London: IB Taurus. pp.274

¹⁶⁰ Baumer, Christopher. 2016. pp.274

¹⁶¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=df8gWTXQzkM>

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



Video still of the eastern tower of the Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira with its cross missing from the top of the tower (al-Mosuliya; July 5, 2017)



Video still of the western tower of Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira (al-Mosuliya; July 5, 2017)



Al-Tahira Church prior to significant damage
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 1, 2017)



Red arrows indicating areas of damage around
the church (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July
8, 2017)

IHI 17-0062

Report Date: July 25, 2017

Site Name: Great Mosque of al-Nouri, al-Hadba Minaret

Date of Incident: Between June 19, 2017 and July 24, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Great Mosque of al-Nuri and al-Hadba Minaret were constructed under the patronage of Nur al-Din, the second ruler of the Zengid dynasty. Nur al-Din ordered the foundation of a congregational mosque to be built in what is now the Old City neighborhood of Mosul. He appointed Shaykh ‘Umar al-Maila as a supervisor, and the mosque was constructed between 1170 and 1172 CE. This mosque was the largest Sunni mosque in Mosul.¹⁶²

Ernest Herzfeld and Friedrich Sarre visited the mosque in 1910 and described its plan as a conglomeration of various episodes of building.¹⁶³ The original plan of the mosque is said to have resembled the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and the Great Mosque of Raqqa. The original building had an area of 75 x 20 m, octagonal columns with inscribed capitals, and a large dome over the mihrab.¹⁶⁴ The dome was a mixture of 12th and 13th-century Syrian and Jaziran mosques, with a hemispherical exterior, as well as a ribbed interior from northern Iraqi traditions.¹⁶⁵ The mosque was renovated in 1511 by the Safavids, and was dismantled and reconstructed in 1864. This reconstruction was completed using some original material, as well as material from other mosques and churches in Mosul. The mihrab is dated to 1148, during the rule of Sayf al-Din Ghazi I, and is said to have been originally part of the Umayyad Mosque of Mosul.¹⁶⁶ Rounded bundled columns were also added to the design, apparent in the Christian churches of Mosul, but not known in the Islamic architecture of the region. It is hypothesized that these were salvaged from ruined or destroyed Christian churches and added to the mosque in 1864.¹⁶⁷ In 1942, the mosque was once again dismantled and reassembled by a restoration program undertaken by the Iraqi government. This reconstruction followed a different plan from the previous mosque.¹⁶⁸

The al-Hadba’ minaret was constructed at the same time as the original mosque. At the time of its completion in 1172, the minaret was 150 m high, with seven ornamental bands of brickwork at different levels around its cylindrical shaft.¹⁶⁹ It had a cubical base, and ended with a cupola over a bracketed balcony. Its freestanding location on the northern part of the complex, height, and decoration all show ties with Seljuk minarets.¹⁷⁰ Ibn Battuta visited Mosul in the 14th-century. By then the minaret had already begun to lean, giving it its nickname “hunchback.” The cause of the lean is disputed; local officials attribute it to the effects of thermal expansion of the brick on the

¹⁶² Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁶³ Herzfeld, E. and F. Sarre. 1911

¹⁶⁴ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁶⁵ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁶⁶ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁶⁷ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁶⁸ al-Daywaji, S. 1949

¹⁶⁹ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

¹⁷⁰ Tabaa, Y. 2002.

sun-facing side.¹⁷¹ This minaret had not been renovated or reconstructed, and remained in its original form since 1172.

Site Date: Constructed 1170–1172 CE; renovated 1511, 1864, and 1940

Incident Summary: New photos show graffiti on the minaret and mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 8, 2017 Getty Images posted a photograph of al-Hadba Minaret showing graffiti around the base.¹⁷² This graffiti has ISOF (Iraqi Security Forces), Ya Fatima Campaign (Shi'a forces fighting ISIL), Imam al-Kazim (a Shia cleric considered a renowned scholar by Sunnis) along with other personal names.¹⁷³ On the same date, ASOR CHI in-country source posted a photograph showing the base of the minaret with a group of soldiers standing in front. The minaret has significantly more graffiti than the previous image. The new graffiti consists mainly of personal names and the names of different liberating brigades. Stars and Stripes posted a video on July 21, 2017 of the destruction to the area that shows the base of the minaret with more graffiti, this time in red.¹⁷⁴ This red graffiti also appears in the structure over the ablution fountain, and on the other ruins of al-Nouri Mosque.

For more information on previous damage to the al-Hadba Minaret and al-Nouri Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0045** in **June 2017 Monthly Report 145–148**.

Pattern: Vandalism.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Getty Images:

<http://www.gettyimages.com/event/iraqi-forces-battle-is-militants-in-old-city-of-mosul-775004258#view-of-the-tigris-river-from-the-islamic-state-occupied-old-city-picture-id810804482>

The Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2017/jul/10/isis-mosul-sectarian-violence-iraq-iraqis-sunnis-shias-kurds>

¹⁷¹ <https://www.wmf.org/project/al-hadba%E2%80%99-minaret>

¹⁷² <http://www.gettyimages.com/event/iraqi-forces-battle-is-militants-in-old-city-of-mosul-775004258#view-of-the-tigris-river-from-the-islamic-state-occupied-old-city-picture-id810804482>

¹⁷³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musa_al-Kadhim

¹⁷⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMIIaTG7V3E>

HRW:

June 5, 2017: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/05/iraq-dozens-found-handcuffed-executed-around-mosul>

June 30, 2017: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/06/30/iraq-new-abuse-execution-reports-men-fleeing-mosul>

New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/10/world/middleeast/iraq-mosul-celebration.html>

Reuters: <https://www.reuters.com/news/picture/the-ruins-of-mosul-idUSRTX3CGDQ>

Stars and Stripes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EMlIaTG7V3E>

Scholarly

al-Daywaji, S. (1949) "Al-Jami' al-Nuri fi al'Mawsil" *Sumer* 5:276–96.

Herzfeld, E. F. Sarre, M. van Berchem (1911). *Archäologische Reise im Euphrat- und Tigris-Gebiet*. Berlin: D. Reimer.

Tabbaa, Yasser (2002) "The Mosque of Nur al-Din in Mosul 1170." *Annales Islamologiques*. 36:339–360.

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



The base of al-Hadba Minaret showing limited graffiti (Getty Images; July 8, 2017)



The base of al-Hadba Minaret showing graffiti (Personal Facebook; July 8, 2017)



The base of al-Hadba Minaret showing new graffiti, in red, and the presence of what may be a flag planted at the top (Stars and Stripes; July 21, 2017)



Graffiti on the structure over the ablution fountain in courtyard of al-Nuri Mosque (Reuters; July 24, 2017)

IHI 17-0063

Report Date: July 26, 2017

Site Name: Syriac Orthodox Church of al-Tahira

Date of Incident: July 11, 2017

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

Site Description: Syriac Orthodox Church dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: New photographs show condition of the church.

Incident Source and Description: On July 11, 2017 the New York Times posted photographs of the interior of the Syriac Orthodox Church showing munitions and explosives (C-4) for creating munitions.¹⁷⁵ This report states that this church was repurposed as a place for creating munitions. The interior of the church has been heavily damaged by combat. The courtyard and interior are filled with rubble.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows that the church and surrounding area were damaged between July 1, 2017 and July 8, 2017.

For more information on previous damage to the Syriac Orthodox Church see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0088** in **Weekly Report 47-48**. This report states that the church was intentionally destroyed by ISIL, but this has proven to be false as the church is still standing.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0052**, **IHI 17-0060**, and **IHI 17-0066**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; occupation/militarization.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/07/11/world/middleeast/what-i-saw-in-mosul-iraq-isis.html>

Rukmini Callimachi/Twitter: <https://twitter.com/rcallimachi/status/884055311954391040>

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/07/11/world/middleeast/what-i-saw-in-mosul-iraq-isis.html>



Damage to the interior of Syriac Orthodox Church (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Damage to the interior of Syriac Orthodox Church (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Damage to the interior courtyard of Syriac Orthodox Church (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Damage to the exterior of Syriac Orthodox Church (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Children's backpack found inside of the church containing C-4 explosive powder (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Munitions inside of the Syriac Orthodox Church (Rukmini Callimachi/NYT; July 11, 2017)



Syriac Orthodox Church shown in red box, prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 1, 2017)



Arrows indicating damage to the church (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 8 2017)

IHI 17-0064

Report Date: July 26, 2017

Site Name: Sheikh al-Shut Mosque (جامع شيخ الشط)

Date of Incident: Between July 1, 2017 and July 27, 2017

Location: Hayy An Nabijarjis, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosque containing a Sufi lodge (*takiyya*) and tomb built by Muhammad Efendi al-Afghani (called Shaykh al-Shatt).¹⁷⁶

Site Date: 19th-century CE

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe satellite imagery shows the demolition of the mosque and surrounding neighborhood.

Incident Source and Description: Between July 1–12, 2017 Sheikh al-Shut Mosque was damaged due to military activity. The neighborhood was also badly damaged and many of the buildings had collapsed. However, since July 12 the entire neighborhood including the mosque has been demolished by unknown forces. As of July 27, 2017 only a few traces of the mosque's central structure can still be seen. ASOR CHI in-country source states this was the last area to be cleared of ISIL members and, as such, all types of military weapons were used throughout the month to remove them. This led to the complete leveling of the area. The area between Ras al-Kor, the College of Medicine, and the Hospital Campus of Mosul University has also been heavily destroyed.

The Shrine of Sheikh al-Shut, which was located in the courtyard of the mosque, was intentionally destroyed by ISIL between September 28, 2014 and November 12, 2014 based upon DigitalGlobe imagery.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

¹⁷⁶ <http://monumentsofmosul.com/list2/22-i22>



Sheikh al-Shut Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 1, 2017)



Sheikh al-Shut Mosque with the dome and central part of the mosque still intact after the conflict ended (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)



Part of the dome still visible after demolition (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 27, 2017)

IHI 17-0065

Report Date: July 26, 2017

Site Name: Old City of Mosul

Date of Incident: February 19, 2017 to July 10, 2017

Location: Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Throughout its long history, Mosul and its precursors such as Nineveh have served as key economic and agricultural hubs on the northern Iraqi plain, occupying a strategic location along the Tigris River. During the Islamic Period (ca. 600–1535 CE), Mosul was the seat of various dynasties and caliphates.¹⁷⁷ It then became the head of the Vilyate of Mosul (Northern Iraq) during the Ottoman Period (1535–1918).¹⁷⁸ The discovery of oil in northeastern Iraq in the 19th century transformed the city into an economic capital. With the founding of the University of Mosul in 1967, the city became a cultural capital for much of northern Iraq. The University is world renowned, and considered one of the premiere institutions in the Middle East.¹⁷⁹ Such preeminence has earned Mosul the moniker of “Iraq’s Second City.”¹⁸⁰ As of 2014, Mosul contained a population of almost two million comprising several major ethnic groups, including Arabs, Kurds, Assyrians, Armenians, and Turkmen. Diverse religions also co-existed with communities of Sunni, Shia and Sufi Muslims; Orthodox, Catholic, and Assyrian Christians; a Jewish population; and a small Yazidi population, making Mosul one of Iraq’s most diverse cities.¹⁸¹

Site Date: Founded ca. 6000 BCE, Main Old City ca. 7th century CE.

Incident Summary: The battle for Mosul damages the Old City.

Incident Source and Description: During the operation to take back the western part of Mosul, which officially began on February 19, 2017 and continued through the end of July, much of the heavy combat was focused on the Old City of Mosul.¹⁸² The UN reports that 5,000 buildings were damaged and 490 were destroyed in the Old City alone and notes that the “city’s basic infrastructure has also been hard hit, with six western districts almost completely destroyed and initial repairs expected to cost more than \$1 billion, the United Nations estimates.”¹⁸³ As of July 12, 2017 ASOR CHI has assessed the damage to 64 heritage sites within the Old City of Mosul. We have noted 37 heritage sites that exhibit severe damage (60–100% damaged), 12 with moderate damage (10–60%), nine with minor damage (1–10%), and six with no visible damage. However, these assessments will continue to be updated as more photographs are taken and analysis is done by heritage professionals on the ground within Mosul.

¹⁷⁷ Bosworth, E. 2007. p.414.

¹⁷⁸ Kemp, P. 1983. p.202.

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.businessinsider.com/inside-the-university-of-mosul-a-recently-liberated-isis-stronghold-2017-1/#for-these-iraqi-special-forces-recapturing-mosul-university-was-a-symbolic-victory-cbs-correspondent-charlie-dagata-reported-in-late-january-12>

¹⁸⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37676731>

¹⁸¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37676731>

¹⁸² <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/19/middleeast/iraq-starts-operation-to-drive-isis-out-of-west-mosul/index.html>

¹⁸³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37676731>

Religious heritage has been especially hard hit during the ISIL occupation and the battle for Mosul. This is partially due to the density of religious heritage in the Old City itself, and partially due to ISIL intentional damage of religious sites. ISIL destroyed shrines, graveyards, and mosques alleging that these were idolatrous. Through July 31, 2017 ASOR CHI reported 38 individual incidents of damage to religious heritage in the Old City of Mosul, including mosques (24 incidents), churches (11 incidents), and shrines (three incidents). Of these reported incidents, 16 were intentional destructions carried out by ISIL on Muslim and Christian sites during the occupation of the city and the other 22 were due to military explosives, possibly from shelling, heavy artillery, or airstrikes.

For individual incidents of damage that were reported during July see: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0052, IHI 17-0053, IHI 17-0054, IHI 17-0055, IHI 17-0056, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0058, IHI 17-0059, IHI 17-0060, IHI 17-0061, IHI 17-0062, IHI 17-0063, IHI 17-0064, IHI 17-0066, IHI 17-0067, IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, and IHI 17-0048 UPDATE.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosives; explosives - airstrikes; occupation/militarization.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Old City of Mosul, as well as the condition of other large historical areas located in regions subject to intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Arabiya:

<https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/07/05/ISIS-destroys-Shiite-mosques-shrines-in-Iraq.html>

BBC:

October 18, 2016: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37676731>

July 10, 2017: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-40558836>;

Business Insider:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/inside-the-university-of-mosul-a-recently-liberated-isis-stronghold-2017-1/#for-these-iraqi-special-forces-recapturing-mosul-university-was-a-symbolic-victory-cbs-correspondent-charlie-dagata-reported-in-late-january-12>

CNN:

<http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/19/middleeast/iraq-starts-operation-to-drive-isis-out-of-west-mosul/index.html>

Defense:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1242101/iraqi-forces-liberate-mosul-from-isis/source/GovDelivery/>

Global Heritage Fund:

<http://globalheritagefund.org/images/uploads/docs/GHFVanishingGlobalHeritageSitesinPeril102010.pdf>

New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/09/world/middleeast/mosul-isis-liberated.html>

Reuters:

July 5, 2017: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19Q1HG>

July 10, 2017: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN19V105>

Scholarly:

Bosworth, E. (2007) *Historic Cities of the Islamic World*. New York: Brill. P.414

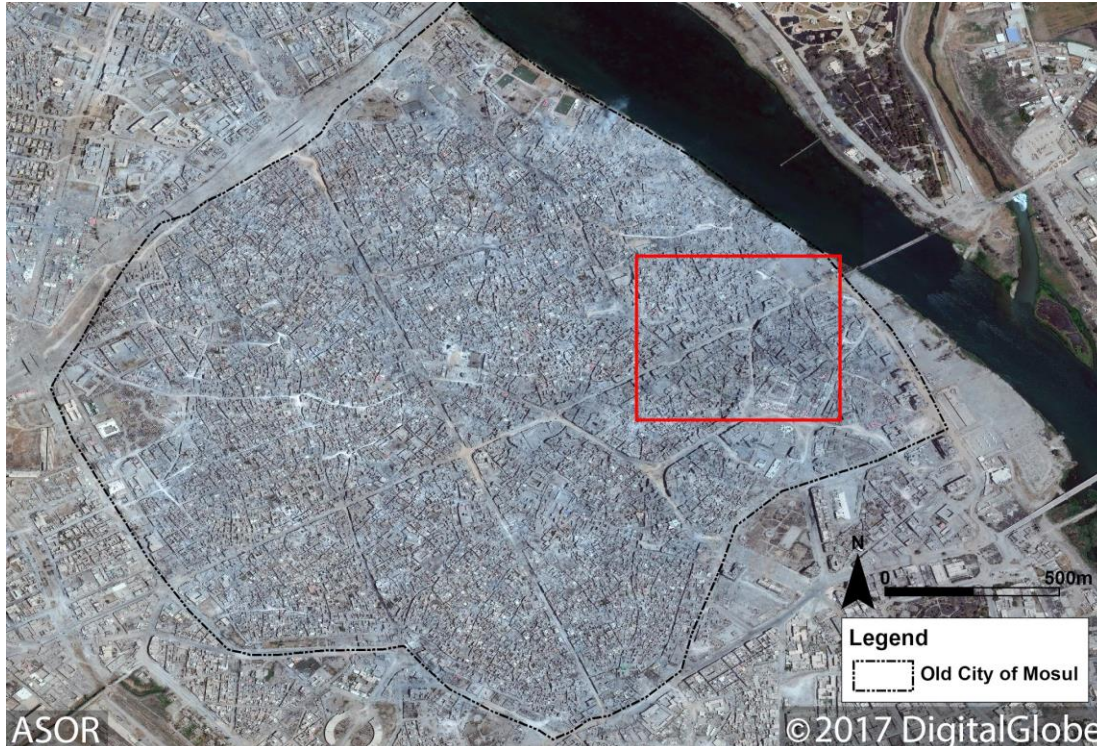
Kemp, P. (1983) "Power and knowledge in Jalili Mosul." *Middle Eastern Studies*. 19(2): 201-212.



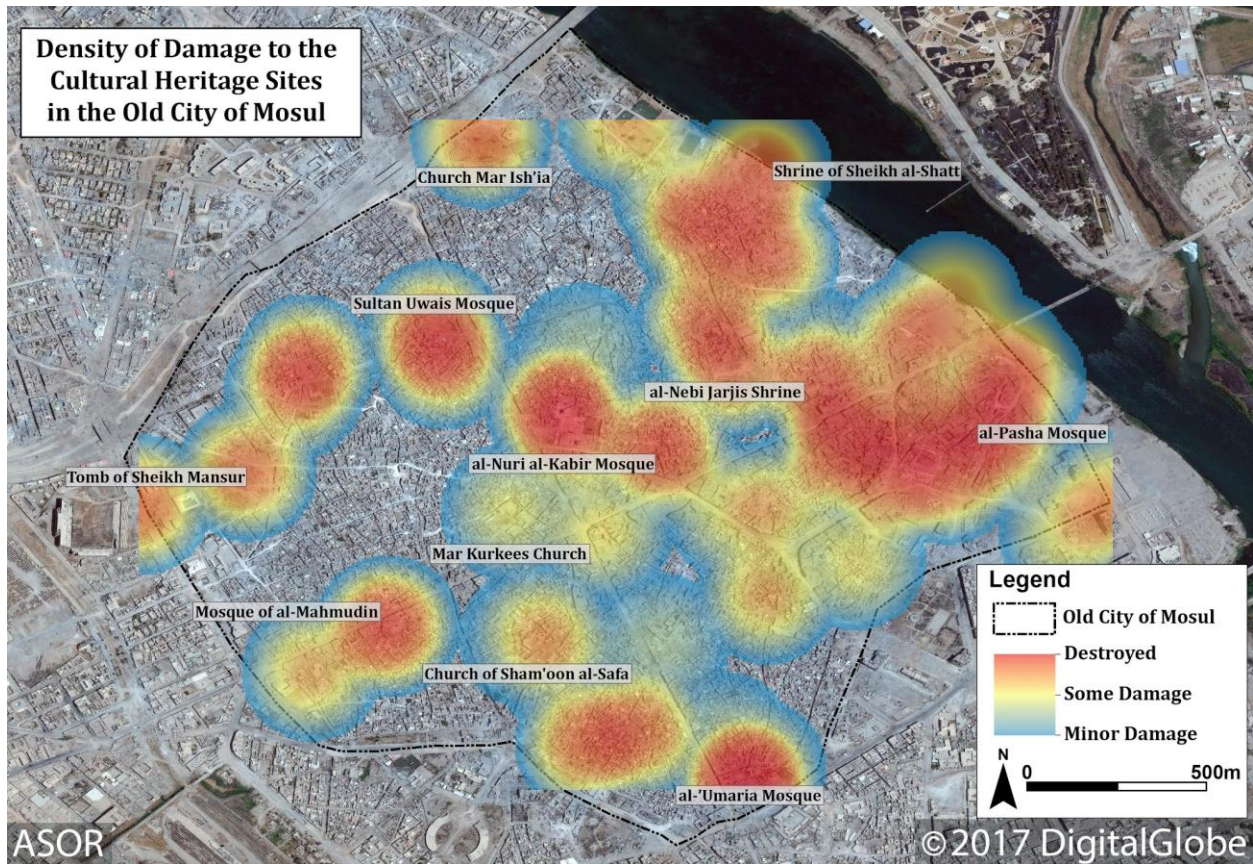
Before-and-after photographs of the Old City near the Sheikh al-Shut Mosque. Bottom photograph taken before July 27, when neighborhood was leveled. (Personal Facebook Account; August 1, 2017)



Damage to various sites in old Mosul, including Bab al-Tub Mosque, al-Pasha Mosque, 'Abdal Mosque, Syriac Orthodox Church of al-Tahira, and the Chaldean Catholic Church of al-Tahira (BBC; July 10, 2017)



Old City of Mosul with area seen in image above outlined in red (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)



Density of damage to heritage sites within the Old City from July 2014 through July 12, 2017 (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)

IHI 17-0066

Report Date: July 28, 2017

Site Name: Archbishopric of Chaldean Catholic Church

Date of Incident: Between July 1, 2017 and July 8, 2017

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

Site Description: Chaldean Catholic Church

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: DigitalGlobe imagery shows damage to church.

Incident Source and Description: Between July 1–8, 2017 DigitalGlobe imagery shows severe damage to the Chaldean Catholic Archbishopric and surrounding neighborhood. The church has been severely damaged, with the roof and southeastern corner destroyed, and the western and northern walls are left standing. Large craters also have appeared to the south of the church.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Christian sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0052, IHI 17-0060, and IHI 17-0063.**

Pattern: Military activity: explosions.

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



The Archdiocese of the Catholic Church on July 1, 2017 prior to recent damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 1, 2017)



Red arrows indicating damage to the archdiocese on July 8, 2017 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 8, 2017)

IHI 17-0067

Report Date: July 29, 2017

Site Name: al-Pasha Mosque (جامع الباشا) (al-Basha Mosque)

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Bab al-Serai Suq, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Founded in 1798 CE by Vazir Mehmed Amin Pasha al-Julaili, and finished by his son Mehmed Amin Pasha al-Julaili around 1819 CE.¹⁸⁴

Site Date: Built 1798 to 1819 CE, renovated 1955

Incident Summary: New photographs show the condition of the mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On July 10, 2017 Mosul Ateka posted a new photo of al-Pasha Mosque.¹⁸⁵ The mosque is slightly damaged due to military activity, and the dome has a hole in it. The minaret also has evidence of military damage.

As seen in DigitalGlobe satellite imagery, the mosque was first damaged as a result of military activity between March 25, 2017 and March 30, 2017. Damage to the northeastern part of the mosque increased between April 10–15, 2017.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other Islamic sites that were damaged in Mosul: **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 17-0020 UPDATE, IHI 17-0048 UPDATE, IHI 17-0051, IHI 17-0053, IHI 17-0055, IHI 17-0056, IHI 17-0057, IHI 17-0059, and IHI 17-0061.**

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

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Mosul Ateka:

July 10, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/photos/pcb.1515496211806189/1515495568472920/>

July 22, 2017: <https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/photos/pcb.1529367053752438/1529366617085815/>

¹⁸⁴ ASOR CHI Sources

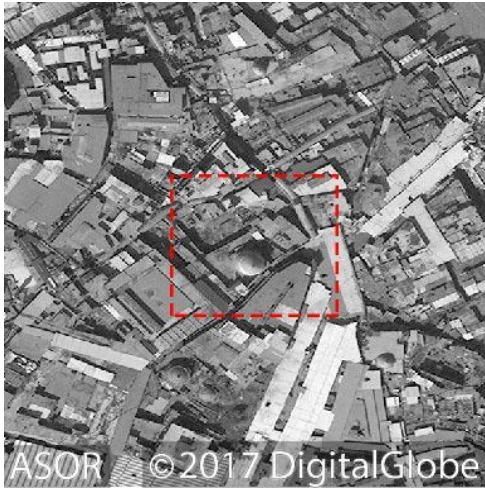
¹⁸⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/Mosul.ateka/photos/pcb.1515496211806189/1515495568472920/>



Damage to the al-Pasha Mosque and minaret (Mosul Ateka; July 10, 2017)



Damage to the mosque and surrounding neighborhood (Mosul Ateka; July 22, 2017)



The al-Pasha Mosque prior to any damage (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 8, 2017)



The first instance of damage to the mosque, indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 25, 2017)



Increased damage to the mosque indicated by red arrows (DigitalGlobe NextView License; April 15, 2017)



Recent image of the mosque and surrounding area shown in red (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 12, 2017)

Incident Reports: Libya

LHI 17-0007

Report Date: July 24, 2017

Site Name: al-Atiq Mosque (مسجد العتيق)

Date of Incident: July 21, 2017

Location: Awjila, Cyrenaica, Libya

Site Description: Located in the town of Awjila, roughly 400km south of Benghazi, the Atiq Mosque is made of mud brick. The footprint of the mosque is 19x24m, and it is topped by a series of 20 distinctive domes. The Atiq Mosque in Awjila is thought to be one of the oldest mosques in North Africa, with foundations dating approximately to the arrival of Islam (late 7th/early 8th-century CE) and the current building dating to the 12th-century.

Site Date: Late 7th/early 8th-century CE; Current building 12th-century

Incident Summary: One dome of the mosque collapsed.

Incident Source and Description: On July 20, 2017 al-Wassat reported that one of the domes of the Awjila Mosque (al-Atiq Mosque) collapsed due to lack of maintenance.¹⁸⁶ Dr. Ahmed Hussein, Chairman of the Department of Antiquities (DoA) based in Benghazi received a report to this effect from the Director of the Awjila office of the DoA, Meloud Betron. Hussein planned to dispatch a crew of architects, archaeologists and conservators from Benghazi to Awjila to better assess the damage. DoA has no operating budget and has had difficulty securing transportation to send the team from Benghazi to Awjila to carry out the assessment.

Pattern: Site management.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Atiq Mosque, and work with the DoA Benghazi assessment mission, as well as monitor the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to limited budgets and lack of site preservation funds.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Archaeology in Libya:

<https://www.facebook.com/Archaeology.in.Libya.AiS/posts/908265982654720>

Libya Herald: <https://www.libyaherald.com/2017/07/21/historic-mosque-in-awjila-damaged/>

al-Wassat: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/147937>

¹⁸⁶ <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/147937>



Exterior of al-Atiq Mosque (Meloud Betron; July 20, 2017)



View of the collapsed dome, exposing a hole roughly 1m wide (Meloud Betron; July 20, 2017)



Interior view of the rubble of the collapsed dome (Meloud Betron; July 20, 2017)

LHI 17-0008

Report Date: July 13, 2017

Site Name: Sculpted Marble Bust - Souq al-Hout

Date of Incident: July 13, 2017

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

Site Description: The Souq al-Hout is located in the Old City of Benghazi, and was largely destroyed during the heavy bombardment of the Battle of Benghazi between 2014–2017.

Site Date: Roman-era bust.

Incident Summary: Looted bust recovered in wreckage of souq.

Incident Source and Description: On July 13, 2017 al-Wasat reported that a sculpted marble bust was recovered in Souq al-Hout as Libyan National Army (LNA) forces continued to secure the neighborhood and commenced de-mining operations.¹⁸⁷ The LNA presented the bust to the Department of Antiquities (DoA) in Benghazi for study and safe-keeping. A preliminary assessment from the DoA suggests that this bust has not been previously recorded, and is therefore likely to have come from an illicit excavation.

Pattern: Theft.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the reports of illicit trafficking of antiquities from the Souq al-Hout, as well as reports of looting from other regions located in areas subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

al-Wasat: <https://alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/147263/>

¹⁸⁷ <https://alwasat.ly/ar/news/libya/147263/>



Members of DoA Benghazi with the recovered bust (DoA Benghazi: July 18, 2017)



A close-up of the bust (al-Wasat; July 13, 2017)

LHI 17-0009

Report Date: July 17, 2017

Site Name: Cave of Omar al-Mukhtar

Date of Incident: July 14, 2017

Location: Near Zawiyat Janzur, Cyrenaica, Libya

Site Description: This is a previously unrecorded archaeological site near the cave celebrated as the birthplace of Omar al Mukhtar, one of the Libyan leaders who resisted the Italian colonists after their arrival in 1911.

Site Date: Ptolemaic/Roman Period

Incident Summary: New site uncovered and recorded.

Incident Source and Description: On July 19, 2017 Libya Observer reported that a local citizen turned in an artifact to the local authorities.¹⁸⁸ This site was discovered by a local citizen, Abd al-Mouali Mohammed Seif al-Naser, who identified an exposed group of carved stones and notified the Tobruk office of the Department of Antiquities. The Tobruk office fielded a team to record the site and recover the movable objects.

Pattern: Site Management.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Cave of Omar al Mukhtar, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to new discoveries.

Sources:

Faraj Khalifa, Director of the Tobruk Office of the Libyan Department of Antiquities

Online Reporting:

Libya Observer: <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/ancient-statue-leads-mysterious-find>

¹⁸⁸ <https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/ancient-statue-leads-mysterious-find>



A statue in the form of a ram, the initial discovery that caught the attention of Abd al Mouali (Faraj Khalifa; July 14, 2017)



Detail of carvings in walls at the site (Faraj Khalifa; July 14, 2017)



Other objects recovered by DoA at the Cave of Omar al Mukhtar (Faraj Khalifa; July 14, 2017)



Preliminary excavation of wall decorated with elaborate carvings (Faraj Khalifa; July 14, 2017)

LHI 17-0010

Report Date: July 16, 2017

Site Name: Torah Scroll from Zintan

Date of Incident: July 9, 2017

Location: Zintan, Tripolitania, Libya

Site Description: Antiquity sold in Zintan, Libya. Given that this Torah scroll is calligraphic manuscript on leather, it is likely more than a hundred years old and subject to extant cultural heritage protection laws in Libya.

Site Date: Older than 1900 CE

Incident Summary: A Torah scroll was found in the possession of two smugglers.

Incident Source and Description: On July 9, 2107 Ayn Libya posted a video of two smugglers discussing how they purchased and smuggled an antique Torah. These smugglers were apprehended in Tunisia, and were said to be Tunisian. In the video, the first smuggler is interviewed and describes how he purchased the Torah scroll from an individual in possession of many antiquities in Zintan, including manuscripts and sculptures. This smuggler also describes how he hid the scroll in the door of his vehicle to smuggle it into Tunisia for sale. The second smuggler describes how he normally smuggles high value consumer goods like cigarettes, and is accustomed to making a run across the border daily, and how he expected that the sale of antiquities could fetch a sum of half a million to a million Libyan dinars whereas a typical load of cigarettes would only bring in 1,500 Libyan dinars. The two were also in possession of a WWII-era pistol that they had also purchased and hoped to resell.

Pattern: Theft.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor looting in Libya, as well as the condition of other antiquities located in regions subject to looting and trade.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Personal Facebook Account



الدفاع عن رئيس الاتحاد الوطني الحر سليم الرياحي تتحدث عن مفاجات ستثبت تعرض موكلها إلى

Video still of a portion of the Torah scroll (Personal Facebook Account; July 9, 2017)

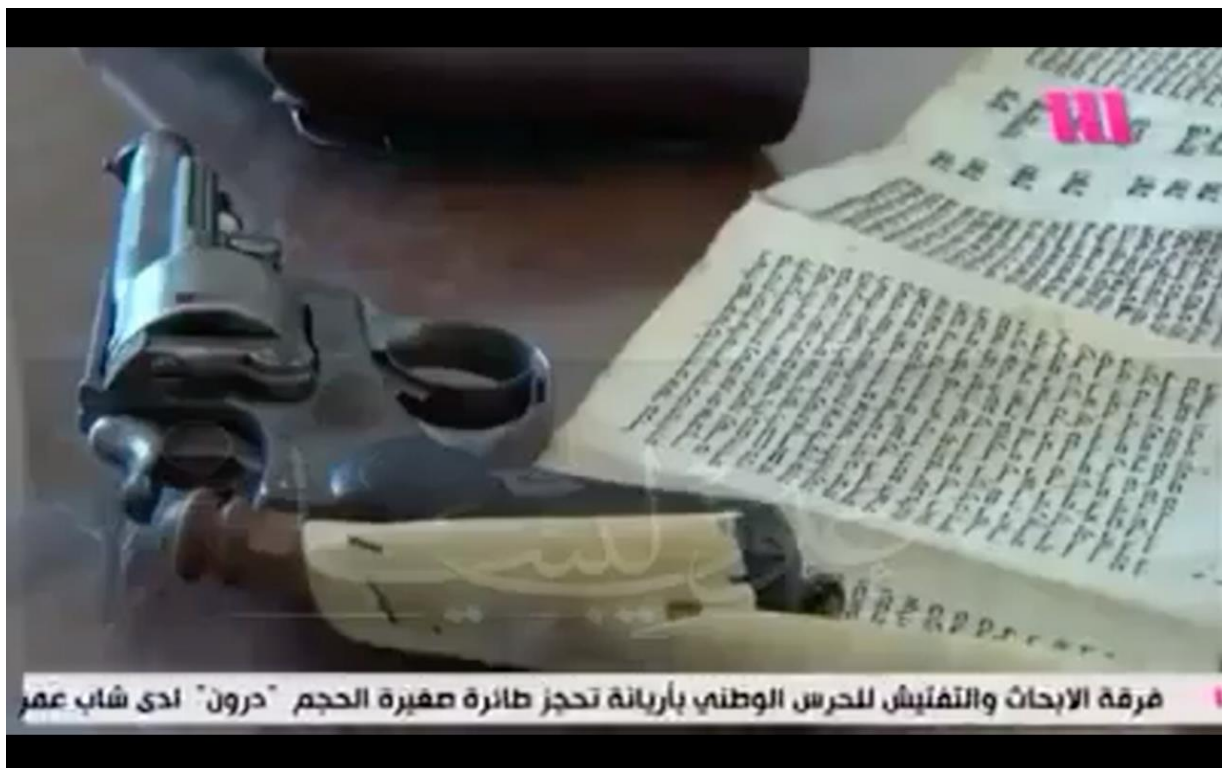


ت ماض غير مشرف ومنفرعة للكذب وهي تعمل تحت الطلب رئيس حراك تونس الإرادة التمل

Video still of the Torah scroll (Personal Facebook Account; July 9, 2017)



Video still of the Torah Scroll (Personal Facebook Account; July 9, 2017)



Video still of the WWII pistol also for sale (Personal Facebook Account; July 9, 2017)



Video still of a third object found with the antiquities (Personal Facebook Account; July 9, 2017)

LHI 17-0011

Report Date: July 31, 2017

Site Name: Embellished Sculpture of Awlad Amr

Date of Incident: July 17, 2017

Location: Al Marj, Cyrenaica, Libya

Site Description: Awlad Amr is a small archaeological site located outside of Al Marj in the direction of Ptolmeitha.

Site Date: Roman-era

Incident Summary: An antique sculpture was found on the market with modern additions.

Incident Source and Description: On July 31, 2017 LANA News and Department of Antiquities (DoA) Benghazi published a report stating they had apprehended a suspect with a Roman-era sculpture with modern additions.¹⁸⁹ According to Khaled al Breiki, the chief of staff for DoA Benghazi, the Director of the Marj office of the DoA received a call from the General Investigations Office of the Department of the Interior, explaining that they had apprehended a suspect in possession of stolen antiquities. The suspect had previously worked for the Polish Archaeological Mission in the capacity of an artist, preparing drawings during their field seasons.

According to the account which General Investigations shared with the Department of Antiquities, the suspect discovered the base of a sculpture while walking across Awlad Amr. He collected this fragment and added the upper torso and shoulders, which he carved out of a similar stone and connected with a metal dowel, as well as a plaster head. He then put it up for sale on the Internet, at which point, it attracted the attention of the General Investigations Office. The suspect is currently being held in prison, where they have brought his tools and some material, and requested that he produce another similar sculpture to verify whether or not he actually has the skills to do this kind of work himself, or if there might be someone else involved.

There is currently no indication of the involvement of a wider network of smugglers, more systematic illegal excavation, or an internal pipeline of illicit trafficking established by people with previous experience working on archaeological missions.

Pattern: Theft.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor looting in Libya, as well as the condition of other artifacts located in regions subject to looting and selling.

¹⁸⁹ <http://www.lananews.com/ar/?p=74515>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Lana News: <http://www.lananews.com/ar/?p=74515>



The statue with the added shoulder (LANA; July 31, 2017)



The front of the statue showing the added shoulder (LANA; July 31, 2017)



The statue showing the added shoulder (LANA; July 31, 2017)

LHI 17-0012

Report Date: July 20, 2017

Site Name: Former Headquarters of DoA Benghazi in Souq al-Rabea

Date of Incident: May–June, 2017

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

Site Description: This is an historic souq building consisting of two rows of merchant stalls connected to a central entrance hall featuring a large dome and fountain. In 2013, the Historic Cities Authority rehabilitated this historic building and signed it over to the Department of Antiquities (DoA) for use as the headquarters of their Benghazi office. The merchant stalls were converted into offices.

Site Date: Italian colonial period

Incident Summary: The interior of this building was heavily damaged and some walls collapsed.

Incident Source and Description: Throughout June and July a small delegation from the Department of Antiquities (DoA) visited the Former Headquarters of the DoA Benghazi, with permission of the Libyan National Army (LNA). Following the end of three years of fighting in the Old City of Benghazi between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Islamist forces allied under the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, with the LNA emerging victorious, DoA was able to regain access to its headquarters in Benghazi in late June 2017. The delegation conducted assessments of damage and rescued anything of value that remained in the building. The building was damaged by military activity, showing rubble in the hallways and damage to the walls.

For more information on previous damage to Souq al-Rabea see **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0005** in **Weekly Report 145–148**.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other historical sites that were damaged in Benghazi: **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0013** and **LHI 17-0014**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Former Headquarters of DoA Benghazi, as well as the condition of other cultural sites located in regions subject to military activity. ASOR CHI will also continue to maintain close contact with employees of the DoA and the Historic Cities Authority in Benghazi, as well as providing more detailed damage reports as they become available.

Sources:

DoA Benghazi: <https://www.facebook.com/1714403892122459/> أخبار -ومناشط-مراقبة-آثار-بغازي

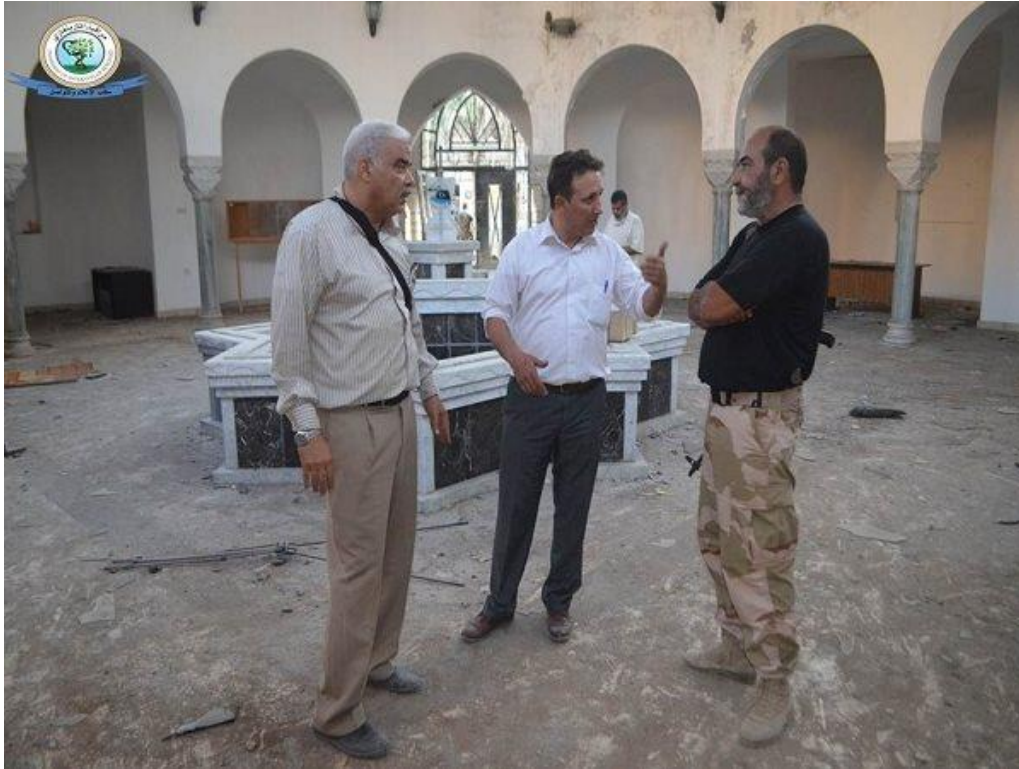
Additional information provided by:

Dr. Ahmed Hussein, Chairman of the Department of Antiquities based in Benghazi

Abd al Hafid al Massalati, Director of the Museums Team of the Benghazi office



Entrance hall of the building prior to the battle (Will Reynolds; June 2013)



DoA staff regains access to the same entrance hall (DoA Benghazi; June 28, 2017)



Heavily damaged section of wall (DoA Benghazi; June 28, 2017)



Damage to the interior of the building (Abdel Hafid al-Massalati; July 20, 2017)



Additional view of the damage to the DoA Benghazi headquarters (Abdel Hafid al-Massalati; July 20, 2017)

LHI 17-0013

Report Date: July 18, 2017

Site Name: Ottoman Municipal Building

Date of Incident: June–July, 2017

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

Site Description: This municipal building with an ornately decorated facade and distinctive crenelated parapet is one of the landmarks of the Old City of Benghazi. At the onset of the Battle of Benghazi in 2014, the building was being actively restored and was therefore empty.

Site Date: The Ottoman Municipal Building was built in 1872 during the Ottoman period and expanded in 1914 during the Italian colonial period.

Incident Summary: One wing of the building collapsed during recent fighting in Benghazi.

Incident Source and Description: On July 18, 2017 Mohammed abd al Aziz, an architect from the Department of Antiquities, Benghazi reported that the Ottoman Municipal Building was damaged during recent fighting in Benghazi. Following the end of three years of fighting in the Old City of Benghazi between the Libyan National Army (LNA) and the Islamist forces allied under the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries, with the LNA emerging victorious, the Department of Antiquities has regained limited access to the Old City of Benghazi. A small delegation of the DoA, Benghazi visited the Old City of Benghazi, and recorded the damage to the building. The left wing of the building has collapsed due to military activity in the area.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other historical sites that were damaged in Benghazi: **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0012** and **LHI 17-0014**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Ottoman Municipal Building, as well as the condition of other cultural sites located in regions subject to ongoing military activity. ASOR CHI will continue to maintain close contact with employees of DoA and the Historic Cities Authority in Benghazi, providing more detailed damage reports as they become available.

Sources:

Mohammed abd al Aziz, DoA Benghazi

Online Sources:

Panoramio: <http://static.panoramio.com/photos/large/49284294.jpg>

Private Facebook Account



Archival photo of the Ottoman Municipal Building in approximately 1914, after it had been expanded by the Italians (Mohammed Abd al Aziz; July 13, 2017)



View of the Ottoman Municipal Building prior to the Battle of Benghazi (Roger Grund/Panaramio; March 10, 2011)



Damage to Ottoman Municipal Building (Private Facebook Account; July 18, 2017)

LHI 17-0014

Report Date: July 1, 2017

Site Name: DoA Storeroom - Souq al-Hout

Date of Incident: June 27, 2017

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

Site Description: This historic market building was the primary storage facility for all antiquities in Benghazi.

Site Date: Ottoman period

Incident Summary: The Benghazi storeroom was damaged but the collection of antiquities was recovered entirely intact.

Incident Source and Description: On June 27, 2017 the Department of Antiquities (DoA) in Benghazi released a report that the Benghazi storeroom was damaged, but the collection of antiquities was recovered intact.¹⁹⁰ The storeroom was located in the Souq al-Hout neighborhood. The Libyan National Army was in control of the area for approximately three years. ASOR CHI in-country contacts report that the contents of the storeroom have been checked against their existing inventory, and the entire collection is accounted for and intact.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other historical sites that were damaged in Benghazi: **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0012** and **LHI 17-0013**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Benghazi storeroom, as well as the condition of other large historical areas located in regions subject to intense military activity. ASOR CHI will also report on further damage assessments made by the Department of Antiquities and Historic Cities Authority.

Sources:

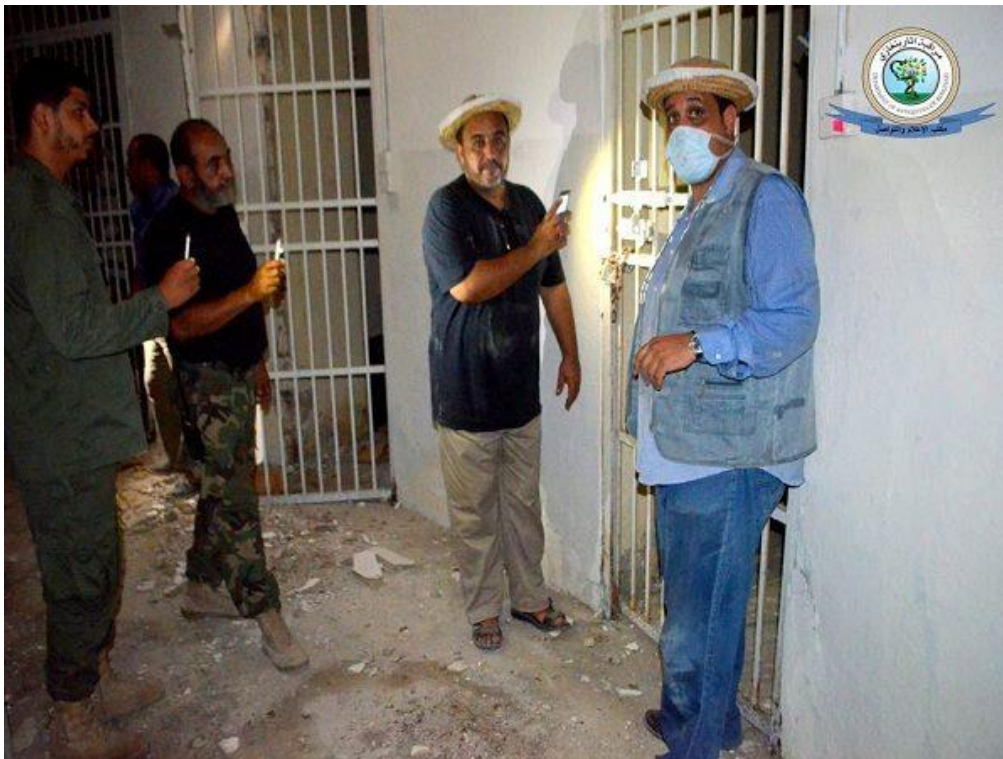
DoA Benghazi:

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1985749728321206&id=1714403892122459

¹⁹⁰ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1985749728321206&id=1714403892122459



Damage to buildings adjacent to the storeroom in Souq al Hout (DOA Benghazi; June 27, 2017)



DoA staff regain access to the locked storage rooms located below ground (DOA Benghazi; June 27, 2017)



DoA Benghazi staff work to recover antiquities from storeroom (DOA Benghazi; June 27, 2017)



DoA Benghazi staff load antiquities for transport to an alternate storage location outside of the badly damaged Old City (DOA Benghazi; June 27, 2017)

Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Analysis

As part of a new cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State, ASOR CHI began covering the conflict in Libya beginning in April 2017. There has been scant reporting about the situation in Libya in the mainstream media, and even less coverage about the destruction of Libya's heritage. Using what reporting does exist, as well as an in-depth analysis of satellite imagery, this section attempts to understand how the historic Old City of Benghazi has suffered from the ongoing conflict.

Since the revolution in 2011, Islamist militants have established a significant presence in the Libyan city of Benghazi. Ongoing military clashes between militants and General Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army began in spring 2014, followed by the entrance of the Islamic State in 2015.¹⁹¹ These military clashes have resulted in serious instances of damage to the historically important Old City of Benghazi (also known as the Souq al-Hout), the location where protests against the Qaddafi regime took place in 2011. Some of this damage was previously reported by ASOR CHI (see **ASOR CHI Incident Report LHI 17-0005** in **June 2017 Monthly Report**). Despite recent declarations of victory by the Libyan National Army on July 5, 2017, armed clashes continue.¹⁹² On July 15, the Benina Airport in Benghazi re-opened, perhaps signaling a return to normalcy in the city.¹⁹³

As a result of continuous war within Benghazi, the area of the Old City has been greatly damaged. Progression of this damage, generally from explosions, is visible in DigitalGlobe satellite imagery of the Old City. Although significant damage to the infrastructural integrity of Benghazi has been occurring since 2011, damage within the last three years has been particularly significant, and instances of damage have continued into July of 2017.

The imagery below shows a temporal analysis of destruction in the Old City as derived from DigitalGlobe satellite imagery. The Souq al-Hout, boundary shown in red, encompasses an area of approximately 0.725 km². On November 13, 2015 approximately 0.06 km² of the Old City was severely damaged enough as to be visible in the satellite imagery. By December 18, 2016 damage to the Old City had grown by just over 47%, increasing to 0.115 km². Much of the severe damage at the time was located along the southern and western borders of the Old City. Damage continuously increased throughout the spring of 2017. By March 15, 2017 approximately 0.171 km² of Souq al-Hout was severely damaged. By July 17, 2017 nearly 50% of the area of the Old City's infrastructure was severely damaged. These periods of dramatic increase are displayed in the maps below.

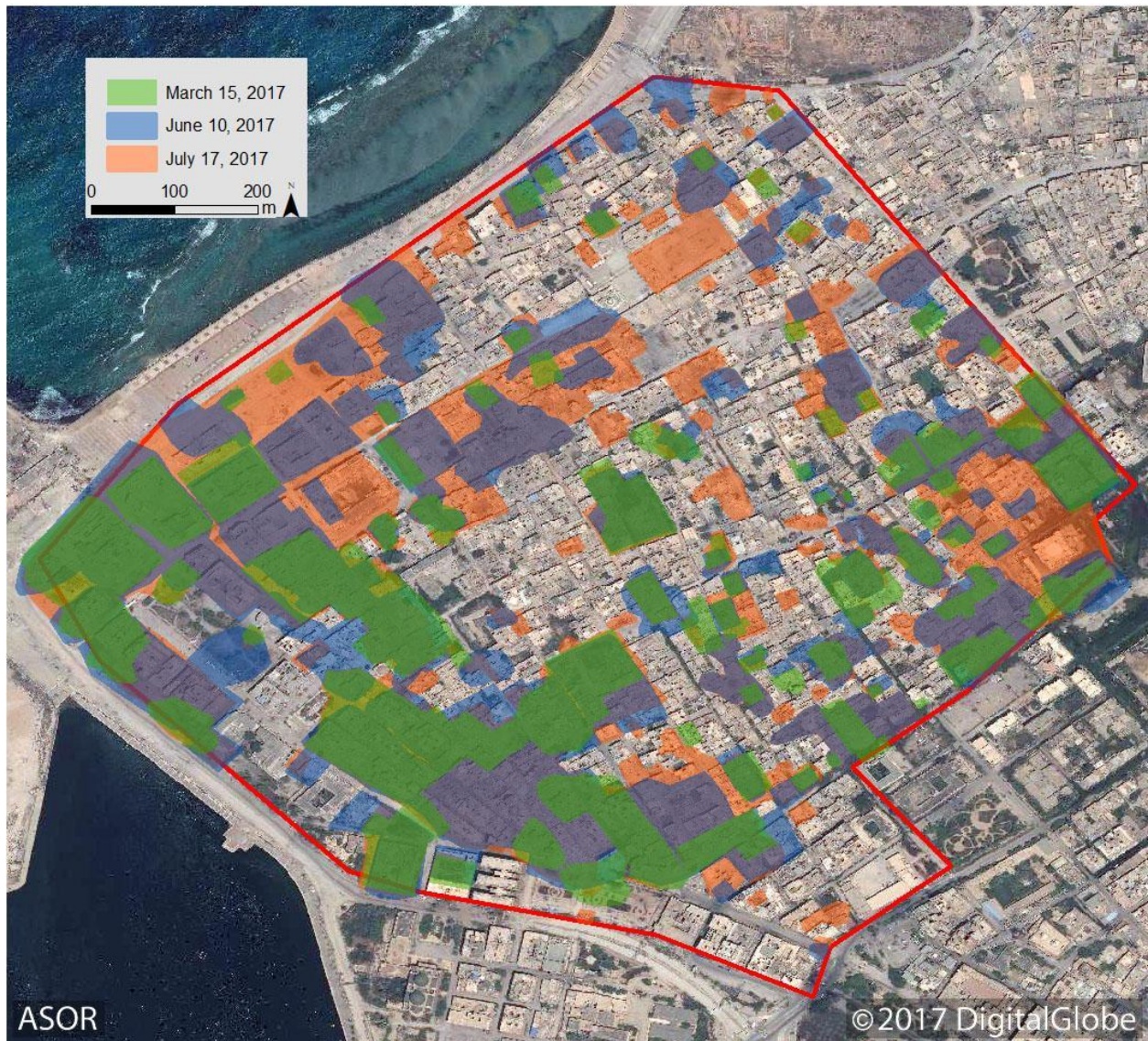
¹⁹¹ <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/benghazi-libya/532056/>

¹⁹² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN1A70H3>

¹⁹³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-benghazi-idUSKBN1A00HP>



Damage in the Old City of Benghazi in 2015 and 2016 (DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 18, 2016)



Increased infrastructural damage to the Old City of Benghazi between March and July 2017
(DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 17, 2017)



Detail of buildings in the Old City of Benghazi (DigitalGlobe NextView License; December 18, 2016)



A slight increase in damage after three months (DigitalGlobe NextView License; March 15, 2017)



Four months later, the same area suffers from increased damage from airstrikes (DigitalGlobe NextView License; June 10, 2017)



Dramatically increased damage in the area in the most recent image (DigitalGlobe NextView License; July 17, 2017)

SNHR Vital Facilities Report:

On July 8, 2017 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) released its vital facility report for June 2017. According to SNHR, there were 51 attacks against vital civilian facilities. The sites attacked include 18 mosques.¹⁹⁴

- On June 2, 2017 SARG or Russian forces fired missiles at Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in al-Jwaim, Aleppo Governorate. The mosque building and furniture were heavily damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0095 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 6, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles on al-Hussein ibn Ali Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. SNHR reported the mosque was severely damaged. However, DigitalGlobe satellite imagery did not substantiate this report.
- On June 8, 2016 US-led coalition forces fired missiles on al-Sabahiya Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 9, 2017 SARG forces fired missiles on al-Gharbi (al-Kabir) Mosque in Jadeed Ekidat, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0103 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 9, 2017 SARG helicopters dropped barrel bombs loaded with incendiary filling on al-Omari Mosque in Daraa, Daraa Governorate. A fire broke out, causing moderate damage to the mosque. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0102 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 10, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles at Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in Mehaimda, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0105 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 10, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles at al-Nour Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0104 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 13, 2017 SARG forces fired missiles near al-Shuhada Mosque in Deir az Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque suffered moderate damage. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0113 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 13, 2017 SDF forces fired shells at al-Kabir Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque's minaret was partially destroyed. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0114 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 15, 2017 SARG forces fired missiles at Sayed al-Ayed Mosque in Hatla, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission.
- On June 16, 2017 SDF forces fired shells on al-Rahman Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0101 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 22, 2017 SARG US-led coalition forces fired missiles on Zubayr ibn al-Awam Mosque in Kasrat Faraj, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0119 in June Monthly Report (145-148).**
- On June 23, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles on al-Kabir Mosque in Twatha, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque suffered moderate damage.

¹⁹⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/08/43720/>

- On June 24, 2017 SARG forces fired missiles at al-Hreyl Mosque in Deir ez-Zor, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. The mosque and its minaret were severely damaged, and the mosque was rendered out of commission. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0120** in **June Monthly Report (145-148)**.
- On June 24, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles on Fatima al-Zahraa Mosque in Kasrat Sheikh al-Juma, Raqqa Governorate. The mosque was severely damaged and rendered out of commission.
- On June 27, 2017 US-led coalition forces fired missiles on al-Hinni Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0121** in **June Monthly Report (145-148)**.

Heritage Timeline

July 31, 2017

U.S. News and World Report published an article titled “**In Devastated Areas, Modern Technology Helps Track Ancient Treasures**” (by Amy Golod). Crowdsourcing, photogrammetry and other techniques researchers use to preserve heritage sites and artifacts are discussed. <https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2017-07-31/in-devastated-areas-modern-technology-helps-track-ancient-treasures>

- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Suspected Russian forces shelled al Rahman Mosque in al Khamisiya Foqani village in Raqqa governorate on July 31.**” An airstrike destroyed a mosque in Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0139** <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/31/suspected-russian-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-khamisiya-foqani-village-raqqa-governorate-july-31/>

- *NPR* published an article titled “**Israeli Authorities Arrest Antiquities Dealers In Connection With Hobby Lobby Scandal**” (by Daniel Estrin). Israeli authorities arrested five Palestinian antiquities dealers in Jerusalem allegedly involved in smuggling antiquities, including those sold to Hobby Lobby president Steve Green. <http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2017/07/31/540579261/israeli-authorities-arrest-antiquities-dealers-in-connection-with-hobby-lobby-sc>

July 30, 2017

Reuters published an article titled “**At historic Aleppo hotel, nostalgia for a Syria lost**” (by Angus McDowall). The state of the historic Baron Hotel in Aleppo is discussed. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-aleppo-hotel-idUSKBN1AF07V>

- **DGAM** published an article titled “ الاجتماع الأول للجنة الوطنية التوجيهية العليا “ لترميم مدينة حلب القديمة (**The First meeting for the National Advisory Committee for the restoration of Old Aleppo**).” At its first meeting, the committee discussed logistical and financial details related to the restoration work in the Old City of Aleppo and identified its needs and obligations.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=2316>
- June 29, 2017 *The Independent* published an article titled “**The destruction of the al-Nuri mosque in Mosul is another example of the 'culturecide' we've become so used to**” (by Robert Fisk). The author discusses various acts of cultural heritage destruction in modern history, as well as the recent destruction of the Great Mosque of al-Nuri in Mosul by ISIL militants.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/mosul-minaret-mosque-iraq-isis-a7814366.html>
- July 28, 2017 **SNHR** published a post titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled Othman Bin Affan Mosque in al Mayadeen city in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on July 28.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Deir ez Zor Governorate, rendering it inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0138**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/28/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-othman-bin-affan-mosque-al-mayadeen-city-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-28/>
- July 27, 2017 *Globo* published an article titled “**Historiador tenta reconstruir biblioteca da Universidade de Mossul após saída do Estado Islâmico (Historian tries to reconstruct Mosul University Library after Islamic State exit)**” (by Ana Carolina Moreno). A historian who goes by the pseudonym “MosulEye” is collecting books in order to help rebuild Mosul University Library, which was destroyed by ISIL militants during their occupation of Mosul.
<http://g1.globo.com/educacao/noticia/apos-expulsao-do-estado-islamico-historiador-tenta-reconstruir-biblioteca-da-universidade-de-mossul.ghtml>
- July 26, 2017 *Reuters* published an article titled “**After IS, Mosul rebuilds monuments, mosques - and society**” (by Stephen Kalin). Rebuilding Mosul’s historic monuments may aid in uniting the multicultural population of the city.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-identity-idUSKBN1AB0J8>
- *The New York Times* published an article titled “**Aleppo Has Little Food or Water, but for a Night, Music**” (by Megan Specia). A concert was staged in the modern theater on the Citadel of Aleppo on July 25, 2017.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/26/world/middleeast/syria-aleppo-citadel-concert.html>

- *TRT World* published an article titled “**A glimpse of Homs' lost cultural heritage in an Istanbul gallery**” (by Melis Alemdar). The Istanbul art gallery Depo is currently host to the exhibit “Echoes of Homs,” in which the works primarily of artists from Homs are displayed. The exhibit runs until August 6, 2017.
<http://www.trtworld.com/magazine/a-glimpse-of-homs-lost-cultural-heritage-in-an-istanbul-gallery-408699>
- July 25, 2017 *The Independent* published an article titled “**Syrians aren't just rebuilding an ancient mosque in Aleppo - they are rebuilding their community**” (by Robert Fisk). Possibilities for the restoration of the severely damaged Great Mosque of Aleppo are discussed.
<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/syria-great-mosque-of-aleppo-ummayad-rebuild-the-city-a7858846.html>
- July 24, 2017 *Heritage for Peace* published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage – 24 July 2017.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-24-july-2017/>
- *SNHR* published a post titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled Sa’ed Bin Mo’ath Mosque in al Shamitiya village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on July 24.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Deir ez Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0134**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/24/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-saed-bin-moath-mosque-al-shamitiya-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-24/>
- *Deutsche Welle* published an article titled “**Still no progress in restoring ancient Nimrud.**” Restoration work at Nimrud has yet to begin following the site’s recapture from ISIL militants in November 2016, despite ongoing threats to the site from natural impacts and looting.
<http://www.dw.com/en/still-no-progress-in-restoring-ancient-nimrud/a-39813952>
- *The Atlantic* published an article titled “**ISIS Destroyed Jonah’s Tomb, but Not Its Message**” (by Sara Farhan, Atoor Lawandow & Sigal Samuel). On the third anniversary of the destruction of the Nebi Yunus Shrine in Mosul by ISIL militants, members of various religious communities discuss the site’s significance as a symbol of Iraq’s religious pluralism.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/tomb-of-jonah-mosul-isis/534414/>

- ReliefWeb** published an article titled “**Iraqi Museum Professionals gain new skills on preventive conservation of museum collections.**” Twenty officials from the State Board of Antiquities and Heritage of Iraq completed a training course on “Introduction to Preventive Conservation of Museums Collections,” part of an initiative called “Preventive Conservation of Iraq’s Museum Collections and Cultural Heritage Sites at Imminent Risk”, funded by the Government of Japan. The training course was organized by the UNESCO Office in Iraq in partnership with the ICCROM-ATHAR Center in Sharjah.
<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/iraqi-museum-professionals-gain-new-skills-preventive-conservation-museum-collections>
- July 23, 2017

Architectural Digest published an article titled “**Do We Need to Rebuild Historic Sites Ruined by Terrorism?**” (by John Gendall) Lisa Ackerman, Vice-President of the World Monuments Fund, discusses the debate over whether heritage sites destroyed by terrorism should be rebuilt.
<http://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/do-we-need-to-rebuild-historic-sites-ruined-by-terrorism>
- July 21, 2017

Jewish Telegraphic Agency published an article titled “**Why Jews from Libya are worried about the fate of the country’s Jewish artifacts**” (by Josefin Dolsten). Members of the Jewish community who emigrated from Libya in 20th century protest the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Libya. They argue that the MOU, which would restrict cultural material being taken out of Libya (including Jewish artifacts), is offensive to the Jewish community that was subject to violence and repression in Libya, often at the hands of the Libyan government.
<http://www.jta.org/2017/07/21/news-opinion/united-states/why-jews-from-libya-are-worried-about-the-fate-of-the-countrys-jewish-artifacts>
- July 20, 2017

NPR published an interview titled “**Who Owns Antiquity?**” (by Carmen Baskauf) The illegal antiquities trade and destruction of cultural heritage sites is discussed. Amr al-Azm is interviewed.
<http://wnpr.org/post/who-owns-antiquity>
- United Nations** published a press release titled “**Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2368 (2017), Security Council Reaffirms Its Resolve to Combat Terrorism.**” The UN Security Council adopted a resolution “reinforcing its resolve to adapt to evolving terrorist threats, encouraging Governments to update their methods for cutting off funds to terrorist groups, preventing their travel, banning them from acquiring arms and ensuring that sanctions were fully implemented.” The press release condemns the destruction of cultural heritage sites in Syria and Iraq, especially by ISIL and al-Nusra Front.
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12917.doc.htm>

July 19, 2017

The **U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs** published an announcement titled “**Cultural Property Advisory Committee Meeting July 19-20.**” The Cultural Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) will meet July 19-20 to review Libya’s request for U.S. import restrictions on Libyan archaeological and ethnological material.

<https://eca.state.gov/highlight/cultural-property-advisory-committee-meeting-july-19-20>

- *The Rumble* published an article titled “**How ISIS chooses the ancient cities it wants to destroy**” (by Zack Hamm). ISIL’s destruction of heritage sites the group considers idolatrous is discussed.
<https://rumblenews.net/isis-ancient-cities/>
- *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Turkey eager for role in rebuilding war-torn Mosul**” (by Fehim Tastekin). Turkish companies are eager to assist in rebuilding Mosul, but recent actions by the Turkish government complicate the situation.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/07/turkey-iraq-will-ankara-get-share-in-construction.html>
- *DAWN* published an article titled “**Art and loot**” (by Rafia Zakaria). The recent case against Hobby Lobby for the purchase of looted antiquities is discussed.
<https://www.dawn.com/news/1346251>

July 18, 2017

Washington Post published an AP article titled “**Chechnya becoming a major player in rebuilding war-torn Syria**” (by Nataliya Vasilyeva). A “murky” Chechnyan charitable fund is rebuilding al-Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo Governorate and Khalid Ibn al-Walid Mosque in Homs.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/chechnya-becoming-major-player-in-rebuilding-war-torn-syria/2017/07/18/89042a20-6bc4-11e7-abbca53480672286_story.html

- **SNHR** published an article titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled al Aqoula Mosque in Douma city in Damascus suburbs on July 17.**” An airstrike damaged the minaret of a mosque in Damascus Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0131**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-aqoula-mosque-douma-city-damascus-suburbs-july-17/>
- **SNHR** published an article titled “**Syrian regime forces shelled al Eman Mosque in al Sabha village Deir Ez-Zour governorate on July 16.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Deir ez Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0129**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-al-eman-mosque-al-sabha-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-16/>

- **SNHR** published an article titled “**International Coalition forces shelled al Rahman Mosque in al Ghanem al Ali village in Raqqa suburbs on July 17.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Raqqa Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0130**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/18/international-coalition-forces-shelled-al-rahman-mosque-al-ghanem-al-ali-village-raqqa-suburbs-july-17/>
 - **DGAM** published a post titled “**Scientific Cooperation Project with (Art Graphique & Patrimoine Co.)**.” In cooperation with Art Graphique & Patrimoine Co., the DGAM will assess the damage to the entrance gate of the Temple of Bel at Palmyra in order to develop a plan for its reconstruction.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2310>
- July 17, 2017
- The Washington Post* published an article titled “**Hobby Lobby is making cultural preservation harder — and more dangerous**” (by Irina Bokova). The Director General of UNESCO discusses the case recently brought against Hobby Lobby for smuggling looted antiquities.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/posteverything/wp/2017/07/17/hobby-lobby-is-making-cultural-preservation-harder-and-more-dangerous/>
- *The New York Times* published an article titled “**Antiquities Dealer Sues Wall Street Journal Over ISIS Article**” (by Barry Meier). Antiquities dealer Hicham Aboutaam is suing *The Wall Street Journal* for libel. He asserts that his business been damaged by an article in May that stated he was under investigation for possibly trafficking in artifacts looted by ISIL. Aboutaam says he has never handled antiquities looted by terrorists and that sales at his Manhattan-based gallery, Phoenix Ancient Art, have plummeted.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/17/arts/design/antiquities-dealer-sues-wall-street-journal-over-isis-article.html>
 - *The Libya Observer* published an article titled “**Ghadames to host cultural heritage awareness workshop**” (by Abdulkader Assad). Omar al-Mukhtar University and the US archaeology mission in Libya will hold a cultural heritage workshop titled “Sabotage of Cultural Heritage: Between a crime and a loss of identity” in the Old City of Ghadames at the end of July 2017.
<https://libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/ghadames-host-cultural-heritage-awareness-workshop>

- *The Atlantic* published an article titled “**Who Gets to Own Iraq’s Religious Heritage?**” (by Sigal Samuel). Kathryn Hanson, archaeologist and fellow at the Smithsonian’s Museum Conservation Institute, is interviewed regarding looting and the illegal antiquities trade.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/07/who-gets-to-own-iraqs-religious-heritage/533598/>
- July 15, 2017 *The American Interest* published an article titled “**Hands off the antiquities**” (by Alex Joffe). The author discusses the case recently brought against Hobby Lobby for smuggling looted artifacts, as well as the response of the US government to antiquities looting.
<https://www.the-american-interest.com/2017/07/15/hands-off-antiquities/>
- *The New York Times* published an article titled “**Before and After Satellite Images of Mosul Reveal the Devastation After the Islamic State Was Forced Out**” (by Jugal K. Patel & Tim Wallace). DigitalGlobe imagery reveals the extent of the destruction throughout Mosul.
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/07/15/world/middleast/mosul-before-after.html>
- July 14, 2017 *Al Masdar* published an article titled “**Palmyra artifacts recovered by Syrian Army**” (by Leith Fadel). SARG forces in cooperation with local authorities recovered Palmyrene artifacts looted and hidden in four locations around modern Tadmor by ISIL militants. According to the DGAM, these artifacts came from the Southeast Necropolis at Palmyra.
<https://www.almasdarnews.com/article/palmyra-artifacts-recovered-syrian-army/>
- **RUYA Foundation** published an article titled “**Themes of ‘Archaic’ #1: ‘Earth’**” (by Jane Moon). Dr. Jane Moon OBE, an archaeologist and Co-Director of the Ur Region Archaeology Project (URAP), a heritage project at the site of Tell Khaiber, discusses the theme of “earth” as part of a series of articles on the RUYA exhibition “Archaic”.
<https://ruyafoundation.org/en/projects/>
- *The Huffington Post* published an article titled “**Cultural Memoranda of Understanding: An Important Diplomatic Tool for Protecting Heritage**” (by Deborah Lehr). Deborah Lehr, founder and chairman of the Antiquities Coalition, discusses the role of Memoranda of Understanding in combating antiquities looting and smuggling worldwide.
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/cultural-memoranda-of-understanding-an-important-diplomatic-us_5968a9fee4b022bb9372b0de

July 13, 2017

The **European Commission** published a press release titled **“Security Union: Cracking down on the illegal import of cultural goods used to finance terrorism.”** The European Commission put forward new rules to clamp down on the illegal import and trafficking of cultural goods from outside the EU, often linked to terrorist financing and other criminal activity. These rules will include a new common EU definition for “cultural goods” at importation, introduction of a new licensing system for the import of archaeological objects, and a more rigorous certification system for importers.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1932_en.htm

- *Spectator* published an article titled **“UNESCO in Ruins: Anti-Semitism and the Perversion of Cultural Heritage Preservation”** (by Matthew Omolesky). The author is critical of the recent decision by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee recognizing Hebron’s Old City and the Cave of Patriarchs as specifically Palestinian heritage sites and adding those sites to the World Heritage in Danger List, while sites like the Tomb of Nahum in Alqosh are overlooked.
<https://spectator.org/unesco-in-ruins-anti-semitism-and-the-perversion-of-cultural-heritage-preservation/>
- *The Conversation* published an article titled **“Why archaeological antiquities should not be sold on the open market, full stop”** (by Alice Stevenson). The author argues that auction houses should stop dealing in antiquities, for which documentation is frequently and easily fabricated.
<https://theconversation.com/why-archaeological-antiquities-should-not-be-sold-on-the-open-market-full-stop-54928>
- DGAM published an article titled **“Again, an urgent International appeal: to Protect the bridge of Ein Dewar from collapse and destruction.”** DGAM requests that the international community, ICOMOS, and UNESCO take action in protecting the 12th or 13th-century CE bridge of Ain Dewar, which is located in Turkish-occupied territory and inaccessible to DGAM staff. A recent change in the natural flow of the Tigris River in the area has caused structural damage to the bridge.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2306>
- *Gulf News* published an article titled **“Digging up Syria’s past”** (by Syed Hamad Ali). Archaeologist Augusta McMahon discusses her work at the site of Tell Brak in Syria.
<http://gulfnews.com/culture/people/digging-up-syria-s-past-1.2057937>

- *The Washington Post* published an article titled **“EU to crack down on illegal sale of cultural heritage”** (by Associated Press). The EU Commission announced it wants to extend and toughen the ban on the import of cultural goods from war-torn third countries which lack a strong central governments able to exert control over its heritage objects.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/eu-to-crack-down-on-illegal-sale-of-cultural-heritage/2017/07/13/3f5d3fe8-67bd-11e7-94ab-5b1f0ff459df_story.html
- July 12, 2017 *Artnet* published an article titled **“Why the Feds Were Smart Not to Throw the Book at Hobby Lobby for Buying Iraqi Loot”** (by Leila Amineddoleh). The author, an expert in cultural heritage law, challenges the public outcry lamenting the fact that the US government did not pursue tougher criminal penalties against Hobby Lobby executives who purchased looted artifacts.
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/why-hobby-lobby-verdict-1021247>
- July 11, 2017 **IFASIC** published an announcement regarding a seminar titled **“Funding Terrorism Through Art – Looted Antiquities and Trafficking in Cultural Property.”** The seminar is hosted by law firm Clyde & Co.. Amr al-Azm will speak on the trade of looted antiquities.
<https://ifasic.com/academy/funding-terrorism-through-art-looted-antiquities-and-trafficking-in-cultural-property/>
- **DGAM** published a post titled "توضيح (Clarification)." The DGAM addresses claims it is not doing enough to protect and restore damaged cultural heritage in Syria.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=2304>
- **Heritage for Peace** published its bi-weekly newsletter titled **“Damage to Syria’s Heritage – 11 July 2017.”**
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-11-july-2017/>
- July 10, 2017 **DGAM** published an article titled **“The archaeological site of Resafa in photos.”** Photographs published by the DGAM show damage to the site of Resafa in Raqqa Governorate.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2303>

- **The Antiquities Coalition** published a press release titled “**Global Leaders Meet to Discuss Countering Violent Extremism.**” The U.S. government will host the Global Coalition Against Daesh from July 11–13 to coordinate international efforts to fight the violent extremist organization. The Antiquities Coalition calls on the Global Coalition to ensure that prevention of the looting and illicit trade in conflict antiquities remain a core topic on the agenda.
<https://theantiquitiescoalition.org/press-releases/global-leaders-meet-to-discuss-countering-violent-extremism/>
- July 9, 2017 **SNHR** published an article titled “**International Coalition forces shelled Raqqa Historical Wall in Raqqa city o Jul 5.**” An airstrike damaged the ancient wall of al-Rafiqah in the city of Raqqa. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0122**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/09/international-coalition-forces-shelled-raqqa-historical-wall-raqqa-city-o-jul-5/>
- July 8, 2017 *Huff Post* published an article titled “**World Heritage Committee meeting shows challenges for the world’s treasured places, and reasons for hope**” (by Susan Lieberman & Alfred DeGemmis). The 2017 World Heritage Convention in Krakow, Poland is discussed.
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/world-heritage-committee-meeting-shows-challenges-for-us-595fe087e4b0cf3c8e8d5875>
- *USA Today* published an article titled “**Meet the forgotten queen protected by a curse and crowned with gold**” (by Traci Watson). A skeleton excavated in the Northwest Palace at Nimrud 30 years ago is argued to belong to Queen Hama, wife of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser.
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/07/08/meet-forgotten-queen-protected-curse-and-crowned-gold/461380001/>
- **SNHR** published a report titled “**No less than 494 Incident of Attack on Vital Civilian Facilities in the First Half of 2017.**”
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/08/43720/>
- July 7, 2017 *Qantara.de* published an article titled “**Casualties of war**” (by Mey Dudin). Cultural heritage destruction and the looting of antiquities from Iraq and Syria is discussed.
<https://en.qantara.de/content/cultural-heritage-in-syria-and-iraq-casualties-of-war>
- *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Iraq’s thermal spa poised for facelift**” (by Wassim Bassem). The popular Hammam al-Alil spa south of Mosul reopened in April. Attendance is still low compared to the thousands of visitors who visited the spa daily before ISIL took control of the region in 2014.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/07/iraqi-spa-town-inches-toward-past-glory.html#ixzz4nm0Aac21>

- **RT** published a video report titled “**Amr Al-Azm talks to RT International channel.**” Amr al-Azm discusses the case against Hobby Lobby.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFyMlvMYkgw>

July 6, 2017

Several news outlets published articles discussing Hobby Lobby’s forfeiture of over 5,500 ancient Iraqi artifacts illegally brought into the US following a civil complaint filed by the United States Attorney’s Office.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/05/nyregion/hobby-lobby-artifacts-smuggle-iraq.html>

<http://thehill.com/homenews/news/340749-hobby-lobby-agrees-to-return-thousands-of-artifacts-smuggled-from-iraq>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/07/05/us/hobby-lobby-ancient-artifacts-trnd/index.html>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/united-states-files-civil-action-forfeit-thousands-ancient-iraqi-artifacts-imported>

<https://www.usnews.com/news/us/articles/2017-07-05/hobby-lobby-to-forfeit-ancient-iraqi-artifacts-in-settlement-with-us-doj>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/07/05/535698988/hobby-lobby-to-forfeit-smuggled-iraqi-antiquities>

<http://www.newsweek.com/hobby-lobby-iraq-antiquities-evangelicals-632434>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/07/07/opinions/hobby-lobby-looted-antiquities-manning-opinion/index.html>

http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hobby-lobby-bought-more-smuggled-artifacts-n781176?cid=public-rss_20170712

<https://hyperallergic.com/390355/dispelling-the-myths-around-the-hobby-lobby-antiquities-case/>

https://muftah.org/smutgging-artifacts-out-of-irhighlights-cultural-theft#.WXYTAP_yvow

- **The Aleppo Project** published a post titled “**Dar Janbolad – Aleppo’s Finest Palace**” (by Tiffany Ftaimi). The history of Beit Junblatt, a historic palace in Aleppo, is discussed.
<http://www.thealeppoproject.com/dar-janbolad-aleppos-finest-palace/>

July 5, 2017

AP News published an article titled “**In Syria’s Raqqa, Old City wall a testament to glorious days**” (by Sarah El Deeb). US-led coalition forces bomb two small sections of the Raqqa City Wall to allow SDF troops to pass into the old city of Raqqa. TDA-HPI Director Amr al-Azm is quoted.

<https://apnews.com/851145f687544627b2a01e66ad7d8ad6>

- **SNHR published a post titled “Syrian regime forces shelled Khaled Bin al Walid Mosque in Marat village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on July 5.”** An airstrike damaged a mosque in Hama Governorate, rendering it inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0125**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-khaled-bin-al-walid-mosque-marat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-5/>
- **SNHR published a post titled “Syrian- Russian Alliance forces shelled the mosque of al Mshairfa village in Hama governorate on July 5.”** An airstrike damaged a mosque in Hama Governorate, rendering it inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0124**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-al-mshairfa-village-hama-governorate-july-5/>
- **SNHR published a post titled “Syrian- Russian Alliance forces shelled the mosque of Abu Dali village in Hama governorate on July 4.”** An airstrike damaged a mosque in Hama Governorate, rendering it inoperable. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0123**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-russian-alliance-forces-shelled-mosque-abu-dali-village-hama-governorate-july-4/>
- *Forbes* published an article titled “**Digitally Reconstructing The Faces Of Ancient Palmyra**” (by Sarah Bond). A new project undertaken in Italy at the Higher Institute of Conservation and Restoration in Rome has begun to reconstruct damaged Palmyrene busts and repatriate them to Syria.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/drsarahbond/2017/07/05/digitally-reconstructing-the-faces-of-ancient-palmyra/#5b387769d8fb>
- **SNHR published a post titled “Syrian regime forces shelled Khaled Bin al Walid Mosque in Marat village in Deir Ez-Zour governorate on July 5.”** A mosque in Deir ez Zor Governorate was severely damaged and rendered inoperable.
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2017/07/05/syrian-regime-forces-shelled-khaled-bin-al-walid-mosque-marat-village-deir-ez-zour-governorate-july-5/>
- **DGAM published a post titled “Discovering a Mosaic Panel in the Valley of Barada.”** The National Archaeological Mission in the Barada Valley discovered a 50 m² Roman mosaic at the site of Abila in Souq Wadi Barada.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2300>

July 4, 2017

Buzzfeed published an article titled “**This Man Is Trying To Rebuild A Library Burned Down By ISIS**” (by Anup Kaphle). The work of the blogger MosulEye is discussed. The anonymous blogger is leading an international campaign to gather books for Mosul University’s destroyed library.

https://www.buzzfeed.com/anupkaphle/people-from-all-over-the-world-are-sending-books-to-help?utm_term=.dybMLGL7J4#.el81LeLopZ

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Financial Times published an article titled “**Returning Aleppo residents search for shattered heritage**” (by Erika Solomon). The impact of the Syrian conflict on the cultural heritage of Old Aleppo is discussed.

<https://www.ft.com/content/352229ae-5fdd-11e7-8814-0ac7eb84e5f1>

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The National Interest published an article titled “**Why Iraq Needs a Cultural Surge**” (by Bartle Bull). The author argues more attention and funding should be paid to Iraqi cultural heritage, which can be a unifying force for Iraq’s diverse population.

<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-iraq-needs-cultural-surge-21384?page=show>

July 3, 2017

The Anne Clergue Gallery in Arles, France will hold an exhibition of work by Katharine Cooper titled “**The Aleppo Spring**.” The exhibition will run from July 3–September 2, 2017 and consists of photographs of Aleppo taken in the spring of 2017.

<http://www.anneclergue.com/katharine-cooper#katharine-cooper-expo-alep-bio-texte>

July 2, 2017

UNESCO World Heritage Centre published an announcement titled “**41st session of the Committee.**” The 41st World Heritage Committee session will take place in Krakow, Poland from July 2–12, 2017.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/41com/>

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Al Monitor published an article titled “**Iraq accelerates work on its virtual national museum**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The Virtual Museum of Iraq, which has been a work in progress since 2005, aims to bring Iraqi heritage and archaeological artifacts online by the end of 2018.

<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2017/07/iraq-accelerates-work-on-virtual-museum.html>

July 1, 2017

L'Orient Le Jour published an article titled "**L'église Saint-Thomas, la miraculée de Mossoul (The Church of Saint-Thomas, the miracle of Mosul)**" (by Jérémy André). The Church of St. Thomas in central Mosul is damaged but largely unharmed by fighting in the city.

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

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CBC Radio published a report titled "**Protecting Islam's archaeological heritage against vandalism and development.**" A recent conference in Bahrain called Islamic Archaeology in Global Perspective provided shared expertise from archaeologists representing 14 countries. Many of those attendees had first-hand experience in trying to safeguard cultural heritage sites in war-torn countries.

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/canada-150-our-sesquicentennial-in-science-1.4182271/protecting-islam-s-archaeological-heritage-against-vandalism-and-development-1.4182493>

June 21, 2017

Aleteia published an article titled "**Manuscripts saved from the Islamic State to be exhibited in Rome**" (by Arthur Herlin). The Dominican friary of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva in Rome exhibited a collection of Iraqi manuscripts dating from the 13th to 19th centuries and photographs from the old photo archive of the Dominican friary in Mosul.

<https://aleteia.org/2017/06/21/manuscripts-saved-from-the-islamic-state-to-be-shown-in-rome/>

June 11, 2017

ArchDaily published an article titled "**6 Endangered World Heritage Sites as Seen from Space.**" The Earth Observation company Deimos Imaging has released satellite images of six World Heritage sites in danger in Syria, Iraq and Yemen, including Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers, Hatra, and Samarra Archaeological City. The images were captured by the satellite Deimos-2, launched in 2014 and designed for cost-effective and dependable very-high-resolution Earth Observation applications.

<http://www.archdaily.com/873265/6-endangered-world-heritage-sites-as-seen-from-space>