

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

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Weekly Report 121-122 — December 1-15, 2016

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Executive Summary

During the reporting period, SARG and pro-regime forces recaptured the Old City of Aleppo from Syrian opposition forces after four years of opposition control. Opposition forces and civilians from formerly opposition-held areas were evacuated to areas in other opposition-held areas in Syria. Initial photographs and video footage from the area show extensive destruction of the Old City of Aleppo, an area that has been heavily bombarded throughout the conflict.

In mid-December, ISIL militants recaptured the ancient site of Palmyra and the modern city of Tadmor from SARG and pro-regime forces. No immediate information of new damage to Palmyra was released, however the international community remains concerned as to whether or not the militants will continue their pattern of destruction in the archaeological site.

Iraqi Security Forces, backed by US-led Coalition airstrikes, continue to advance further into neighborhoods in the Eastern Bank of Mosul, forcing ISIL to retreat. In retaliation, ISIL militants continue to stage surprise attacks, including suicide car bombs, in areas lost by the group and in the capital Baghdad. Photographs and video footage from newly recaptured areas in Mosul and in the Nineveh Plains show extensive damage to religious sites, including Christian and Yezidi sites of worship and cemeteries.

Key Points

- New video footage shows additional damage to a church and cemetery in Bartella, Ninawa Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0035 UPDATE](#)).
- New photographs show damage to sites in Bashiqa and Bahzani, Ninawa Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0046 UPDATE](#)).
- New reports and photographs show damage to the Church of the Holy Spirit in Mosul, Ninawa Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0033](#)).
- Video footage shows damage to two mosques in Daraa Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0177](#)).
- Reported SARG forces damaged a Greek Orthodox church in Al Waer, Homs Governorate ([ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0179](#)).

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.

- Reported SARG airstrikes damage a mosque in Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0180**).
- A fire destroyed or damaged approximately 20 shops in al-Hamidiyah Souq in Damascus, Damascus Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0181**).
- An airstrike of unidentified origin damaged a mosque in al-Lataminah, Hama Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0182**).
- The DGAM released new photographs showing illegal excavation of Tell Ash'ari, Daraa Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0183**).
- Reported SARG airstrikes damage two mosques in Taftanaz, Idlib Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0184**).
- New photographs released by various sources show damage to multiple sites in the Old City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0192**).

Heritage Timeline

December 15, 2016

Al Monitor published an article titled “**Ancient Babylon's bricks finding their way into modern buildings**” (by Wassim Bassem). The city of Hillah was built a thousand years ago using bricks scavenged from the ruins of Babylon, and the practice of reusing the ancient building materials continues there to this day.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/ancient-babylon-bricks-iraq.html>

- *UN News Centre* published an article titled “**UNESCO sends mission to assess extent of damage at Nimrud archaeological site in Iraq.**” UNESCO has announced it is conducting an inspection of Nimrud to assess the overall state of conservation of the site, in particular the extent of damage resulting from the deliberate destruction by ISIL militants.
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55805#.WF1zmGQrLoz>
- *Reuters* published an article titled “**U.S. sues to recover ancient Syrian artifacts looted by Islamic State**” (by Yeganeh Torbati). The U.S. government is suing to recover four ancient Syrian artifacts it believes were trafficked by ISIL and has filed a complaint in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia seeking the forfeiture of the antiquities.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-antiquities-idUSKBN14422I>
<https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/united-states-files-complaint-seeking-forfeiture-antiquities-associated-islamic-state>
- *CNN* released, via Facebook, a series of 360 degree photographs of sites inside old Aleppo titled “**Tour Aleppo's old city, an ancient treasure decimated by war.**”
<https://www.facebook.com/cnn/videos/10155768486191509/>

- *ArtNet News* published an article titled “**Amid Evacuation, Aleppo Begins Assessment of Destruction of Cultural Heritage**” (by Alyssa Buffenstein). Even before all civilians and opposition forces exit the city of Aleppo, evaluations and plans to rebuild cultural heritage sites are underway.
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/aleppo-evacuation-destruction-cultural-heritage-784538>
 - *The Washington Post* published an article titled “**U.S. steps up fight to cut Islamic State financing and trade in looted antiquities**” (by Spencer S. Hsu). A civil action is filed in the US in an attempt to recover items looted by ISIL.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/us-steps-up-fight-to-cut-islamic-state-financing-and-trade-in-looted-antiquities/2016/12/15/77a7b40e-c2e1-11e6-9578-0054287507db_story.html
- December 14, 2016
- The Washington Post* published an article titled “**UN seeks protection for ancient Nimrud site wrecked by IS**” (by Lori Hinnant). Representatives of UNESCO have visited Nimrud to assess the damage to the site.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/amhtml/world/middle-east/un-seeks-protection-for-ancient-nimrud-site-wrecked-by-is/2016/12/14/67f25fc4-c236-11e6-92e8-c07f4f671da4_story.html
- *Sputnik News* published an article titled “**Syria Devising Master Plan to Restore Aleppo’s Cultural Heritage.**” DGAM Director Maamoun Abdulkarim, in an interview, states that that his department in cooperation with UNESCO has devised a ‘master’ restoration plan for rebuilding Aleppo’s heritage sites.
<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201612141048555945-syria-plan-restore-cultural-heritage/>
 - *The Times of Israel* published an article titled “**UN fears further looting of wrecked ancient Iraqi city.**” A UNESCO fact-finding mission finds evidence of “large-scale, systematic destruction to Nimrud site, near Mosul.”
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/un-fears-further-looting-of-wrecked-ancient-iraqi-city/>
 - *Middle East Monitor* published an article titled “**Al-Azhar calls for the preservation of global heritage sites.**” The Grand Mufti of al-Azhar Ahmed al-Tayyeb spoke at the International Conference for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas in Abu Dhabi where he condemned terrorist activities in destroyed cultural heritage.
<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20161214-al-azhar-calls-for-the-preservation-of-global-heritage-sites/>

December 13, 2016

DGAM published an article titled “**Photos of Damage, School of Seif al-Dawla, Khanqah Farafra, Alsuekah within old Aleppo.**” The DGAM published several photographs of damaged sites in Old Aleppo, including Seif al-Dawla Madrasa, Khanqah al-Farafra, and the al-Suweiqā Suq area.

<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2143>

- SNHR published a report titled “**No less than 208 Incidents of Attack on Vital Civil Facilities in November 2016.**”
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/13/30271/>
- *PBS Newshour* published an article titled “**Here’s what Aleppo looked like before the shelling began**” (by Larisa Epatko). This article pairs before and after photographs of damaged sites in Aleppo.
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/rundown/heres-aleppo-looked-like-shelling-began/>
- *Cultural Heritage Lawyer* published a blog post titled “**UN Anti-Terrorism Resolution Targets Cultural Property Trafficking**” (by Rick St. Hilaire). United Nations Resolution 2322, passed on December 12, 2016 aims at cementing police and judicial cooperation in the fight against terrorism, including cultural property trafficking.
<http://culturalheritagelawyer.blogspot.com/2016/12/un-anti-terrorism-resolution-targets.html>
- *The Oriental Institute* published an article titled “**New Online Repository of Maps and Geospatial Data for the Middle East.**” The Center for Ancient Middle Eastern Landscapes (CAMEL Lab) at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago has announced that a substantial subset of its digital holdings of maps and geospatial data are now available for online public search and download.
<http://oi.uchicago.edu/article/new-online-repository-maps-and-geospatial-data-middle-east>

December 12, 2016

Republic of Iraq Ministry of Culture published an article titled “**الملحق الثقافي الأميركي يزور المتحف العراقي (American cultural attaché to visit Iraq Museum).**” The cultural attaché to the US mission in Iraq visited the National Museum and met representatives of the General Authority for Antiquities and Heritage.

<http://www.mocul.gov.iq/index.php?name=News&file=article&sid=7164>

- *USA Today* published an article titled “**Mosul treasures survived millennia, only to be destroyed by ISIL**” (by Ammar Al Shamary, Austin Davis, and Gilgamesh Nabeel). Archaeologists are concerned about the damage they may find in Mosul given the destruction of sites like Nimrud by ISIL militants.
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/12/12/mosul-iraq-treasures-islamic-state/95201694/>
- *USA Today* published an article titled “**Why extremists destroy ancient treasures**” (by Jessica Durando). This article explores how extremists like ISIL militants justify destroying cultural heritage.
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2016/12/12/islamic-state-destroy-ancient-treasures-iraq-syria/95342652/>
- *Live Science* published an article titled “**ISIS May Face War-Crime Charges for Destruction of Historic Sites**” (by Owen Jarus). ISIL militants may eventually be charged with war crimes for the destruction of cultural heritage sites in Iraq and Syria, but doing so would be costly and challenging.
<http://www.livescience.com/57173-isis-war-crime-charges-for-heritage-destruction.html>
- UNESCO published an article titled “**INTERPOL Conference to Strengthen the Fight against Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Objects.**” INTERPOL and UNESCO, along with international and national organizations, met to discuss strategies to prevent illicit trafficking of cultural objects from Syria and Iraq.
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/single-view/news/interpol-conference-to-strengthen-the-fight-against-illicit/>
- *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Pilgrims seeking miracles flock to ancient shrines**” (by Wassim Basseem). The shrine of Arab poet Abu Tayyib al-Mutanabbi in Wasit Governorate has become a ‘holy’ site where visitors pray for miracles.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/archeology-iraq-mutanabbi-wasit.html>

December 11, 2016

Salon published an article titled “**A few good Monuments Men: Saving art from looting and destruction — especially in the Middle East — is a military matter**” (by Noah Charney). The British Army recently announced that it would be recruiting 15 to 20 new officers with specializations in art, archaeology, and antiquities who will be deployed in war zones to help identify, protect and track art and antiquities that are in danger of being damaged, looted or destroyed.
<http://www.salon.com/2016/12/11/a-few-good-monuments-men-saving-art-from-looting-and-destruction-especially-in-the-middle-east-is-a-military-matter/>

- *NBC News* published an article titled “**Iraqis Mourn Destruction of Ancient City of Nimrud: ISIS 'Tried to Destroy the Identity of Iraq'**” (by Lucy Kafanov). The destruction of Nimrud by ISIL militants is discussed.
<http://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/isis-terror/iraqis-mourn-destruction-ancient-city-nimrud-isis-tried-destroy-identity-n694636>
 - *DGAM* published an article titled “**Again, Palmyra under attack.**” The DGAM is concerned the recent recapture of Palmyra by ISIL militants will lead to further intentional destruction of monuments at the site.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2141>
 - *Reuters* published an article titled “**Iraqi Christians confront painful memories in town's clean-up**” (by Patrick Markey). Christians from Bakhdida (aka Qaraqosh) and nearby towns are working to repair the Church of the Immaculate Conception, which was badly damaged by ISIL militants.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-church-idUSKBN140125>
- December 10, 2016
- BBC* published an article titled “**The most beautiful and elegant city in the world**” (by Lina Shaikhouni). Aleppo resident Alaa al-Sayyed launched the Aleppo National Archives project in 2014 to digitize thousands of historical documents of Aleppo.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38268938>
- *DGAM* published an article titled “**Photos of Damage of the axis of Farhat Square, Jdaideh and Markets, Alhatab Square, Beit Muheb, and Altananir Square within old Aleppo.**” The DGAM has published photographs of several damaged sites in Old Aleppo.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2139>
 - *Ankawa* published an article titled “**بالصور كاهن سرياني ينجح بانقاذ مخطوطات من دير كانت تحت سيطرة داعش (Syriac priest rescued manuscripts from monastery until Daesh control).**” A Syrian Catholic priest at Mar Behnam Monastery saved ancient manuscripts by hiding them in a wall at the monastery before ISIL militants took over the site.
<http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php?topic=827772.0>
- December 9, 2016
- DGAM* published an article titled “**Photos of Damage of the axis of Aqiul, Khan Alharir, Sabee Bahrat and Qastal Harami within old Aleppo.**” DGAM representatives have taken photographs of damage to sites in several neighborhoods of Old Aleppo, including Osama ibn Zaid Mosque, Khan al-Harir, Qastal Harami Mosque, and Qastal Musht Mosque.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2137>

December 8, 2016

Live Science published an article titled “**Historic Iraq Sites Reclaimed in Mosul Offensive**” (by Owen Jarus). The status of Khorsabad, Mar Behnam Monastery, and Nimrud, all recently recaptured from ISIL militants, is discussed.

<http://www.livescience.com/57135-historic-iraq-sites-reclaimed-in-mosul-offensive.html>

- *Radio Vatikan* published an article titled “**Irak: Drohende Auslöschung eines Jahrtausend-Erbes (Threatened Extinction of a Thousand-Year Heritage)**.” The Chaldean Patriarch of Baghdad is alarmed at the destruction of ancient Christian heritage in Iraq and calls for a "decisive action" by the international community to protect churches, monasteries, and archaeological sites in ancient Mesopotamia.
http://de.radiovaticana.va/news/2016/12/08/irak_drohende_ausl%C3%B6schung_eines_jahrtausend-erbes/1277733
- *Syria Direct* published an article titled “**Artifact trafficking and the battle to stop it: 'It's open season'**” (by Alaa Nassar and Justin Clark). Amr al-Azm of The Day After - Heritage Protection Initiative discusses the ongoing problem of illegal excavation at sites such as Apamea in Syria and his work to stop the looting.
<http://syriadirect.org/news/artifact-trafficking-and-the-battle-to-stop-it-its-open-season/>
- *Syria Direct* published an article titled “**How the antiquities black market thrives on Syria: 'We have the collapse of state institutions and the society holding them all together'**” (by Justin Clark). Amr al-Azm is interviewed about the work of The Day After - Heritage Protection Initiative and the illegal international trade of Syrian antiquities.
<http://syriadirect.org/news/how-the-antiquities-black-market-thrives-on-syria-%E2%80%98we-have-the-collapse-of-state-institutions-and-the-society-holding-them-all-together%E2%80%99/>
- *Al Monitor* published an article titled “**Who is responsible for destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage?**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The author argues the destruction of Iraq's cultural heritage is not limited to extremist groups like ISIL and widely known ancient sites. Some governorates and municipalities are also culpable in the neglect and destruction of locally historic places.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2016/12/iraq-nimrud-mosul-culture-heritage.html>

- **DGAM** published an article titled “**Damages of the old city of Aleppo.**” A team from the DGAM visited the neighborhoods of Qastal al-Harami and al-Sayed Ali in Aleppo to begin documenting damage to historic buildings.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2135>

December 7, 2016

DGAM published an article titled “**Film documents parts of the damage within the old city and the citadel of Aleppo.**”

Representatives of the Syrian Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism documented some of the damage to the Citadel of Aleppo and published a video of their findings on the DGAM website.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2132>

- *ArtNews Net* published an article titled “**France and UAE Kick-Start \$100 Million Cultural Heritage Protection Fund**” (by Alyssa Buffenstein). During a weekend conference in Abu Dhabi, 40 states pledged to create a \$100 million-dollar fund with France pledging \$30 million and the UAE pledging \$15 million.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/france-uae-cultural-heritage-protection-fund-774671>

- **ASOR** published a post titled “**Nimrud Update: New Photos of the Site.**” Layla Salih of the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage has provided ASOR with a series of images of destruction at the Northwest Palace area at Nimrud, recently recaptured from ISIL militants.

<http://asorblog.org/nimrud-update-new-photos-site/>

December 6, 2016

UNESCO published an article titled “**UNESCO Emphasizes Dialogue and Launches Military Manual for Cultural Heritage Protection.**”

UNESCO has published the “Protection of Cultural Property Military Manual” that includes information on best practices, preparatory measures in identifying, moving, and preserving cultural objects during military operations, and legal resources for cultural property protection.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/member-states/single-view/news/unesco-emphasizes-dialogue-and-launches-military-manual-for/>

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002466/246633e.pdf>

- *Iraqi News* published an article titled “**ISIS bent on blowing up historic sites in Anbar**” (by Mohamed Mostafa). Iraqi army sources report ISIL militants have planted explosives on the Old Minaret in the town of Anah and other historic sites dating back to the 11th century.

<http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/isis-booby-trap-historic-sites-anbar/>

- L.I.S.A** published an article titled “**SHELTr, a legal training program to preserve cultural heritage in Syria**” (by Bastien Varoustikos). The SHELTr (Syrian Heritage Law Training) is an e-course in development by Heritage for Peace with the assistance of Save Muslim Heritage intended to provide legal training to court staff in opposition-held Syria on matters pertaining to cultural heritage.

[https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/sheltr a legal training program to preserve cultural heritage in syria?nav id=6717](https://lisa.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/sheltr-a-legal-training-program-to-preserve-cultural-heritage-in-syria?nav_id=6717)
 - The Wall Street Journal* published an article titled “**Iraq’s Christians Turn to Militia for Protection**” (by Margherita Stancati). A force largely comprised of Assyrian Christians is helping secure historically Christian towns (such as Qaraqosh) near Mosul that have recently been recaptured from ISIL militants.

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqs-christians-turn-to-militia-for-protection-1481020200>
 - Euro News* published a video on Youtube titled “**Nimrud: drone footage shows ISIL destruction of Iraqi ancient city.**” Drone footage of the recently liberated site of Nimrud shows the extent of the damage by ISIL militants.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-uWluMHR15g>
 - DGAM** published an article titled “**Colloquium titled new visions and proposals for the resilience of the Syrian heritage.**” The Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, DGAM, and ICONEM will hold a colloquium titled “New visions and proposals for the resilience of Syrian heritage” on December 10-11, 2016 at the National Museum in Damascus.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2128>
- December 5, 2016
- DGAM** published an article titled “**Report about the Status of Tell Almsherfeh_Qatna.**” The DGAM reports the archaeological site of Qatna in Homs Governorate is in good condition.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2124>
 - DGAM** published an article titled “**Report about the status of Tell Alnabi Mando, Tell Alnqeria, Tell bab amro, and Tell fairouza.**” The DGAM reports the archaeological sites of Tell Nebi Mend, Tell Naqira, Tell Baba Amr, and Tell Firouza are in good condition.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2125>
 - DGAM** published an article titled “**The encroachments on Tell Ashaari within Daraa in the current crisis.**” Extensive looting is reportedly ongoing at the archaeological site of Tell Ash’ari.

<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2126>

- *BBC* published an article titled “**The ancient place where history began**” (by Alastair Sookie). A review of artifacts featured at the exhibit “**History Begins in Mesopotamia**” at the Musée du Louvre-Lens in Lens, France.
<http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20161202-the-ancient-place-where-history-began>

December 4, 2016

The Guardian published an article titled “**France pays £24m into new fund to protect cultural heritage sites.**” France has committed £24 million towards protecting cultural heritage sites during wartime.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/04/france-new-fund-cultural-heritage-sites-isis>

- *Rudaw* published an article titled “**Drone footage reveals extent of damage to ancient Nimrud site in Iraq by ISIS.**” Drone footage of Nimrud taken by the Associated Press reveals the extent damage to the archaeological site caused by ISIL militants.
<http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/041220161>

- *Kathimerini* published an article titled “**Οι προστάτες των αρχαίων στη σκιά του πολέμου (Patrons of the ancients in the shadow of war)**” (by Giannis Papadopoulos). Cooperation between Kurdish and Greek experts to open new exhibits in Erbil, Iraq.
<http://www.kathimerini.gr/886422/article/epikairothta/ellada/oi-prostates-twn-arxaiwn-sth-skia-toy-polemoy>

- *Quartz* published an article titled “**Canada is using art to build bridges with Syrian refugees, while the rest of the world builds walls to keep them out**” (by Payal Uttam). Toronto’s Aga Khan Museum recently invited a group of Syrian refugees to view a new exhibition tracing more than 5,000 years of art from their homeland called “Syria: A Living History.”
<http://qz.com/852307/canada-is-using-art-to-build-bridges-with-syrian-refugees-while-the-rest-of-the-world-builds-walls-to-keep-them-out/>

December 3, 2016

DGAM published an article titled “**Assessment for the fire damaged at Damascus old city.**” A fire broke out at Mardam Biek Souq within al-Hamidiyah Souq in the Old City of Damascus, destroying and damaging many shops.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2117>

- *Christian Science Monitor* published an article titled “**The preservation warriors: saving the past for the future**” (by Lee Lawrence). Cultural heritage preservation and protection efforts by the World Monuments Fund are discussed.
<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/2016/1203/The-preservation-warriors-saving-the-past-for-the-future>

- Gulf News* published an article titled “**Museums invited to become safe havens for artefacts from conflict zones.**” International museum representatives at the “Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage” conference in Abu Dhabi were invited by France and the UAE to join an international network and act as safe havens for cultural artefacts from conflict zones. The network would be used to temporarily store endangered artifacts during periods of conflict, restore them if needed, and safely return them to their rightful owners after the conflict has been resolved.
<http://gulfnews.com/news/uae/society/museums-invited-to-become-safe-havens-for-artefacts-from-conflict-zones-1.1939322>
 - MC-Doualiya* published an article titled “موقعا على قائمة التراث العالمي 55 ”المهدد“ معظمها في مناطق النزاعات المسلحة (Sites included on the “**World Heritage in Danger**” list, mostly in areas of armed conflict).” In its 40th held in July 2016, the World Heritage Committee included 55 new sites from a number of countries to the World Heritage in Danger list.
<http://www.mc-doualiya.com/articles/20161202--اليمن-سوريا-مالي-النيجر-العراق-أفغانستان-مواقع-اثريّة-مهددة>
 - DGAM** published an article titled “**Looted Palmyra relics seized by Swiss authorities.**” Three Palmyrene reliefs were among the looted antiquities seized at the Geneva Freeport by Swiss authorities.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2119>
- December 2, 2016
- DGAM** published an article titled “**Documentation of Aleppo Citadel by using 3D Techniques.**” DGAM and ICONEM have collaborated on a 3D documentation project to map the Citadel of Aleppo.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2113>
 - TASS* published an article titled “**Putin praises Hermitage Museum for its efforts in restoring Palmyra.**” Vladimir Putin thanked Mikhail Piotrovsky, the Director-General of the State Hermitage Museum, for his efforts to restore historic and cultural monuments in the city of Palmyra.
<http://tass.com/society/916551>
 - ArtNet News* published an article titled “**France Joins Treaty to Protect Cultural Sites and Artifacts in Times of War**” (by Alyssa Buffenstein). France joins the Second Protocol of The Hague Convention.
<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/france-hague-convention-protection-of-cultural-property-768224>

- Several news agencies published articles discussing a conference titled “**Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage**” organized by UNESCO, the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority, and the Institut du Monde Arabe in Paris. Representatives of over 40 countries are expected to attend on December 2-3, 2016. The conference aims to define mechanisms for policies and processes to safeguard both movable and immovable cultural heritage before and during armed conflicts, to tackle illegal trafficking of antiquities, plan for restoration of damaged artefacts and build capacity for professionals in the field.

<http://www.thenational.ae/opinion/comment/why-saving-endangered-cultural-heritage-is-important-for-the-uae>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-38182581>

<http://gulfnnews.com/news/uae/culture/islam-does-not-encourage-destruction-of-heritage-1.1938724>

<http://www.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/Actualites/En-continu/Patrimoine-en-danger-le-rendez-vous-d-Abu-Dhabi>

http://www.huffpostarabi.com/2016/12/05/story_n_13424488.html

<http://www.unesco.org/new/ar/unesco/about-us/who-we-are/director-general/singleview-dg/news/director-general-in-abu-dhabi-to-participate-in-the-conference/>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/cultural-diplomacy/events/article/conference-on-safeguarding-endangered-cultural-heritage-abu-dhabi-declaration>

<http://www.thenational.ae/opinion/editorial/cutting-the-lines-of-smugglers>

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/opinion/28714-preserving-cultural-heritage-can-help-shape-peace>

<http://english.aawsat.com/2016/12/article55363298/uae-announces-global-alliance-protect-cultural-antiquities-conflict>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/04/france-new-fund-cultural-heritage-sites-isis>

December 1, 2016

Al Jazeera published an article titled “**How ISIL destroyed Nimrud**” (by John Beck). The recent destruction of Nimrud by ISIL militants is discussed. ASOR CHI’s Allison Cuneo is quoted.

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/11/isil-destroyed-iraq-nimrud-161129125401265.html>

- *BBC* published an article titled “**Geneva Free Port: The greatest art collection no-one can see**” (by Will Gompertz). The Geneva Free Port, where it is estimated over 1.2 million works of art are stored, is discussed.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-38167501>
- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**France joins international treaty to protect cultural heritage in war zones**” (by Vincent Noce). The French government has announced it will join the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention, an international treaty aimed at strengthening protection for cultural heritage in war zones, 17 years after it was adopted in The Hague.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/france-joins-international-treaty-to-protect-cultural-heritage-in-war-zones-/>
- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**France proposes new global fund for endangered heritage sites**” (by Vincent Noce). France has proposed the establishment of an international fund for the protection of cultural properties in time of war, which will seek to raise at least \$100 million, with \$30 million donated by France.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/news/france-promise-30m-to-global-fund-for-culture-in-danger-/>
- *Rudaw* published an article titled “**Iraq’s heritage sites must be sealed off, documented after Mosul liberation**” (by Judit Neurink). Abdullah Qader, the director of the Iraqi Institute for Conservation of Antiquities and Heritage in Erbil, argues that sites recaptured from ISIL militants should be closed until proper documentation is done to protect the site from theft and to facilitate rebuilding.
<http://rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/01122016>
- *DGAM* published an article titled “**Selling Ancient Palmyran Head in one of Antiquities auctions.**” The DGAM has protested the sale of a fragmentary Palmyrene bust recently put up for auction in New York City in violation of UN Security Council Resolution No. 2199 that prohibits the dealing and trafficking of Syrian cultural heritage.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2111>

November 30, 2016

Christian Daily published an article titled “**Christian saint's ancient relics survive ISIS destruction of Syrian monastery**” (by Lorraine Caballero). According to a priest at Deir Mar Elian, the bones of Saint Elian were discovered among the rubble at the site.

<http://christiandaily.com/article/christian-saints-ancient-relics-survive-isis-destruction-of-syrian-monastery/59542.htm>

November 28, 2016

The New Yorker published an article titled “**The Factory of Fake - How a workshop uses digital technology to craft perfect copies of imperiled art.**” (by Daniel Zalewski). Efforts to make digital moldings of at-risk heritage artifacts are explored.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/11/28/the-factory-of-fakes>

Military and Political Context

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

1. Aleppo Governorate:
 - On December 1, UN Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, reported that 30,000 Syrians had fled opposition-held areas of eastern Aleppo city, for SARG-controlled areas and the Kurdish YPG-held area of Sheikh Maqsoud. Armed opposition forces remaining in Aleppo agreed to a new alliance to defend parts of the city that remain under their control.²
 - On December 4, Syrian state news agency SANA reported that the Syrian army had captured the Aleppo city districts of Karm al-Tahan and Myessar.³
 - On December 5, SARG and pro-regime forces captured the neighborhood of Qadi Askar from opposition forces, advancing the hold the regime has over Aleppo city to 60%.⁴
 - On December 6, the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces known as the ‘Euphrates Shield Brigades’ carried out shelling against the villages of Sheikh Nassir, Sab Wean, al-Yalani, Kawikli, Qirt Weran, and Jab al-Dan killing civilians and creating mass displacement in the area.⁵
 - On December 7, SARG and pro-regime forces captured the area of the Old City in Aleppo after opposition forces withdrew from the area overnight. The advancement caused opposition forces to call for an immediate five-day long ceasefire.⁶

² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-un-idUSKBN13Q4FL> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-rebels-idUSKBN13Q3ZW> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-november-19.html>

³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/warplanes-pound-syria-idlib-21-civilians-killed-161204131717922.html>

⁴ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/syrian-rebels-lose-ground-regime-forces-eastern-aleppo/>

⁵ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/turkey-backed-rebels-bomb-sdf-held-areas-north-syria-civilian-casualties-reported/>

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/07/syrian-troops-in-control-of-aleppo-old-city-after-rebels-withdraw> ; <http://aranews.net/2016/12/syrian-rebels-lose-ground-regime-forces-eastern-aleppo/> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-assad-idUSKBN13W2G0> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN13W1N0> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-army-retakes-aleppos-old-city-as-rebels-discuss-exit/2016/12/07/6ad0bd42-bc52-11e6-91ee-1addfe36cbe_story.html

- On December 7, an ISIL suicide bombing struck an opposition position near the town of al-Bab, killing at least one Turkish soldier.⁷
- On December 8, Russia announced a suspension of fighting in the city of Aleppo in order to allow for the evacuation of civilians. Residents of eastern Aleppo reported continued fighting despite the declaration.⁸
- On December 9, the Syrian army continued their offensive in Aleppo with ground fighting and airstrikes.⁹
- On December 12, Russia and Syria announced that the battle for the city of Aleppo would be over soon. Opposition defenses in the city were reported to have collapsed as shelling and aerial bombardment continued over opposition-held areas in eastern Aleppo.¹⁰
- On December 12-13, reports surfaced that SARG and pro-regime forces were conducting summary executions of civilians remaining in eastern areas of Aleppo city.¹¹
- On December 13, Syrian opposition forces reached an evacuation deal with the Syrian regime to allow for the exit of civilians and opposition forces from Aleppo.¹²
- On December 15, more than 3,000 Syrian civilians and opposition fighters were evacuated from the city of Aleppo after a one-day delay due to a collapse of a ceasefire. Those evacuated will be taken from the city on buses to northern areas of Aleppo and opposition-held Idlib Governorate.¹³

⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

⁸ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38257013> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN13X1QB> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/08/world/middleeast/syria-aleppo-rebels-russia-lavrov-assad.html>

⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKBN13Y0VP> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38260388> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/09/world/middleeast/syria-aleppo-united-nations.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.newsweek.com/russia-and-syria-say-forces-almost-total-control-aleppo-530784> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-idUSKBN1410LA> ; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/aleppo-conflict-latest-assad-regime-win-rebels-withdraw-a7469731.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38288018> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/syrian-forces-push-aleppo-rebels-to-brink-as-city-nears-total-collapse/2016/12/12/0e7e7e82-c079-11e6-afd9-f038f753dc29_story.html

¹¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38301629> ; <http://nytlive.nytimes.com/womenintheworld/2016/12/13/20-syrian-women-reportedly-chose-suicide-over-being-raped/> ; <http://www.shrc.org/en/?p=28869>

¹² <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/syria-rebels-reach-evacuation-deal-government-161213163954322.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38308883> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-un-idUSKBN1420ZX> <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/civilians-killed-spot-battle-aleppo-nears-161213133240891.html> ; <http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21711738-fate-10000-civilians-terrifyingly-unclear>

¹³ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38329461> ; <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/14/world/middleeast/aleppo-syria-evacuation-deal.html> ; <http://www.newsweek.com/clashes-erupt-aleppo-iran-said-impose-new-evacuation-conditions-531757> ; <https://apnews.com/4917f845c0fe4d878fbd1fb097014145/Residents-of-Syria's-Aleppo-share-tormented-goodbyes-online> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38323591> ; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/hail-of-bullets-from-pro-assad-forces-stalls-second-attempt-at-evacuating-aleppos-wounded/2016/12/15/822597f6-c23d-11e6-92e8-c07f4f671da4_story.html

2. Raqqa Governorate:
 - On December 1, unidentified gunmen reportedly attacked an ISIL court in the city of Raqqa, killing several militants and presiding Judge Abu Amina al-Halaba.¹⁴
 - On December 14, ISIL militants carried out four suicide bombing attacks against Kurdish YPG checkpoints “in the vicinity of Ain Issa.”¹⁵
3. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
 - On December 2, nearly 2,000 Syrian opposition forces and their families left the city of al-Tal following a deal with the Syrian regime. The town is now under the control of the regime.¹⁶
 - On December 7, Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) launched several surface missiles, originating from the Golan Heights, at an arms depot within the Mezze Military Airbase near Damascus.¹⁷
4. Idlib Governorate:
 - On December 5, suspected Russian airstrikes struck several areas in Idlib Governorate, killing at least 73 people in the towns of Kafr Nabl, Maarat al-Numan, al-Naqir, and al-Tamanah.¹⁸
5. Hasakah Governorate:
 - On December 4-5, the YPG launched an offensive to recapture the ISIL-held town of Margada. Margada is located on the governorate borders between al-Hasakah and Deir ez Zor and is the last town held by ISIL in the governorate.¹⁹
 - On December 7, a landmine planted by ISIL in the town of Hafayer killed three civilians and wounded several others.²⁰
6. Daraa Governorate:
 - On December 4, four Free Syrian Army (FSA)-affiliated opposition groups combined to form Jaish al-Thawra.²¹
 - On December 5, ISIL militants assassinated a prominent Syrian opposition leader of the Southern Front in the Daraa neighborhood of Yarmouk.²²
7. Homs Governorate:
 - December 8, ISIL militants launched a ‘two-pronged’ attack on the modern city of Tadmor, capturing Huwaysis, Jazal Gas Fields, at least eight checkpoints near Sha’er Gas Fields north of the city, and several mountains south of the city.²³

¹⁴ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/chief-isis-sharia-court-killed-gunmen-fire-raqqa/>; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

¹⁵ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/isis-suicide-bombers-hit-kurdish-positions-west-of-raqqa-to-impede-sdf-progress/>

¹⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-al-tal-idUSKBN13R27A>

¹⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/warplanes-pound-syria-idlib-21-civilians-killed-161204131717922.html>

¹⁹ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/kurdish-ypg-forces-storm-key-isis-stronghold-northeastern-syria/>; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

²⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/scores-civilians-killed-isis-explosives-syrias-hasakah/>

²¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

²² <http://aranews.net/2016/12/syrian-rebel-commander-killed-by-isis-fire-in-daraa/>

²³ <http://www.interpretermag.com/while-russia-and-assad-focus-on-aleppo-isis-launches-attack-on-palmyra/>; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/aleppo-battle-latest-putin-assad-civilians-condemned-to-death-bombing-a7464151.html>; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/sanctuary.html>; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/syria-situation-report-december-2-8-2016.html>

- On December 9, the US-led Coalition announced that it destroyed a fleet of 168 ISIL oil tanker trucks near Palmyra.²⁴
- On December 11, ISIL militants recaptured the city of Palmyra, forcing pro-regime forces to evacuate and re-position outside of the city. Russian forces conducted airstrikes over the city.²⁵
- On December 12, a suspected gas attack struck an ISIL-held area near Palmyra, killing dozens of people including civilians.²⁶
- December 13, ISIL militants attacked the T4 Military Airport following the recapture of the ancient site of Palmyra and the modern town of Tadmor.²⁷
- On December 14, ISIL militants advanced outside of Palmyra, capturing the main road between the town of al-Qaryatayn and the city of Homs.²⁸

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Ayn Issa, Deir ez-Zor, Manbij, Palmyra, Raqqa, and Shadaddi.²⁹
- During the reporting period, the Institute for the Study of War (ISW) reported that Russian airstrikes targeted opposition-held areas in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates. According to ISW, Russian airstrikes intensified against “schools, markets, and other civilian infrastructure.”³⁰
- On December 1, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan backtracked on his previous statement that Turkish forces were in Syria to remove Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, stating instead that they are there only to fight terrorism.³¹
- On December 1, Human Rights Watch issued a press release accusing the “Russian-Syrian coalition” of committing war crimes in Aleppo during a “month-long aerial bombing campaign” of opposition-held areas of the city.³²

²⁴ <https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1025901/airstrike-destroys-fleet-of-isil-oil-tankers-in-syria>

²⁵ <http://www.wsj.com/articles/syrian-army-with-russia-beats-back-islamic-state-advance-on-palmyra-1481451208> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38289313> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/isis-recaptures-palmyra-in-major-blow.html> ; <http://www.rferl.org/a/islamic-state-main-beneficiary-russian-aleppo-campaign/28178425.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38280283> ; <http://aranews.net/2016/12/islamic-state-retakes-ancient-syrian-city-of-palmyra/>

²⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38295309> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-chemicalweapons-idUSKBN1411B5>

²⁷ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/retaking-palmyra-isis-assaults-t4-airbase-near-syrias-homs/> ; <http://syriadirect.org/news/%E2%80%98we-are-back%E2%80%99-islamic-state-takes-palmyra-advances-in-east-homs-as-regime-focuses-on-aleppo/>

²⁸ <http://aranews.net/2016/12/isis-militants-cut-off-regime-supply-route-in-syrias-homs/>

²⁹ See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1018399](#), [1019359](#), [1019834](#), [1021027](#), [1022616](#), [1025834](#), [1026659](#), [1026609](#), [1026687](#), [1026858](#), [1032016](#), [1032085](#), [1029314](#), [1028029](#), [1030675](#)

³⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/by-jonathan-mautner-russia-leveraged.html>

³¹ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/turkey-backtracks-call-end-rule-cruel-assad-after-russian-protest-1167661241>

³² <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/12/01/russia/syria-war-crimes-month-bombing-aleppo>

- On December 10, US Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that 200 more special operations forces would be deployed to Syria, raising the total number of US troops inside the country to 500.³³
- On December 14, the United Nations named the aerial bombardment of the last remaining opposition-held areas of Aleppo were likely war crimes due to the large concentration of civilians in the area.³⁴

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

1. Ninawa Governorate:
 - On December 1, Iraqi Security Forces deployed a Baghdad-based army brigade to Mosul in order to reinforce ongoing operations in the eastern neighborhoods of the city.³⁵
 - On December 3-4, ISIL militants staged several small-scale attacks in areas surrounding the city of Mosul as Iraqi security forces continue to advance in the outskirts of the city. Meanwhile, the Iraqi army recaptured three ISIL-held villages near the town of Shirqat.³⁶
 - On December 3, Iraqi Army forces cleared four villages northeast of Mosul.³⁷
 - On December 4, Iraqi security forces continued clearing operations in the villages of Jadidah and al-Nahiya al-Kabira, located across from Shirqat on the eastern bank of the Tigris River.³⁸
 - On December 6, Iraqi forces captured the Salam Hospital, believed to have been used by ISIL as a base, in the Wahda neighborhood.³⁹
 - On December 7-8, ISIL attacks forced Iraqi security forces to withdraw from the Salam Hospital.⁴⁰
 - On December 8-13, Shia militias continued to advance toward Tel Afar, capturing “significant waypoints” south of the city. Hezbollah forces have promised to clear the adjacent area across the border in Syria to prevent ISIL regrouping and counterattack efforts.⁴¹
 - On December 13, Shia militias succeeded in capturing the Tel Afar-Ashawa road connecting their northern and southern lines of operations.⁴²
2. Al Anbar Governorate:
 - On December 7, an Iraqi Air Force strike mistakenly bombed a market in the ISIL-held city of al-Qaim, killing more than 60 civilians. The airstrike reportedly missed the mosque it was targeting, which was being used as an ISIL headquarters, and

³³ <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/12/10/more-american-commandos-push-into-syria-before-the-battle-for-raqqa/>; <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1026625/carter-us-will-deploy-more-troops-to-syria-to-combat-isil>

³⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38320647>

³⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-1-6-2016.html>

³⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-idUSKBN13T0OG>

³⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-1-6-2016.html>

³⁸ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-1-6-2016.html>

³⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-idUSKBN13X1EI>

⁴⁰ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-idUSKBN13X1EI>; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁴¹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁴² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/the-campaign-for-mosul-december-13-19.html>

instead struck a residential building. ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency reported that the attack had killed more than 120.⁴³

- On December 11, ISIL militants carried out two car bombings in western Fallujah and in the center of the city.⁴⁴

3. Baghdad Governorate:

- On December 5, an ISIL car bombing destroyed in Sadr City, killing at least 3 civilians. ISIL reported that the attack killed 60 civilians.⁴⁵
- On December 7, an ISIL car bombing struck the 4th Police District in the southwest of Baghdad, injuring eight people.⁴⁶

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Asad, Bashir, Beiji, Haditha, Huwayjah, Kisik, Mosul, Qayyarah, Ramadi, Rawah, and Tal Afar.⁴⁷
- On December 1, UN Special Representative for Iraq Jan Kubis reported that at least 1,959 members of the Iraqi security forces and 929 civilians were killed in the country during the month of December.⁴⁸
- On December 8-10, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi attended tribal conferences in Basra, Dhi Qar, and Maysan Governorates. His presence led to protests among supporters of Muqtada al-Sadr.⁴⁹
- On December 15, US State Department Spokesman called for the exit of Kurdish PKK forces in Sinjar.⁵⁰

Other significant political and military events during the reporting period:

- On December 2, Denmark announced that they would be pulling the country's seven F-16 jets in Syria and Iraq, and would instead be focusing on training and analysis teams that will work with Iraqi forces in accordance with the country's original mission in the US-led Coalition against ISIL.⁵¹
- On December 5, members of the Misrata brigades, backed by US airstrikes, seized the last ISIL-held buildings in the Libyan city of Sirte.⁵²

⁴³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/iraqi-army-mistakenly-bombs-civilians-isil-held-city-161207153748815.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38244484> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-airstrike-idUSKBN13X0TL> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-town-idUSKBN13W2HZ>

⁴⁴ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁴⁵ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-1-6-2016.html>

⁴⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁴⁷ See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [1018399](#), [1019359](#), [1019834](#), [1021027](#), [1022616](#), [1025834](#), [1026609](#), [1026687](#), [1026858](#), [1032016](#), [1029314](#), [1028029](#), [1030675](#)

⁴⁸ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-38173574>

⁴⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁵⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/12/iraq-situation-report-december-7-20-2016.html>

⁵¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-denmark-idUSKBN13R0WA>

⁵² <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/05/isis-loses-control-of-libyan-city-of-sirte> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-libya-security-idUSKBN13X255>

Syrian Network For Human Rights Videos

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

- al-Mashmashan Mosque, in Mashmashan, Idlib Governorate, damaged by suspected Russian airstrikes on November 14, 2016. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0168** in **Weekly Report 117-118**.⁵³
- al-Badr Mosque, in Duma, Rif Dimashq Governorate, damaged by SARG missiles on November 23, 2016.⁵⁴
- al-Hamza Mosque, in Anadan, Aleppo Governorate, damaged by suspected Russian aircraft shelling on November 17, 2016. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0172** in **Weekly Report 119-120**.⁵⁵
- al-Kabir Mosque (al-Bakir Mosque), in Abian Sam'an, Aleppo Governorate, damaged by Russian airstrikes on November 5, 2016.⁵⁶
- Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque (al-Kabir Mosque), in Kafr Zita, Hama Governorate, shown during reports of damage to a nearby hospital damaged by SARG barrel bombs on November 11, 2016. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0028** in **Weekly Report 79-80**.⁵⁷

⁵³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s6Ssi5gHMSU>

⁵⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gXcboP7Ek4>

⁵⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJmnfFml3Qs>

⁵⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yB4THOkSvHw>

⁵⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNaMXvhqE4w>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 16-0177

Report Date: December 6, 2016

Site Name: Unidentified Mosque; Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque (مسجد عمر بن الخطاب)

Date of Incident: December 6, 2016

Location: al-Shejera, Daraa Governorate, Syria; al-Ibtaa', Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque possibly located in the center of the town.⁵⁸

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Video shows damage to two mosques in Daraa Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On December 4, 2016 Qasioun News Agency released video footage of damage to the interior of an unnamed mosque in the town of Ibtaa'.⁵⁹ The cause of damage, according to the video report, was unidentified airstrikes. Based on previous photographs of damaged mosques in Ibtaa', it appears that the site shown in the video is Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque. It is unclear, however, whether the video shows new damage or previously existing damage.

On December 6, 2016 ISIL-affiliated Amaq News Agency released video footage of damage and civilian injuries due to reported SARG-targeting of an 'opposition-held' area of Daraa Governorate.⁶⁰ The video footage includes damage to a mosque, including what appears to be damage from shelling. It is unclear if airstrikes occurred over the area. Both Syrian opposition groups and ISIL militants hold territory in the area surrounding al-Shejera town.⁶¹

Reported SARG aerial bombardment and shelling of Ibtaa' previously damaged three mosques in September 2016: al-Ayyubi Mosque, Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque, and Musaib bin Amir Mosque.

For further information on damage to mosques in Ibtaa' see, **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0143** in **Weekly Report 109-110**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

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

⁵⁸ <http://www.esyria.sy/edaraa/index.php?p=stories&category=places&filename=200908201055021>

⁵⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdIIZ871tr8>

⁶⁰ <https://jkikki.de/2016/12/06/الدمار-وضحايا-خلفه-قصف-مدفعية-المعارضة-ا/>

⁶¹ <http://www.understandingwar.org/backgroundunder/syria-situation-report-november-19-december-2-2016>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq News Agency: <https://jikiki.de/2016/12/06/الدمار-وضحايا-خلفه-قصف-مدفعية-المعارضة-ا/>

Qasioun News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TdIIZ871tr8>



Video still of an unidentified mosque in al-Shejera (Amaq News Agency; December 6, 2016)



Video still of damage to an unidentified mosque in al-Shejera (Amaq News Agency; December 6, 2016)



Video still of damage to one side of an unidentified mosque in al-Shejera (Amaq News Agency; December 6, 2016)



Video still shows damage to Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; December 4, 2016)



Video still shows damage to Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; December 4, 2016)



Video still shows damage to Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; December 4, 2016)



Video still shows damage to Omar bin al-Khattab Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; December 4, 2016)

SHI 16-0179

Report Date: December 6, 2016

Site Name: Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Peter and Paul (Mar Boutros and Boulos)

Date of Incident: December 5, 2016

Location: al-Waer suburb, Homs, Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Greek Orthodox Church

Site Date: early 2000s CE

Incident Summary: Reported SARG forces damage a church in Homs.

Incident Source and Description: On October 6, 2016 Shaam News Network reported on its Facebook page that SARG forces damaged the Greek Orthodox Church of Saints Peter and Paul in the al-Waer neighborhood of Homs on October 5, 2016.⁶² Photographs accompanying the report show damage outside the western entrance to the church, including to a low stone wall surrounding the church.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Shaam News Network:

<https://www.facebook.com/ShaaamNewsNetwork/posts/1179867892060984>

⁶² <https://www.facebook.com/ShaaamNewsNetwork/posts/1179867892060984>



Damage outside the Greek Orthodox Church in al-Waer (Shaam News Network; October 6, 2016)



Damage outside the Greek Orthodox Church in al-Waer (Shaam News Network; October 6, 2016)

SHI 16-0180

Report Date: December 15, 2016

Site Name: al-Batul Mosque (مسجد البتول)

Date of Incident: December 13, 2016

Location: al-Zebdiyah neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG shelling damages a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On December 14, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG missiles struck near al-Batul Mosque in Aleppo on December 13, 2016, “damaging its building and furniture partially.”⁶³ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Al-Batul Mosque has been damaged on at least one previous occasion. On December 25, 2015 reported Russian airstrikes struck the mosque during Friday prayers, causing severe damage. For more information, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0171** in **Weekly Report 73-74**.

Video footage released by Shaam News Network on August 20, 2012 showed damage to the roof of al-Batul Mosque reportedly caused by aerial bombardment.⁶⁴ Another Youtube user uploaded video footage of damage to the mosque’s grounds on June 25, 2014.⁶⁵

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Shaam News Network: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPuNYbIHj8M>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/14/government-forces-shelled-al-batool-mosque-al-zebdiya-mosque-aleppo-city-december-13/>

⁶³ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/14/government-forces-shelled-al-batool-mosque-al-zebdiya-mosque-aleppo-city-december-13/>

⁶⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPuNYbIHj8M>

⁶⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBI_5D5qfdQ

SHI 16-0181

Report Date: December 4, 2016

Site Name: al-Hamidiyah Souq (سوق الحميدية); Mardam Biek Souq

Date of Incident: December 1-2, 2016

Location: Damascus, Damascus Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Ancient market in central Damascus. The area has been used as a market likely since the Roman era, though present structures are mainly 19th-century CE or later.

Site Date: 19th-century CE.

Incident Summary: A fire destroyed or damaged around 20 shops in al-Hamidiyah Souq.

Incident Source and Description: On December 2, 2016 the DGAM reported that a fire broke in al-Hamidiyah Souq on December 1, 2016, badly damaging more than 12 shops and destroying eight more inside the souq.⁶⁶ Photographs accompanying the DGAM report indicate the fire damage occurred in the area just west of al-Asruniyah Madrasa.

On December 3, 2016 the DGAM reported that their representatives had assessed the damage to the area and determined that the fire began at Mardam Biek Souq. The cause was a short circuit that occurred after a heavy rainfall. This initial fire gutted two estates and several shops. Firefighters cut power to the area and were able to control the initial fire. However, when the electricity came back on the next day, electrical sparks caused another fire that resulted in further damage.⁶⁷

This is the second such fire this year. In April 2016, another fire (likely caused by faulty wiring) damaged dozens of shops in al-Asruniyah Souq. For more information, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0058** in **Weekly Report 89-90**.

Pattern: Development disturbances; Site management.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM:

December 2, 2016: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2115>

December 3, 2016: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2117>

⁶⁶ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2115>

⁶⁷ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2117>



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 2, 2016)



Fire damage to al-Tahan Avenue in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 3, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 3, 2016)



Fire damage in al-Hamidiyah Souq (DGAM; December 3, 2016)

SHI 16-0182

Report Date: December 6, 2016

Site Name: Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque

Date of Incident: December 6, 2016

Location: Lataminah, Hama Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque in Lataminah

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported airstrike damages mosque in Hama Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On December 6, 2016 RFS Media Office reported that an airstrike damaged Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque in Lataminah, Hama Governorate.⁶⁸ Photographs accompanying the report show the mosque has suffered significant damage. There is a large hole in the ceiling of the mosque and a great deal of debris in the interior.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives – airstrike.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Civil Defense Hama: https://twitter.com/civil_hama/status/806413904561762304

RFS Media Office:

<https://rfsmediaoffice.com/2016/12/06/غارة-جوية-من-الطيران-الحي-تستهدف-مسج/#.WKdVvhiZOi6>

⁶⁸ <https://rfsmediaoffice.com/2016/12/06/غارة-جوية-من-الطيران-الحي-تستهدف-مسج/#.WKdVvhiZOi6>



Damage to the ceiling of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (RFS Media; December 6, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (RFS Media; December 6, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (RFS Media; December 6, 2016)



Damage to the exterior of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (RFS Media; December 6, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (RFS Media; December 6, 2016)



Damage to the ceiling of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (Hama Civil Defense/Twitter; December 6, 2016)



Damage to ceiling of Abu Bakr al-Sidiq Mosque (Hama Civil Defense/Twitter; December 6, 2016)

SHI 16-0183

Report Date: December 7, 2016

Site Name: Tel Ash'ari (تل الأشعري)

Date of Incident: Ongoing

Location: Asha'ari, Daraa Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Tell Ash'ari is an Ottoman period mill ruin along the Wadi al-Yarmouk canyon. According to Akkermans and Schwartz:

“In the western Hawran, Tell Ashtara (ancient Ashtaroth?) north of Der'a, which may have served as the regional center, was briefly investigated by Abou Asaf, who also excavated a stone-lined roofed dolmen grave in Tayyibeh. Collective tombs cut into rock were excavated by salvage operations at Tell al-Ash'ari and Der'a in the 1990s.”⁶⁹

Site Date: Various, largest part dating to the Ottoman Period.

Incident Summary: The DGAM released new photographs of Tell Ash'ari showing illegal excavation.

Incident Source and Description: On December 5, 2016 the DGAM released new photographs of Tell Ash'ari showing damage to the site from illegal excavations.⁷⁰ The images show illegal excavations on the south and west sides of the Tell, with possible excavations continuing while the DGAM was photographing. The use of large machinery in the illegal excavations was also recorded in the photographs. Previous ASOR CHI reports have documented damage to the site from illegal excavations. For more information, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0033** in **Weekly Report 7** and **SHI 15-0095** in **Weekly Report 45**.

Pattern: Illegal excavation.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reports of damage to Tell Ash'ari and the surrounding area, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to intense illegal excavation.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2126>

Scholarly:

Akkermans and Schwartz. 2003. *The Archaeology of Syria. From Complex Hunter-Gatherers to Early Urban Societies (c.16,000-300 BC)*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, UK.

⁶⁹ Akkermans and Schwartz 2003:320

⁷⁰ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2126>



The western part of the Tell showing intentional damage from scraping the surface with a large earth mover (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Illegal excavations at Tell Ash'ari (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



The western side of Tell Ash'ari showing illegal excavation with a large earthmover (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Southern side of Tell Ash'ari showing illegal excavations (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



A stone with a layer of plaster and painted geometric design at Tell Ash'ari (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Illegal excavation at Tell Ash'ari showing motorcycles in background (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Broken lintels from the doorways at Tell Ash'ari (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Illegal excavation through a lime plaster floor at Tell Ash'ari (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



Wall of a building in the western side of Tell Ash'ari with a hole, possibly made by illegal excavation (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



A person stands on the top of Tell Ash'ari with illegal excavations visible on the side of the mound (DGAM; December 5, 2016)



A broken basalt trough on the surface of Tell Ash'ari (DGAM; December 5, 2016)

SHI 16-0184

Report Date: December 9, 2016

Site Name: al-Sadiq Mosque (مسجد الصديق); al-Badr Mosque (مسجد البدر)

Date of Incident: December 9, 2016

Location: Taftanaz, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosques in Taftanaz.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrikes damage two mosques in Idlib Governorate.

Incident Source and Description: On December 9, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG missiles struck near al-Sadiq Mosque and al-Badr Mosque in Taftanaz, causing unspecified damage to both.⁷¹ 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 damage to al-Sadiq and al-Badr Mosques, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

December 9, 2016: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/09/government-forces-shelled-mosque-taftanaz-city-idlib-governorate-december-9-2/>; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/09/government-forces-shelled-mosque-taftanaz-city-idlib-governorate-december-9/>

⁷¹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/09/government-forces-shelled-mosque-taftanaz-city-idlib-governorate-december-9-2/>; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/12/09/government-forces-shelled-mosque-taftanaz-city-idlib-governorate-december-9/>

SHI 16-0192

Report Date: December 15, 2016

Site Name:

Religious Sites and Schools

- Abu Huraira Mosque (مسجد أبو هريرة)
- al-Fadileh School (مدرسة الفضيلة)
- al-Hadadeen Mosque (جامع الحدادين)
- al-Mesla Mosque (جامع المصلى)
- al-Sarawi Mosque (المسجد الصروي) (Madrassa Muqabilat (المدرسة المقابلة))
- al-Dabbagha al-'Atiqa Mosque (Aldbagh Mosque) (جامع الدباغية العتيقة)
- Armenian Catholic Church (كنيسة الأرمن الكاثوليك)
- Atabikiyya Mosque (جامع الاتابكية)
- Bab al-Ahmar Mosque (Mosque Ughulbak) (جامع باب الاحمر)
- Banqusa Mosque (Sûdûn al-Muzaffarî) (جامع بانقوسا)
- Church of our Lady (كنيسة سيدة) (Maronite Church)
- Khanqah al-Farafra (خانقاه الفرفا)
- Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque (المسجد والمدرسة الكلتاوية)
- Mussa bin Nasir Madrasa (مدرسة موسى بن نصر)
- St. Elias Maronite Church (كاتدرائية القديس الياس) (Mar Elias Cathedral)
- Sultaniyah Madrasa (مدرسة السلطانية)
- Qadi Mosque (جامع قاضي)
- Qarleq Mosque (مسجد قارلق)
- Qastal al-Harami Mosque (Bardbak Mosque) (جامع قسطل الحرامي)
- Takiya (or Zawiya) al-Ikhlassiya (الزاوية الاخلاصية الرفاعية)
- Umayyad Mosque (جامع الأمي)
- Usama bin Zaid Mosque (جامع أسامة بن زيد)
- Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque (جامع حذيفة بن اليمان)

Archaeological Sites

- Aleppo Citadel (قلعة حلب)

Historical Sites

- Bab al-Hadid (باب الحديد)
- Beit Muheb (بيت محب)
- Chamber of Industry (غرفة صناعة حلب)
- Dar al-Fatwa (al-Zawiya al-Sayadiya) (دار الفتوى)
- Dar al-Iftaa (Awqaf Directorate) (دار الإفتاء)
- Dar Qatar Agassi (دار قطر أغاسي) (School of Seif al-Dawla (مدرسة سيف الدولة))
- Hammam Bab al-Ahmar (حمام باب الاحمر)
- Old Arab House in Bayada Neighborhood
- Qastal Musht (قسطل المشط)
- Unknown Traditional House

Markets and Khans

- Khan al-Harir (خان الحرير)
- Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri (خان حاج موسى الأميري)
- Suq al-Zarb (سوق الزرب)

Date of Incident: 2014 - December 7, 2016

Location: Old City, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

Religious Sites and Schools

- **Abu Huraira Mosque** - Mosque in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **al-Fadileh School** - School in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **al-Hadadeen Mosque** - According to Gaube and Worth, the mosque was "Built in the mid-14th century, the founder was the Hagg 'Ali b. Ma'tuq ad Dunaisiri (died 1341st), also bore the name of 'old' Mosque of Banqusa; 1841 it was partially renewed, in 1887, it received in the course of the road extension, a new west side, 1893 a new southern wall."⁷²
- **al-Mesla Mosque** - Mosque located on the Bab al-Nasr Street/al-Mazbah Street, near the Bab al-Hadid roundabout.
- **al-Sarawi Mosque** - According to Burns, "Following the bend south (Bayada St), you pass on the left the al-Sarawi Mosque just before an intersection with a right T. This mosque was built by Hajj al-Din Muhammad al-Sarawi in 1402. The façade is noteworthy for its two stalactite-decorated entrances. On the southwest side of the T junction lies the Hammam al-Bayada (1450), one of the oldest surviving baths in Aleppo."⁷³
- **Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa** - Mosque located to the southeast of Sabe' Bahrat Square and to the south of the buildings on Abdel Mun'em Riyad Street. It is an old mosque with a high square minaret made of large blocks of stone. It has two entrance portals, one leading to the prayer hall and the other to the courtyard. On the north-eastern side are tombs, one of which dates from 1404 CE. An inscription indicates that the mosque was built by one Ibn al-Ajami. Its style suggests the building is Ayyubid. The domes of the prayer hall and the other rooms have been reconstructed by the Department of Antiquities. The minaret is either Ayyubid as well, or early Mamluk.⁷⁴
- **Armenian Catholic Church** - According to DGAM, the church was "built in the sixteenth century in Jdeydeh district, it is one of the largest known churches with a length of 32 meters and a width of 16 meters."⁷⁵
- **Atabikiyya Mosque** - Mosque in Old City of Aleppo.
- **Bab al-Ahmar Mosque** - Mosque near the Bab al-Ahmar gate.
- **Banqusa Mosque** - According to Gaube and Wirth, the mosque is "perhaps the predecessor of the present mosque is the area occupied by Ibn al-Saddad already for the 13th-century mosque 'Isa al-Kurdi. Inscription from 1386."⁷⁶
- **Church of our Lady** - Maronite Church in the Jdeide Quarter of Aleppo.

⁷² Gaube and Wirth 1984: 400

⁷³ Burns 2009: 55

⁷⁴ Hadjar 2003: 60

⁷⁵ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eplace.php?placeid=290>

⁷⁶ Gaube and Wirth 1984: 403

- **Khanqah al-Farafra** - According to Burns, "A rare example of a Muslim (Sufi) monastery. The rather severe but pleasing building was constructed in 1237 in the name of the Ayyubid Governor, al-Nasr Yusuf II, son of Sultan al-Aziz but probably actually endowed by his mother, Daifa Khatun. Note the honeycombed entrance, the large iwan in the courtyard and the marble mihrab."⁷⁷
- **Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque** - The Tomb of Sheikh Mohammad Nabhan, his wife, brother, and one son are located near the Kiltawiyya Mosque, also known as the historic Madrasa al- Atabakiyya in the Bab al-Hadid area of the Old City. Tabbaa writes:
 "From his private funds, Toghril built at least three other religious institutions, an intramural *madrasa* for the Hanafis, an extramural *madrasa* for the Hanafis, and a *khanqah* near the Bab al-Arba'in. The most important of these was the *madrasa* al- Atabikiyya of 620/1223, which contains his mausoleum. Today called Jami' al-Kiltawiyya, it exists in a highly fragmentary state just inside Bab al-Hadid at the northeastern corner of the enclosure."⁷⁸
- **Mussa bin Nasir Madrassa** - School in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **St. Elias Maronite Church** - The area where this church is located was named Wara al-'Amara, "Behind the Building," after the construction of the church in 1873 CE. A massive Maronite church, it has high walls overlooking the side lanes, while its main facade looks on Farhat Square. It replaced an older church on the site. St. Elias is a large, simple and spacious church with a high dome. This dome was rebuilt in 1914 with concrete, the first use of this material in Aleppo. The Maronite library within the church contains many valuable and rare manuscripts.⁷⁹
- **Sultaniyah Madrasa** - According to Burns, "Across the road and a little to the left as you look from the entrance of the citadel lies the Madrasa Sultaniye completed in 1223–1225 by Governor (Sultan) al-Aziz, a son of Sultan al-Zaher Ghazi, the project having begun under his father. The mihrab of the prayer room is particularly commended. To the left lies a modest room which contained the cenotaphs of Sultan al-Zaher Ghazi and his family."⁸⁰
- **Qadi Mosque** - Mosque in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **Qarleq Mosque** - According to DGAM, the mosque is "located in Qarlaq district, the mosque belongs to the Mamluk period, built by Seif Eddin ibn Baktmir, Emir of Aleppo in 771 Hijri/1396 AD."⁸¹
- **Qastal al-Harami Mosque** - According to Riwhi, "Qastal al-Harami Mosque (Bardabak Mosque) is located in the Qastal al-Harami quarter. It was built around a stream of water that flows inside of the main facade. The mosque was renovated by the Mamluk prince Bardabek in 1490. All that remains now of the original structure is the facade, the stream, a turbeh with the tomb of Bardabek and the minaret."⁸²
- **Takiya al-Ikhlassiya** - According to Hadjar, "The Ikhlassiya Takiya, located in the Bayada quarter, was built by the wazir Muhammed Basha Arnaout in 1634 in honor of the Sheikh Ikhlas Khalwati (died 1074). It is now used as the Rifai hermitage (khalwa) where his followers congregate in religious seclusion."⁸³

⁷⁷ Burns 2009: 55

⁷⁸ Tabbaa 1977:38

⁷⁹ Burns 2014

⁸⁰ Burns 2000:47

⁸¹ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eplace.php?placeid=124>

⁸² Rihawi 1979: 184

⁸³ Hadjar 2000: 62

- **Umayyad Mosque** - Burns writes, "The Great Mosque within the walled city of Aleppo is unjustly given second billing after the Great Mosque of the Umayyads in Damascus. While it lacks the richness of the associations with early Islam and the Roman predecessor on the Damascus site, the Aleppo Great Mosque has its own unique sense of symmetry and calm which owes much to the rebuilding of the mosque in the Ayyubid years, after a disastrous fire. It thus provides us with one of the most striking statements of the purity of form of Islamic medieval architecture. The site of the mosque was originally at the centre of the ancient city and falls partly on the ground used for the sixth century Cathedral of St Helena (the mother of Constantine). A remarkable madrasa to the west of the mosque, the Madrasa Halawiye, preserves part of the cathedral following its twelfth century conversion to serve as a madrasa. The remains of the cathedral were seized in reprisal following the unsuccessful Crusader assault on Aleppo in 1124 and their sacking of important Shi'ite shrines outside the city."⁸⁴
- **Usama bin Zaid Mosque** - Mosque in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque** - Mosque in the Bustan al-Qasr District of Aleppo.

Archaeological Sites

- **Aleppo Citadel** - From UNESCO: "The monumental Citadel of Aleppo, rising above the suqs, mosques and madrasas of the old walled city, is testament to Arab military might from the 12th to the 14th centuries. With evidence of past occupation by civilizations dating back to the 10th century B.C., the citadel contains the remains of mosques, palace and bath buildings. The walled city that grew up around the citadel bears evidence of the early Graeco-Roman street layout and contains remnants of 6th century Christian buildings, medieval walls and gates, mosques and madrasas relating to the Ayyubid and Mameluke development of the city, and later mosques and palaces of the Ottoman period. A ring of crenellated walls and towers rise 50m above the city from a steep glacis, encircling a mass of ruins of every period. The nail-heads on the doors themselves are beautifully worked, the lintels have comic or enigmatic carvings on them, and there are fine Kufic inscriptions calling upon the power and the mercy of Allah. The interior of the citadel shows all too clearly how it has been ravaged by enemies (the Mongols invaded it twice) and shattered by earthquakes (that of 1822 was particularly devastating)."⁸⁵

Historical Sites

- **Bab al-Hadid** - According to Yassir Tabbaa: "Bab al-Hadid ("Gate of Victory") is one of the nine historical gates of the Ancient City of Aleppo, Syria. It is one of the well-preserved gates of old Aleppo. The gate was planned during the reign of Az-Zahir Ghazi and built by his son Mohammed as Bab al-Qanat ("Aqueduct Gate"). It was rebuilt by the final Mamluk sultan Al-Ashraf Qansuh al-Ghawri in 1509. The gate and surrounding quarters of the Old City are some of the best preserved areas in the Old City of Aleppo. It was historically known for its blacksmiths and to this day, there are some operating with the same traditional practices, most of whom have had the trade in their family for many generations."⁸⁶
- **Beit Muheb** - Secular site in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **Chamber of Industry** - Government building in Old Aleppo, housing a courthouse and other offices.

⁸⁴ <http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrasa-halawiye/>

⁸⁵ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/21>

⁸⁶ al-Tabbaa 1997:23-26

- **Dar al-Fatwa** - According to DGAM, “Located east of the Citadel of Aleppo, in the locality of Bab al-Ahmar, it is the first building constructed within the walls of the old city copying the European architectural style. It was built by Abu al-Huda al-Sayadi, to be the residence of his father, Hassan Wadi. Its construction took about 30 years between 1878 and 1908. The elders of al-Sayadi family were buried in it. It was donated by his heirs to the Awqaf department in Aleppo to be converted into Dar al-Fatwa.”⁸⁷
- **Dar al-Iftaa** - The Dar al-Iftaa housed the Awqaf Directorate.
- **Dar Qatar Agassi (School of Saif al-Dawla)** - Building includes the Buildings Department of DGAM and the Directorate of the Old City.⁸⁸
- **Hammam Bab al-Ahmar** - Hammam in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **Old Arab House** - Unknown
- **Qastal Musht** - Unknown
- **Unknown Traditional House** - Unknown

Markets and Khans

- **Khan al-Harir** - According to Hajar, “Khan al-Harir is a two-story building dating to the mid-16th century. It was used as the Iranian Consulate in 1919. It has one entrance and a square courtyard.”⁸⁹ According to DGAM, “It contains shops and facilities for selling and buying textiles, silk and all sorts of Syrian fabrics, as well as the most important and famous factories of textiles in the region.”⁹⁰
- **Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri** - Ancient khan located in the Old City of Aleppo.
- **Suq al-Zarb** - According to DGAM, Souq al-Zarb was originally known as al-Dharb (coinage) market, where Mamluk coins were struck. More recently, it served as a market for textiles.⁹¹

Site Date:

Religious Sites and Schools

- Abu Huraira Mosque - Modern
- al-Fadileh School - Unknown
- al-Hadadeen Mosque - Mid-14th Century AD. Extensive 19th century renovations.⁹²
- al-Mesla Mosque - Unknown
- al-Sarawi Mosque - 1402 CE
- Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa - Ayyubid
- Armenian Catholic Church - Consecrated in 1840 CE.
- Atabikiyya Mosque - Unknown
- Bab al-Ahmar Mosque - Unknown
- Banqusa Mosque - 1300s
- Church of our Lady - Unknown
- Khanqah al-Farafra - 1237 CE
- Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque - Built 1223 CE. Renovated 1974 CE.⁹³
- Mussa bin Nasir Madrasa - Unknown

⁸⁷ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy>

⁸⁸ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2143>

⁸⁹ Hadjar 2000: 27

⁹⁰ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eplace.php?placeid=245>

⁹¹ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eplace.php?placeid=133#>

⁹² Gaube and Wirth 1984: 400

⁹³ al-Tabbaa 1997

- St. Elias Maronite Church - 1873 CE
- Sultaniyah Madrasa - 1225 CE⁹⁴
- Qadi Mosque - 13th Century CE⁹⁵
- Qarleq Mosque - 1396 CE⁹⁶
- Qastal al-Harami Mosque - Renovated 1490 CE.⁹⁷
- Takiya al-Ikhlassiya - 1634 CE⁹⁸
- Umayyad Mosque - Built 715 CE. Reconstructed 11th Century CE.
- Usama bin Zaid Mosque - Unknown
- Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque - Unknown

Archaeological Sites

- Aleppo Citadel - Early Bronze Age through Ottoman; Medieval to late-Ottoman with modern additions and restorations.

Historical Sites

- Bab al-Hadid - Ayyubid (1200 CE). Rebuilt in Mamluk Period.
- Beit Muheb - Unknown
- Chamber of Industry - Unknown
- Dar al-Fatwa - 1878 CE
- Dar al-Iftaa - Based on the architecture, Ottoman or French Mandate Period.
- Dar Qatar Agassi (School of Saif al-Dawla) - Unknown
- Hammam Bab al-Ahmar - Unknown
- Old Arab House - Based on the architecture, Arab or French Mandate Period.
- Qastal Musht - Unknown (Historical Neighborhood)
- Unknown Traditional House - Based on the architecture, Arab or French Mandate Period.

Markets and Khans

- Khan al-Harir - 16th Century CE
- Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri - Unknown
- Suq al-Zarb - Mamluk

Incident Summary: New photographs were released by various sources showing damage to multiple sites in Aleppo.

Incident Source and Description: On December 7, 2016 SARG and pro-regime forces captured the Old City of Aleppo. Subsequent photographs, video, and drone footage showed the extent of the damage to the area, including extensive damage to the Citadel.⁹⁹

Religious Sites

- **Abu Huraira Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe combat related damage to the dome and walls of the mosque.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ Gaube and Wirth 1984: 384

⁹⁵ <http://apsa2011.com/apsanew/aleppo-state-of-the-al-qady-al-mehmendar-mosque-13th-century/>

⁹⁶ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/damages/eplace.php?placeid=124>

⁹⁷ Rihawi 1979: 184

⁹⁸ Hadjar 2000: 62

⁹⁹ <http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2132>

¹⁰⁰ <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/what-have-arabs-done-aleppo-754570222>

- **al-Fadileh School** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate to severe damage to the school and surrounding neighborhood.¹⁰¹
- **al-Hadadeen Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe combat related damage including a collapsed roof and dome. Minor to moderate combat related damage is also present in the form of bullet holes, and shrapnel holes in the walls and minaret. The minaret is still intact. For more information on previous damage to al-Hadadeen Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0004 in Weekly Report 1; SHI 14-0025 in Weekly Report 5; SHI 16-0071 in Weekly Report 93-94.**
- **al-Mesla Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate to severe combat related damage to the mosque including collapsed walls, bullet and shrapnel holes, blocked windows, and the presence of rubble. The dome of the mosque is intact, but minor combat damage is apparent. Rubble is present in the interior of the mosque.
- **al-Sarawi Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show a large crack in the dome of the mosque, structural damage to roof and minaret, and combat related damage to the walls. This mosque was reportedly hit by a barrel bomb on January 2, 2015. For more information on previous damage to al-Sarawi Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0030 in Weekly Report 29.**
- **Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa** - According to DGAM, newly released photographs show 'medium damage' within Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa.¹⁰² For more information on previous damage to Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40.**
- **Armenian Catholic Church** - A recent video from December 2016 shows damage to the interior of the Armenian Catholic Church, including debris from a large hole in the ceiling.¹⁰³ For more information on previous damage to the Armenian Catholic Church, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0006 in Weekly Report 24; SHI 15-0006 UPDATE in Weekly Report 36.**
- **Atabikiyya Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight damage to the door of mosque.
- **Bab al-Ahmar Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight damage to the mosque's walls related to combat and moderate damage to the minaret, with the top of it having large bullet/shrapnel holes. For more information on previous damage to Bab al-Ahmar Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0014 in Weekly Report 1.**
- **Banqusa Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate damage to the inside of the mosque including the courtyard and exterior including bullet and shrapnel holes. There is severe damage to the roof and walls of the mosque. The minaret of the mosque remains intact. There is also evidence of theft and vandalism inside the mosque. For more information on previous damage to Banqusa Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0004 in Weekly Report 1.**
- **Church of our Lady** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe structural damage to the church with parts of the roof missing and damage to the walls. The interior of the church is full of rubble and debris.

¹⁰¹ <http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2137>

¹⁰² <http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2143>

¹⁰³ <https://www.facebook.com/armenian.aleppo/videos/673734592787643/>

- **Khanqah al-Farafra** - Video released in December 2016 shows moderate damage to the courtyard and walls of Khanqah al-Farafra. There is evidence of bullet/shrapnel holes, as well as fire damage to the walls. Rubble is present in the courtyard.¹⁰⁴
- **Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show the dome and minaret of the al-Kiltawiya Mosque in the background. The top of the minaret is missing. A shrine, located inside the mosque, was reportedly destroyed in 2015. For more information on previous damage to Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0009 in Weekly Report 24**.
- **Mussa bin Nasir Madrassa** - Photographs released in December 2016 show minor damage to the building, with charring and bullet/shrapnel holes in the walls, as well as missing windows.
- **St. Elias Maronite Church** - Photographs released in December 2016 show minor damage to the front facade of the building, mainly missing glass panes from the windows and rubble in the street in front of it.¹⁰⁵ For more information on previous damage to St. Elias Maronite Church, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0066 in Weekly Report 36** and **SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40**.
- **Sultaniyah Madrasa** - Photographs released in December 2016 show destruction to the Madrasa, showing only one corner of the building remaining standing.¹⁰⁶ For previous reports on damage to Sultaniyah Madrasa, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0097 in Weekly Report 18; SHI 14-0097 UPDATE in Weekly Report 19; SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40; SHI 16-0018 in Weekly Report 79-80**.
- **Qadi Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 shows an intact minaret at the mosque, with slight damage.¹⁰⁷ However, severe structural damage occurred in 2012 including massive damage to the dome, two of the walls, and part of the minaret.¹⁰⁸
- **Qarleq Mosque** - Newly released photographs show severe structural damage including a collapsed roof and missing panes of glass in the windows. The minaret is intact and the courtyard is full of rubble.
- **Qastal al-Harami Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe structural damage including the missing dome and bullet/shrapnel holes in the walls of the mosque.¹⁰⁹ For more information on previous damage to Qastal al-Harami Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0016 in Weekly Report 26-27**.
- **Takiya al-Ikhlassiya** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate structural damage to the facade and courtyard of the building.
- **Umayyad Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe structural damage including the destroyed minaret, as well as damage to the walls near the minaret. The photographs also show moderate damage to the courtyard, including the structure over the fountain, as well as bullet/shrapnel holes in walls, and fire damage. For more information on previous damage to Umayyad Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0040 in Weekly Report 9; SHI 15-0015 in Weekly Report 26-27; SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40; SHI 15-0085 in Weekly Report 41; SHI 16-0071 in Weekly Report 93-94**.

¹⁰⁴ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1017683871710710

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1018705671608530&set=pb.100004073201466.-2207520000.1490293751>

¹⁰⁶ https://www.facebook.com/pg/aleppoarchaeology/photos/?tab=album&album_id=628511757207349

¹⁰⁷ https://www.facebook.com/pg/aleppoarchaeology/photos/?tab=album&album_id=628511757207349

¹⁰⁸ <http://apsa2011.com/apsanew/aleppo-state-of-the-al-qady-al-mehmendar-mosque-13th-century/>

¹⁰⁹ <http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2137>

- **Usama bin Zaid Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe structural damage to the roof and minaret of the mosque. Moderate damage is also apparent to the dome.¹¹⁰
- **Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque** - Photographs released in December 2016 show damage to the interior and exterior of Huzaifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque.¹¹¹

Archaeological Sites

- **Aleppo Citadel** - Newly released photographs show slight to moderate damage to the tell mound that the citadel is on top, from previous tunnel bombs, as well as more recent shelling. There is moderate to severe damage present to the walls of the citadel, and moderate damage to the causeway (rubble, damage to the towers and walls, vegetation overgrowth).¹¹² For more information on previous damage to the Aleppo Citadel, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0035 in Weekly Report 7; SHI 14-0076 in Weekly Report 14; SHI 15-0085 in Weekly Report 41; SHI 15-0087 in Weekly Report 41; SHI 15-0093 in Weekly Report 42-43; SHI 15-0100 in Weekly Report 49; SHI 15-0148 in Weekly Report 67-68; SHI 16-0018 in Weekly Report 79-80; SHI 16-0124 in Weekly Report 105-106.**

Historical Sites

- **Bab al-Hadid** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight to moderate damage to the walls, steps, and roof of the gate.¹¹³ For more information on previous damage to Bab al-Hadid, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0087 in Weekly Report 16-17.**
- **Beit Muheb** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate damage to the building's courtyard.¹¹⁴
- **Chamber of Industry** - Photographs released in December 2016 show a collapsed wing of the Chamber of Industry building.¹¹⁵ For more information on previous damage to the Chamber of Industry, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0085 in Weekly Report 41.**
- **Dar al-Fatwa** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate damage to the roof and courtyard of the building.
- **Dar al-Iftaa** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate damage to the outside of the building.
- **Dar Qatar Agassi** - Photographs released in December 2016 show damage to the interior of the Dar Qatar Agassi.¹¹⁶
- **Hammam Bab al-Ahmar** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight damage to the site and the placement of sandbags in the windows.
- **Old Arab House** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight to moderate damage to walls and the courtyard.
- **Qastal Musht** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe damage to the walls and roof of buildings in the Qastal Musht neighborhood.¹¹⁷

¹¹⁰ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1017683871710710

¹¹¹ <http://www.awqaf-aleppo.sy/ar/news/view/269.html>

¹¹² https://www.facebook.com/pg/aleppoarchaeology/photos/?tab=album&album_id=628511757207349

¹¹³ https://www.facebook.com/pg/aleppoarchaeology/photos/?tab=album&album_id=628511757207349

¹¹⁴ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2139>

¹¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=383984325268716&set=pcb.383984505268698&type=3&theater>

¹¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1539453469403847&set=pcb.1539453679403826&type=3&theater>

¹¹⁷ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=2137>

- **Unknown Traditional House** - Photographs released in December 2016 show slight to moderate damage to the outside walls and mashrabiyyah (wooden lattice-work bay window) of the house.¹¹⁸

Markets and Khans

- **Khan al-Harir** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe damage to the building, including missing walls.¹¹⁹
- **Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri** - Photographs released in December 2016 show moderate damage to the interior and exterior of the Khan, including evidence for severe burning and graffiti on the exterior.
- **Suq al-Zarb** - Photographs released in December 2016 show severe damage to the area with collapsed roofs and destroyed shops.¹²⁰ For more information on previous damage to Suq al-Zarb, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0085** in **Weekly Report 41** and **SHI 16-0018** in **Weekly Report 79-80**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives, gunfire/light weaponry, occupation/militarization; Vandalism; Theft; Agricultural disturbances; Site management; Natural impacts.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will attempt to gather further information on damage to the sites listed as damaged in this incident report, and will continue to monitor heritage sites in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

Sources:

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https://www.facebook.com/pg/aleppoarchaeology/photos/?tab=album&album_id=628511757207349

Al Jazeera: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDK_USMTd6g

Armenian.aleppo (مطرانية الأرمن الكاثوليك حلب)/Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/armenian.aleppo?fref=nf>

Awqaf Aleppo:

December 13, 2016: <http://www.awqaf-aleppo.sy/ar/news/view/269.html>

December 14, 2016: <http://www.awqaf-aleppo.sy/ar/news/view/270.html>

¹¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/savingantiquities/permalink/10154932288154642/>

¹¹⁹ <http://dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=2132>

¹²⁰ <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2452482/shocking-images-show-once-thriving-city-of-aleppo-has-been-destroyed-by-conflict-but-locals-still-manage-to-celebrate-their-first-christmas-in-four-years/>

DGAM:

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al-Tabbaa, Yasser Ahmad. 1997. *Constructions of Power and Piety in Medieval Aleppo: 1178-1260*. Pennsylvania.

Abu Huraira Mosque



A soldier observes damage to Abu Huraira Mosque (Middle East Eye; December 13, 2016)

al-Fadileh School



Severe damage to al-Fadileh School (DGAM; December 9, 2016)

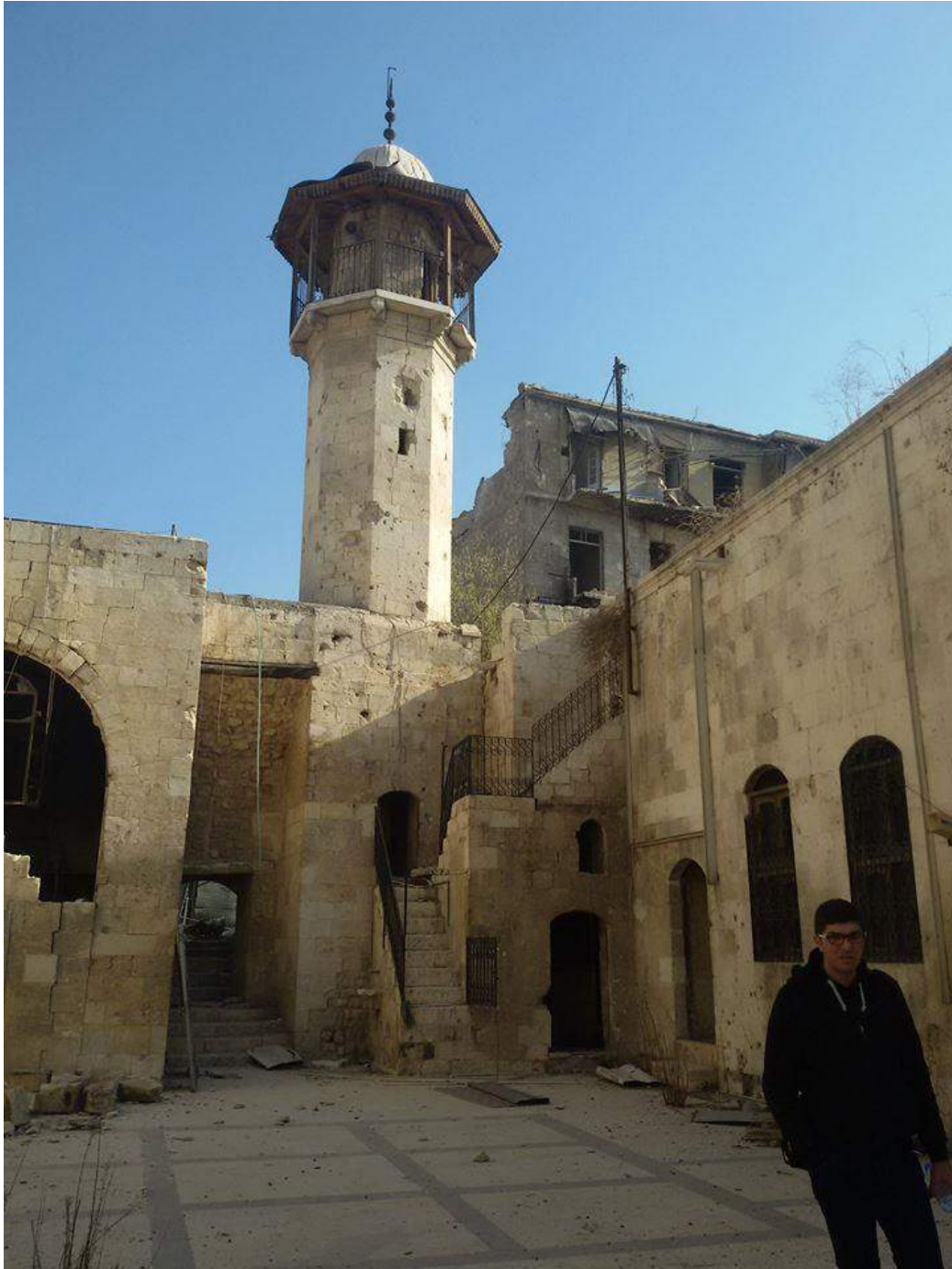


Severe damage to al-Fadileh School (DGAM; December 9, 2016)



Severe damage to area surrounding al-Fadileh School (DGAM; December 9, 2016)

al-Hadadeen Mosque



al-Hadadeen Mosque, showing intact minaret and damage from gunfire/shrapnel on walls (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



The minbar of al-Hadadeen Mosque, partially buried under rubble (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to inside of al-Hadadeen Mosque, showing mihrab and minbar (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



The collapse of what is possibly a ceiling or door inside al-Hadadeen Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Severe structural damage to al-Hadadeen Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



The minaret of al-Hadadeen Mosque is seen above the heavily damaged mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Another view of damage inside al-Hadadeen Mosque, a bus appears wedged alongside the minbar of the mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



One wall of al-Hadadeen Mosque with less damage to the facade (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Courtyard of al-Hadadeen Mosque, showing neglect and damage to the structure (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

al-Mesla Mosque



Severe damage to building adjacent to al-Mesla Mosque, with mosque in background (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Moderate to severe damage to the outside of al-Mesla Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Moderate to severe damage to outside of al-Mesla Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Rubble filled interior of al-Mesla Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the interior of al-Mesla Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

al-Sarawi Mosque



Courtyard of al-Sarawi Mosque showing damage to walls and large crack in dome (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Courtyard of al-Sarawi Mosque showing damage to roof and walls, as well as rubble in courtyard (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage in the courtyard of al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Rubble and debris inside al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Debris inside al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



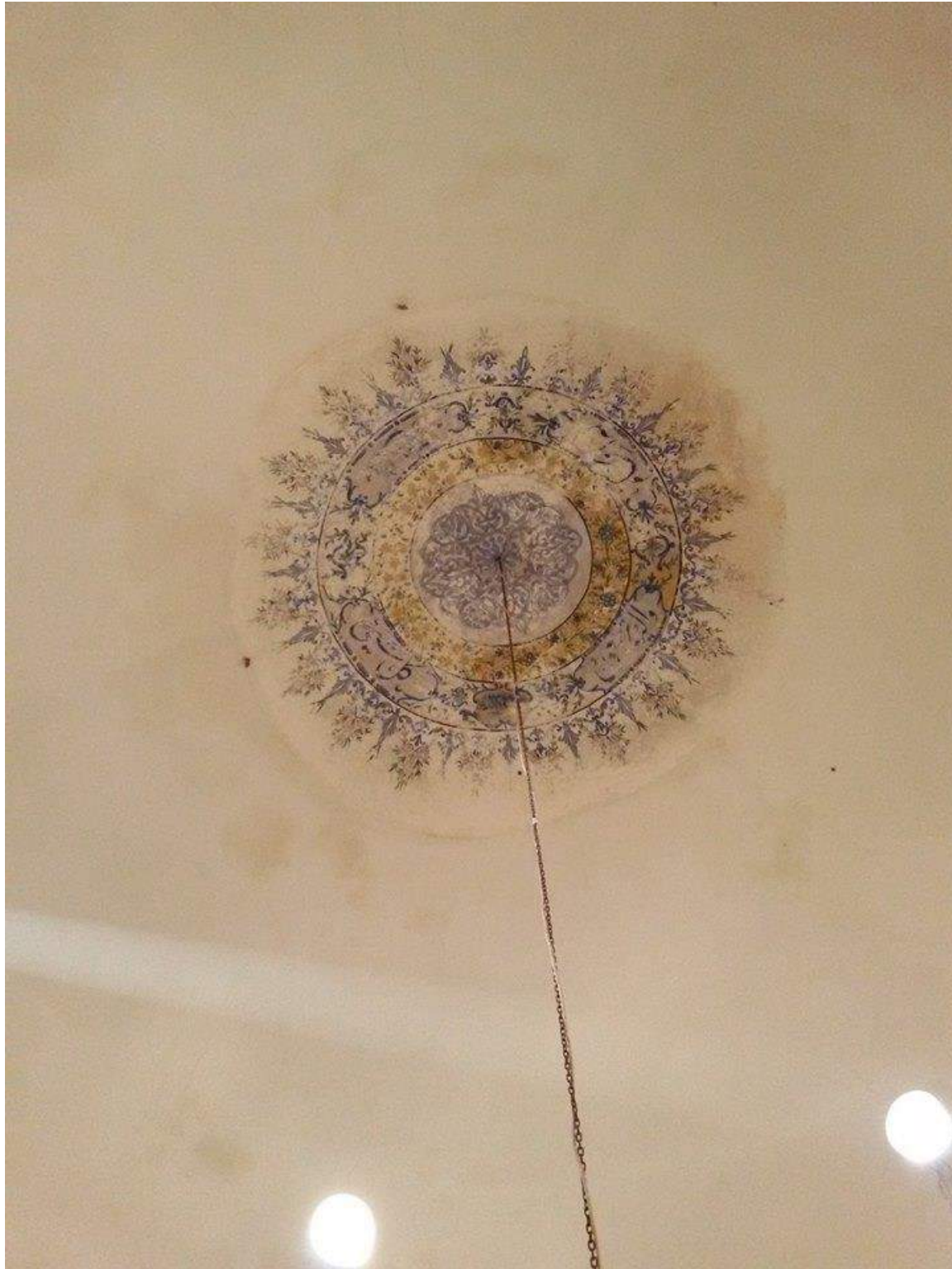
Blocked windows at al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Slight damage to mihrab and minbar inside al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the inside of al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



A mostly undamaged painted motif inside al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Moderate damage to the minaret of al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Another view of damage to al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



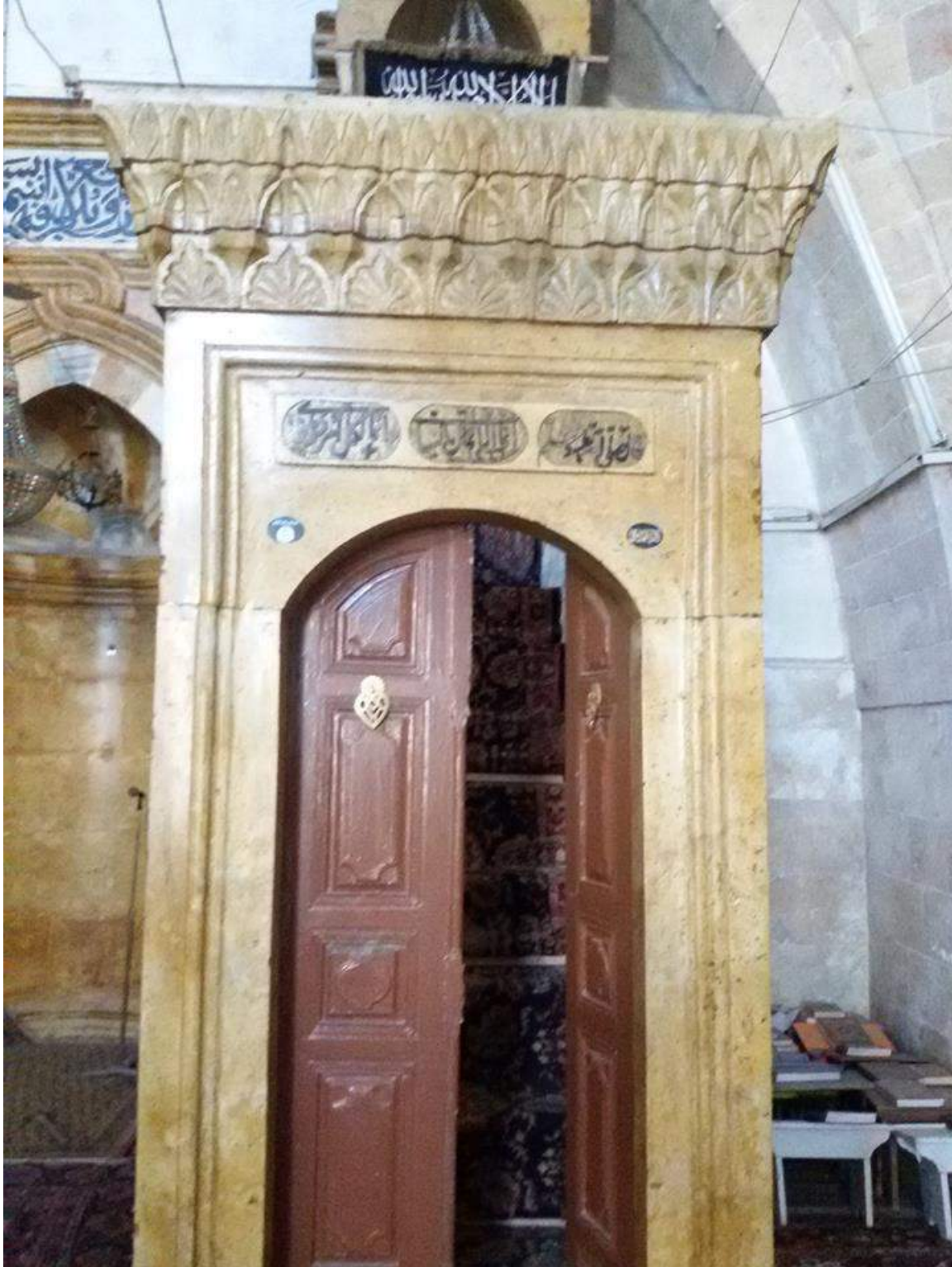
Overgrowth of vegetation on the dome of al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



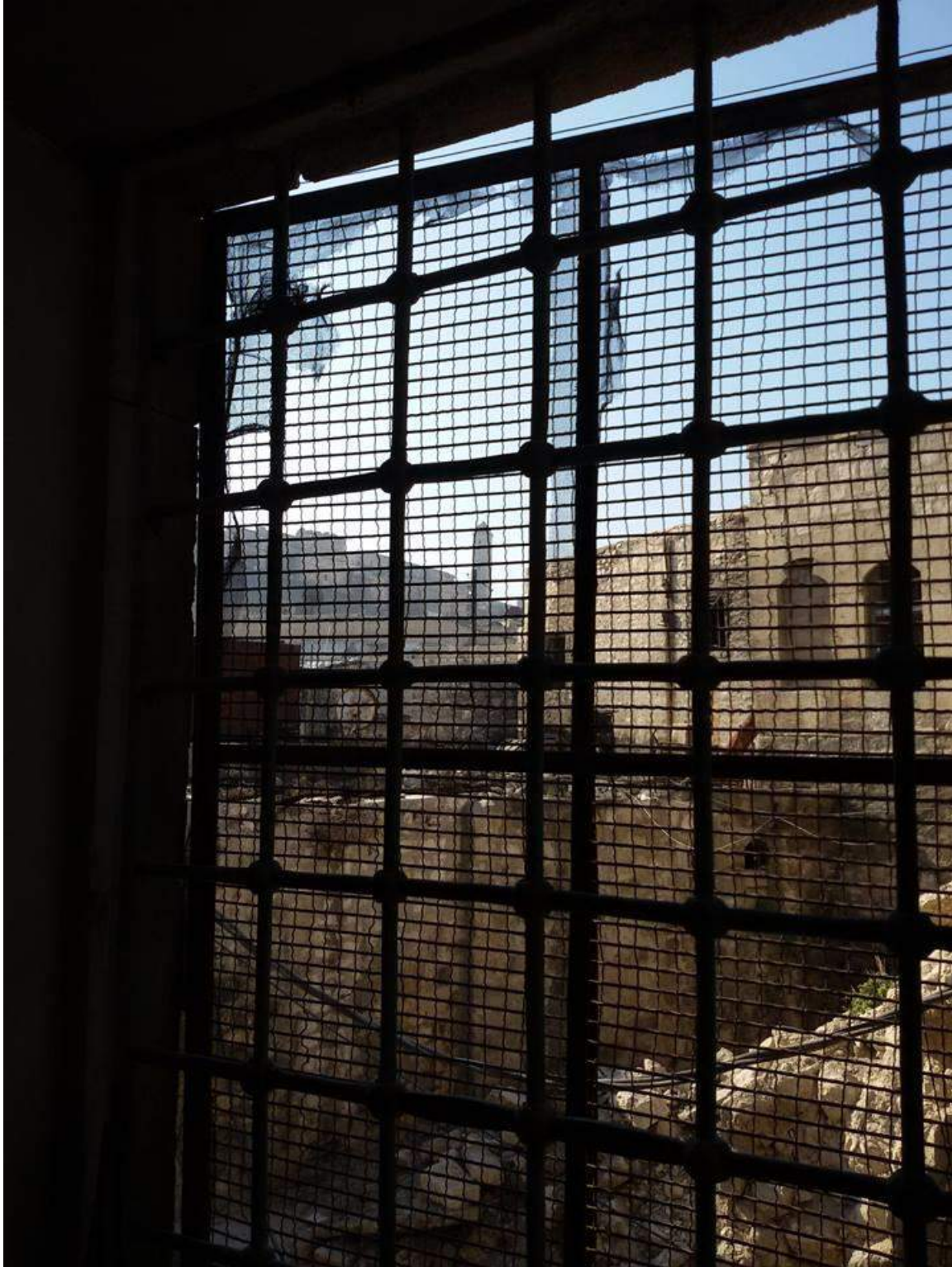
Light damage to al-Sarawi Mosque and Madrasa Muqabilat (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



The hangings of a chandelier in al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Minimal damage to the minbar at al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



A view of damage in old Aleppo as seen from al-Sarawi Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Moderate damage to inside of al-Sarawi Mosque showing fire damage (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa

مديرية المدينة القديمة بحلب
Directorate of Old city of Aleppo



Debris on the wall around Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa and visible damage to the minaret (DGAM; December 9, 2016)



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www.dgam.gov.sy
Dec. 2016

Damage to the minaret of Mosque Dabbagha al-'Atiqa, with a hole in the side and wooden supports (DGAM; December 10, 2016)

Armenian Catholic Church



Debris within the interior of the Armenian Catholic Church (Armenian.aleppo/Facebook; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the altar within the Armenian Catholic Church (Armenian.aleppo/Facebook; December 10, 2016)



Severe damage to the roof of the Armenian Catholic Church (Armenian.aleppo/Facebook; December 10, 2016)

Atabikiyya Mosque



Minor damage to the door of the Atabikiyya Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Bab al-Ahmar Mosque



Undamaged religious writings inside Bab al-Ahmar Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



An exterior wall of Bab al-Ahmar Mosque showing bullet damage (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Bab al-Ahmar Mosque with bullet/shrapnel damage and damage to the minaret (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Bab al-Ahmar Mosque with damage to the mihrab (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Material damage at Bab al-Ahmar Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Rubble and vegetation overgrowth in the courtyard of Bab al-Ahmar Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Banqusa Mosque



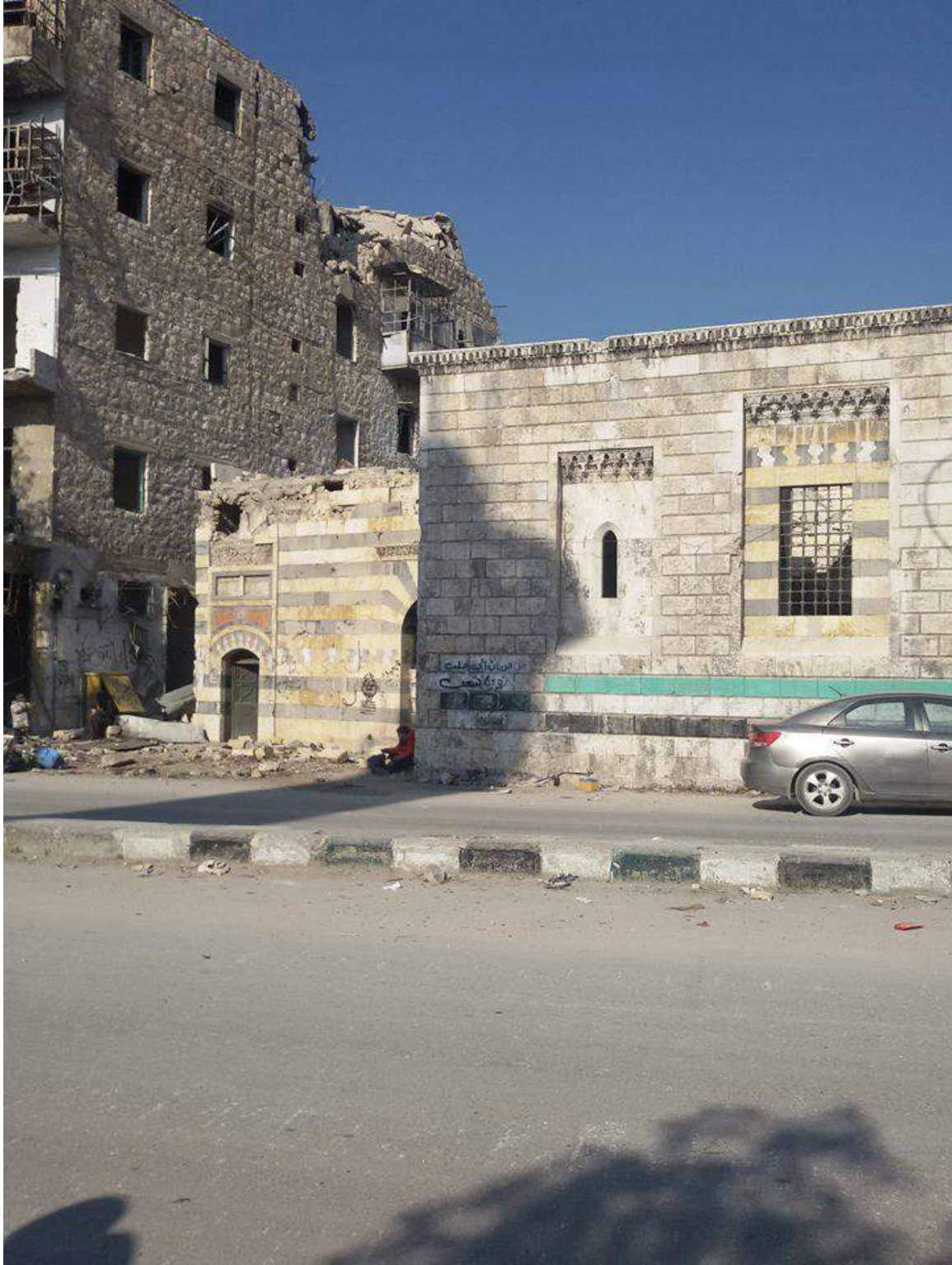
Damage surrounding Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Rubble and vegetation overgrowth in courtyard of Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Minaret and walls of Banqusa Mosque showing damage from gunfire/shelling (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to outside of Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Detail of damage to the mihrab inside Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



A photograph showing vandalism and theft of an unknown object at Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the minbar at Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Banqusa Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

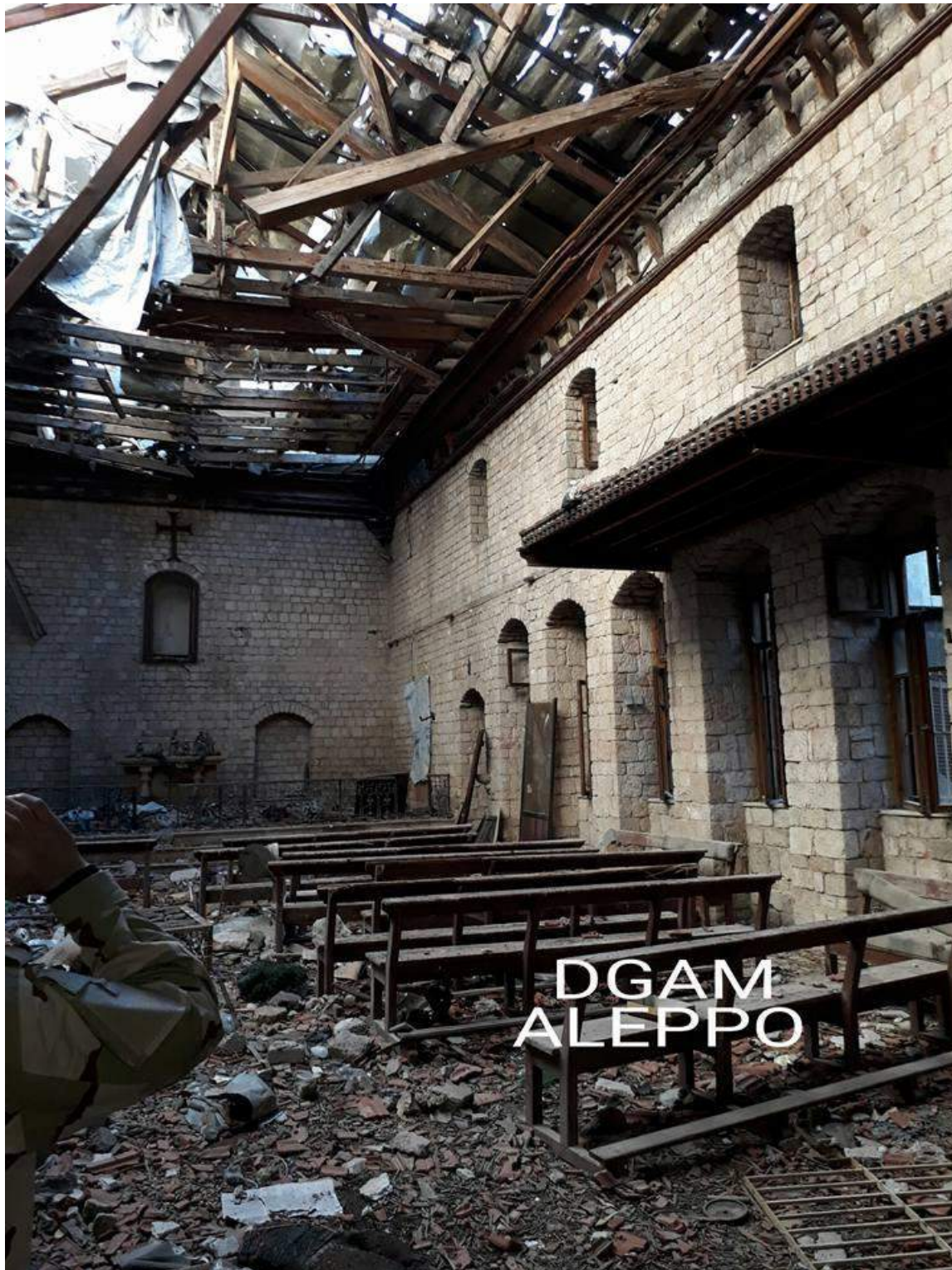
Church of our Lady



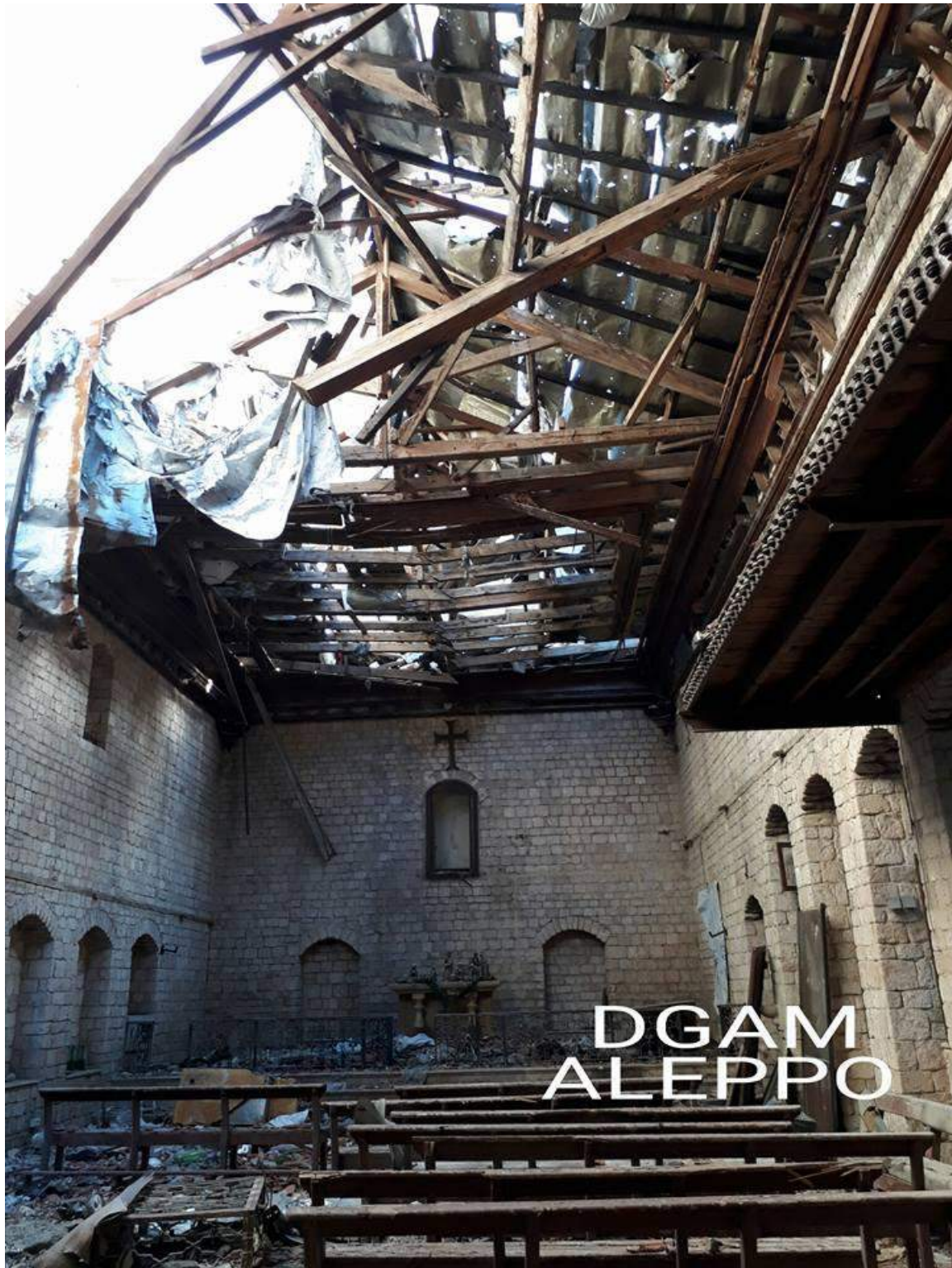
A makeshift nativity scene is set up in the damaged Church of Our Lady (Private Twitter Account; December 8, 2016)



Damage to the interior of the Church of Our Lady (DGAM Aleppo; December 8, 2016)



Damage to the interior of the Church of Our Lady (DGAM Aleppo; December 8, 2016)



Damage to the interior of the Church of Our Lady (DGAM Aleppo; December 8, 2016)



Pro-regime forces stand with a Syrian priest inside the damaged Church of Our Lady (Private Twitter Account; December 8, 2016)

Khanqah al-Farafra



Video still of moderate damage to the Khanqah, showing bullet/shrapnel holes as well as evidence of severe burning (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)



Video still of moderate damage to the Khanqah, showing bullet/shrapnel holes as well as evidence of burning (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)



Video still of moderate damage to the Khanqah, showing bullet/shrapnel holes as well as evidence of burning (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)

Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque



Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque in background with green dome and damaged minaret (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the Bab al-Hadid Neighborhood with Kiltawiya Madrasa and Mosque in background (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)

Mussa bin Nasir Madrassa



Minor damage to the Musa bin Nasir Madrassa showing missing windows, fire damage, and shrapnel holes (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Minor damage to the Musa bin Nasir Madrassa showing missing glass panes and rubble (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

St. Elias Maronite Church



Minor damage to St. Elias Maronite Church showing missing glass panes and rubble in street (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)

Sultaniyah Madrasa



Severe damage to the Sultaniyah Madrasa showing only the far corner standing (Aleppo Glory حلب
المجد/Facebook; December 10, 2016)

Qadi Mosque



Light damage to Qadi Mosque (Aleppo Archaeology; December 12, 2016)

Qarleq Mosque



The intact minaret of the Qarleq Mosque (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



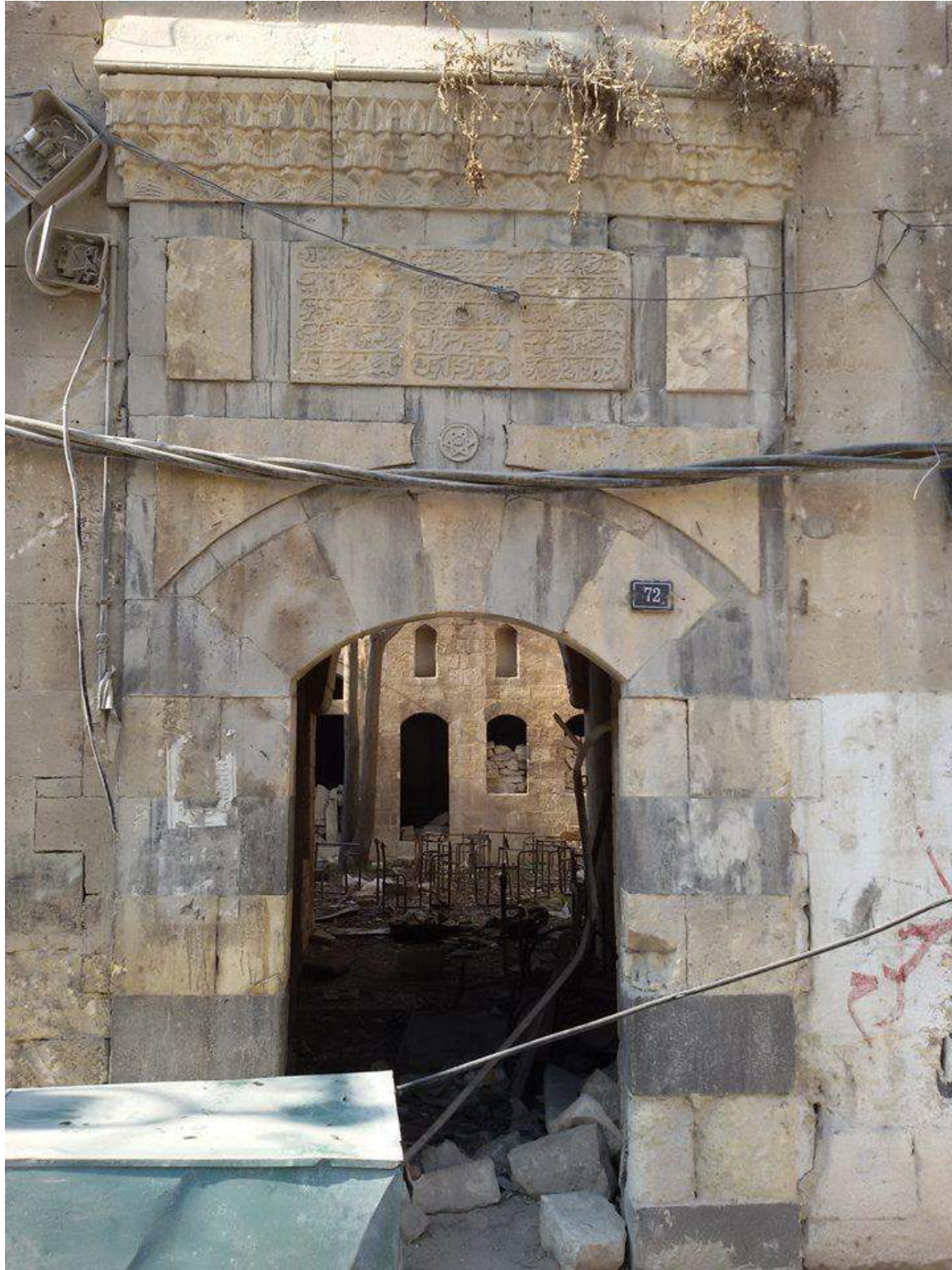
Moderate damage to the Qarleq Mosque, showing damaged roof (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Qastal al-Harami Mosque



A heavily damaged Qastal al-Harami Mosque, likely with dome missing (DGAM Aleppo; December 8, 2016)

Takiya al-Ikhlassiya



Damage to the outside of Takiya al-Ikhlassiya (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the courtyard of Takiya al-Ikhlassiya (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Umayyad Mosque



Moderate damage to the structure covering the fountain in the courtyard (Aleppo Glory حلب المجد/Facebook; December 10, 2016)



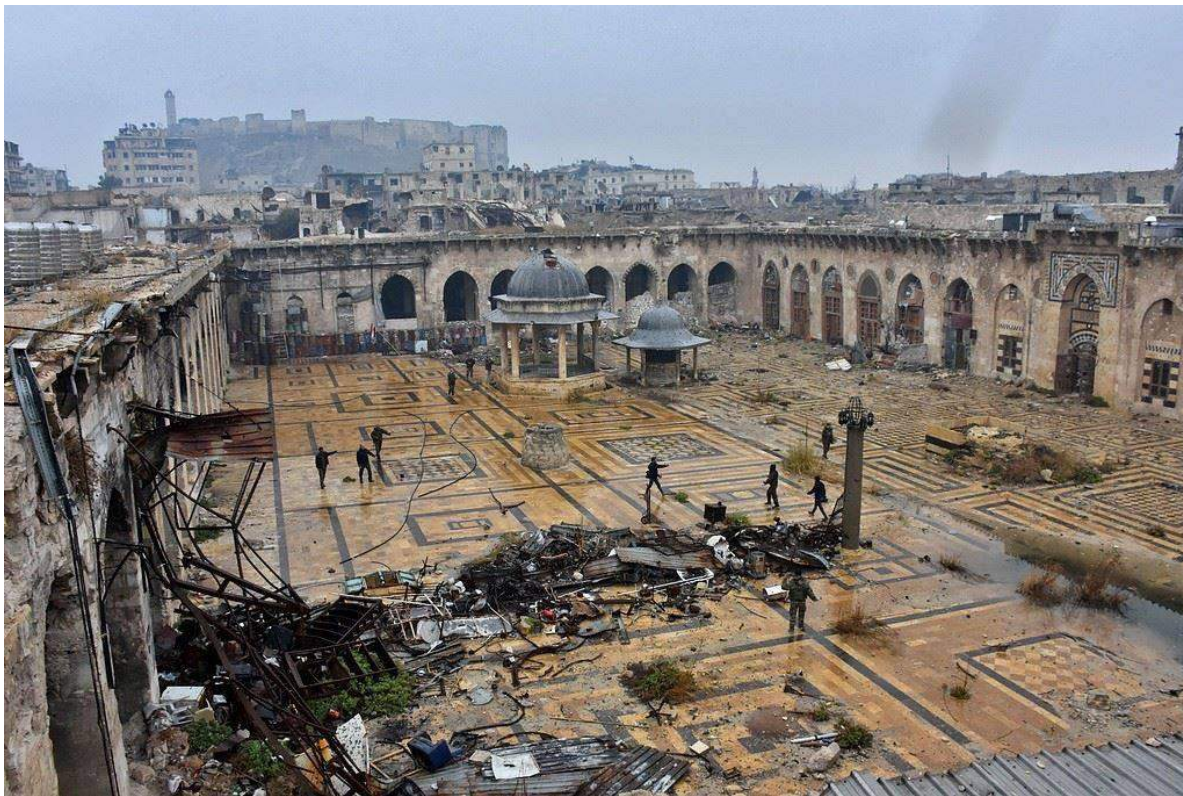
Moderate damage to the structure covering the fountain in the courtyard (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)



Severe damage to the Umayyad mosque showing missing minaret and extensive damage to the walls (Aleppo Glory حلب المجد/Facebook; December 10, 2016)



Severe damage to the Umayyad Mosque showing the missing minaret (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)



Moderate to severe damage to the Umayyad Mosque (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)



Moderate damage to the Umayyad Mosque courtyard (Aleppo Glory حلب المجد/Facebook; December 10, 2016)



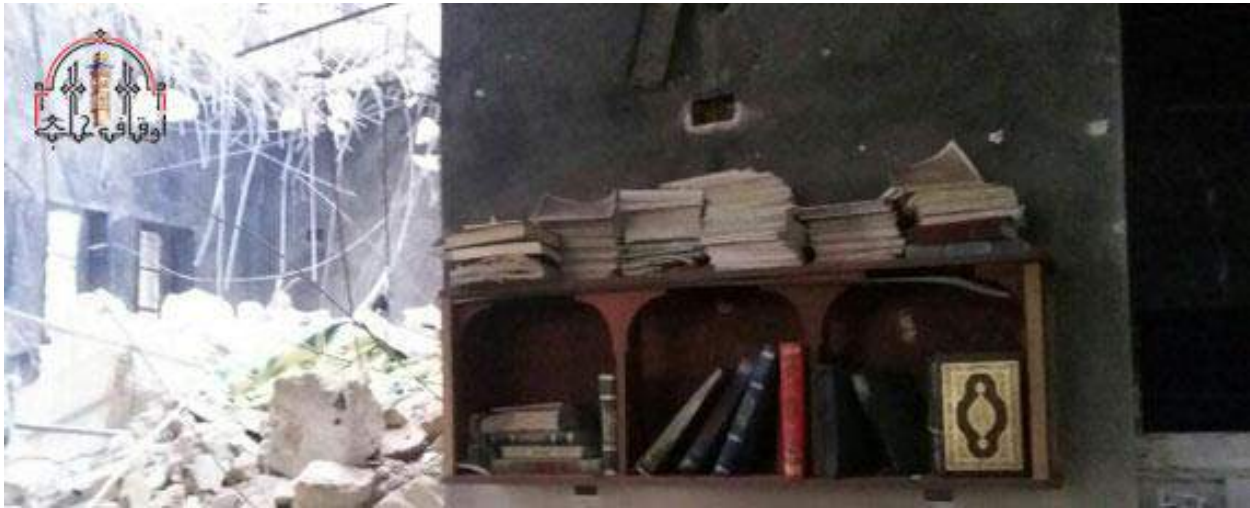
Severe damage to the area around the Umayyad Mosque (Khalid Masri; December 12, 2016)

Usama bin Zaid Mosque



A heavily damaged Usama bin Zaid Mosque in the Old City (Khalid Masri/DGAM; December 9, 2016)

Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque



Damage to the interior of Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque (Awqaf Aleppo; December 13, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque during an inspection of the site (Awqaf Aleppo; December 13, 2016)



Damage to the exterior of Huzeifa ibn al-Yaman Mosque during an inspection (Awqaf Aleppo; December 13, 2016)

Aleppo Citadel



A view of the Aleppo Citadel (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)



Damage to the Aleppo Citadel (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)



SARG forces near a raised Syrian flag on the Aleppo Citadel (AFP; December 7, 2016)



A view of Old Aleppo from the Citadel (Twitter; December 8, 2016)



SARG forces atop the Aleppo Citadel (La Presse; December 7, 2016)



A 3D image depicting the damage to the Aleppo Citadel (Aleppo Archaeology/ICONEM; December 12, 2016)



Damage to the causeway of the Aleppo Citadel (Aleppo Archaeology; December 12, 2016)



Damage to area south of the Aleppo Citadel (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)

Bab al-Hadid



Damage to the Bab al-Hadid Neighborhood and Bab al-Hadid Gate (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)



Mild damage to the Bab al-Hadid Gate (Aleppo Archaeology; December 12, 2016)



Pro-regime forces walk through Bab al-Hadid Neighborhood (George Ourfalian/AFP; December 8, 2016)

Beit Muheb



Cosmetic damage and the presence of weaponry at Beit Muheb (DGAM; December 10, 2016)



Damage and rubble seen at Beit Muheb (DGAM; December 10, 2016)



DGAM ©
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Dec. 2016

Damage and rubble seen at Beit Muheb (DGAM; December 10, 2016)

Chamber of Industry

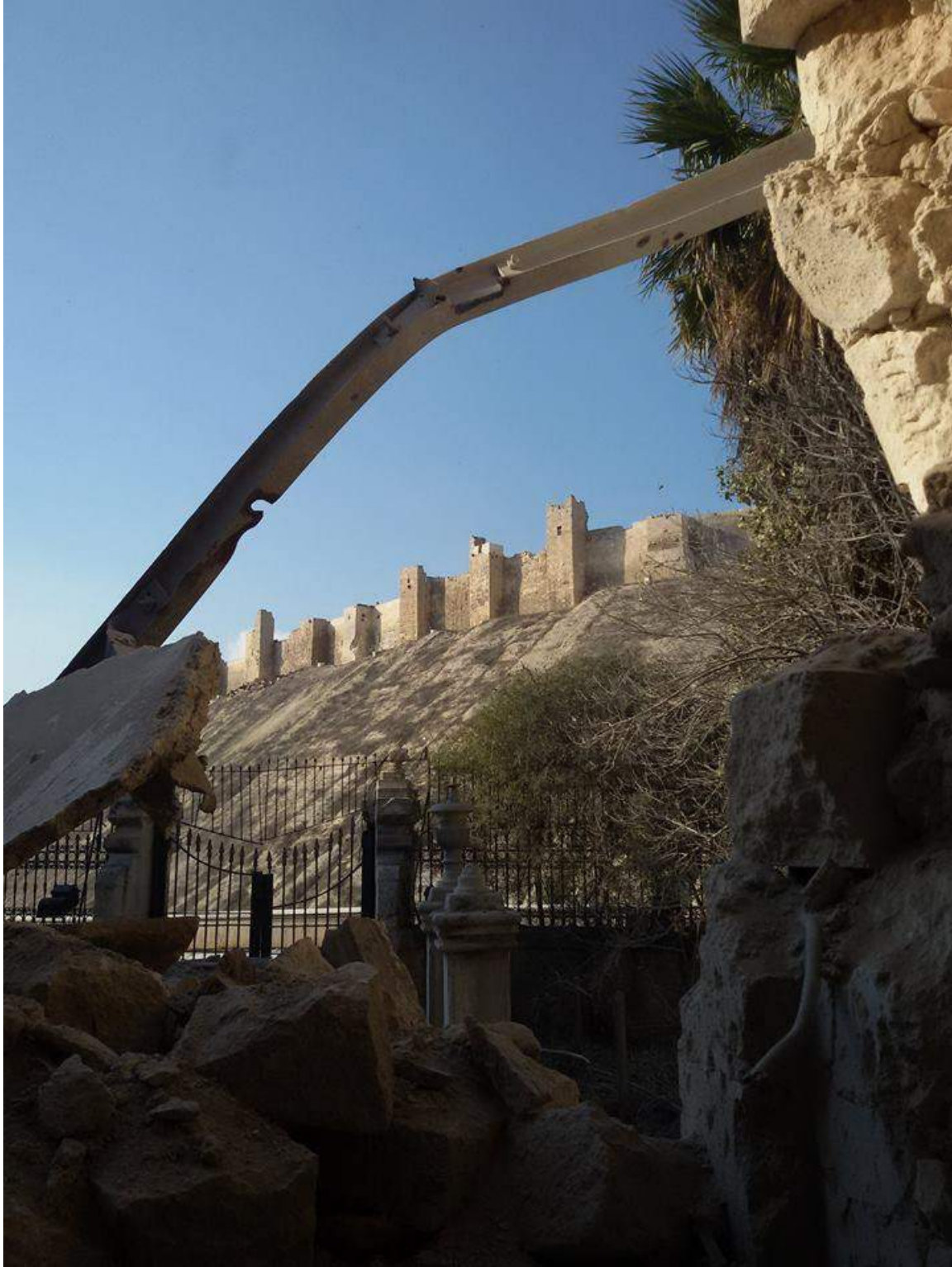


Collapsed wing of the Chamber of Industry (Faris Shihabi; December 13, 2016)

Dar al-Fatwa

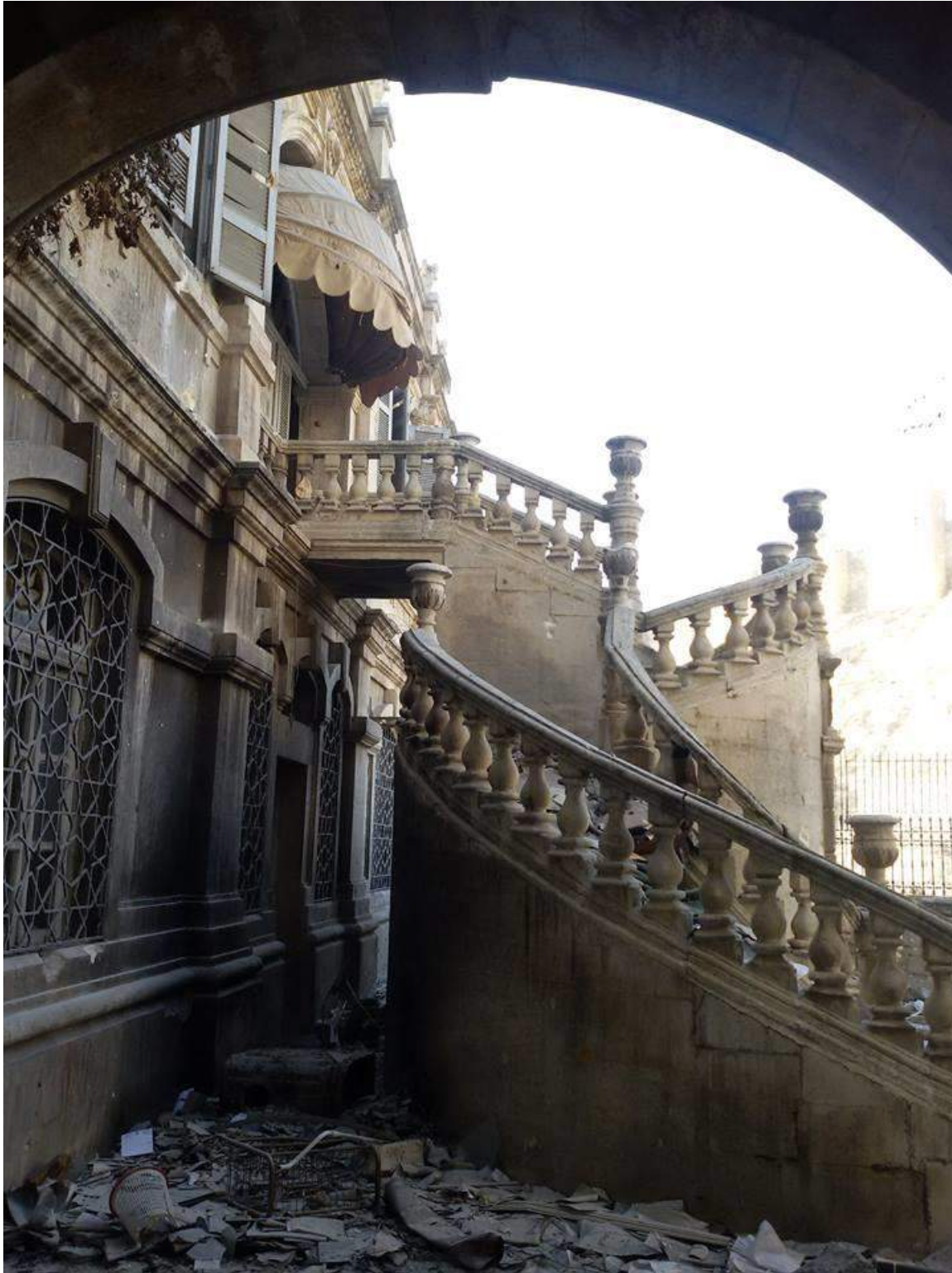


Damage to the roof of Dar al-Fatwa (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Damage to the courtyard of Dar al-Fatwa (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Dar al-Iftaa (Awqaf Directorate)



Moderate damage to the Dar al-Iftaa facade and stairway (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Dar Qatar Agassi



Damage to the interior of Dar Qatar Agassi (Rami M Alafandi; December 12, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Dar Qatar Agassi (Rami M Alafandi; December 12, 2016)

Hamam Bab al-Ahmar



Slight damage to the interior of Hamam Bab al-Ahmar (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Slight damage to the interior of Hammam Bab al-Ahmar (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

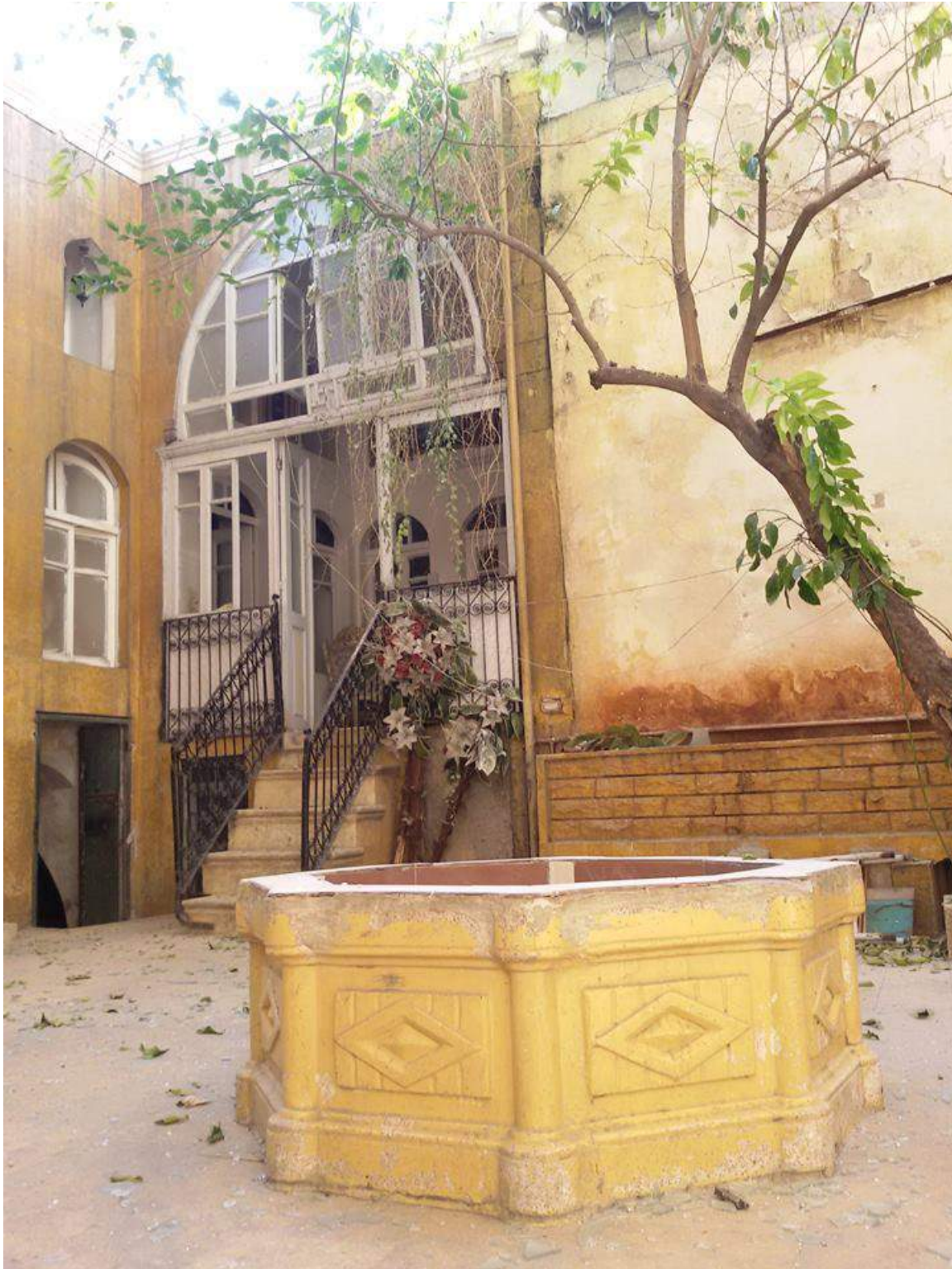


Slight damage to the interior of Hammam Bab al-Ahmar (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Old Arab House



Slight damage to the courtyard of the Old Arab House (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Slight damage to the courtyard of the Old Arab House (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Slight damage to the courtyard or inside of the Old Arab House (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



No visible damage to the roof of the old Arab house (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Qastal Musht



Moderate damage to a building in the Qastal Musht Neighborhood (DGAM; December 9, 2016)



Severe damage to a building in the Qastal Musht Neighborhood (DGAM; December 9, 2016)

Unknown Traditional House



Damage to an Old Arab House (DGAM Aleppo; December 8, 2016)

Khan al-Harir



Severe damage to the Khan al-Harir (DGAM; December 12, 2016)



Severe damage to the Khan al-Harir building (DGAM; December 12, 2016)



Severe damage to the Khan al-Harir building (DGAM; December 12, 2016)

Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri



Moderate damage to the entrance of the Khan with evidence of burning and some graffiti (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)



Moderate damage to the interior of Khan Hajj Musa al-Amiri, including evidence of severe burning (Private Facebook Account; December 10, 2016)

Suq al-Zarb



Severe damage to the entrance of Suq al-Zarb (Reuters; December 13, 2016)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 16-0035 UPDATE

Report Date: December 7, 2016

Site Name: Mart Shmone Syriac Orthodox Church (كنيسة مارت شموني); Local Christian Cemetery

Date of Incident: Between August 2014-October 2016

Location: Bartella, Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description:

- Mart Shmone Church - Syriac Orthodox Church. According to the LA Times, Mart Shmone Church was once, "an elegant place of worship, with octagonal marble columns and delicate stone filigree. Its courtyard was presided over by a statue of Patriarch Yacoub the Third, an important figure in the Syriac Orthodox Church who hailed from Bartella."¹²¹
- Local Christian Cemetery - Located "directly alongside" Mart Shmone Church and described as an "ancient public cemetery."¹²²

Site Date:

- Mart Shmone Church - Original building date unknown. Renovations were completed in 1807 CE. The church was rebuilt in 1869 CE and renovated in 1971 CE.¹²³
- Christian Cemetery: Exact date unknown, possibly built around the same time as Mart Shmone Church.

Incident Summary: New video footage shows additional damage to church and cemetery in Bartella.

Incident Source and Description: On December 7, 2016 a video report published by Report München showed additional footage from Bartella, Iraq. Included in the footage is Mart Shmone Church and the local cemetery. The video footage shows new damage to the interior of Mart Shmone Church, including damage to an altar as well as new views of exterior damage. Video footage of the Local Christian Cemetery shows extensive damage to graves, including the opening of tombs and desecration of burials. The Report München journalist states that ISIL militants "thrown out the dead from their coffins." A missile is seen in one burial chamber, possibly left or hidden there by ISIL militants under the pretense that US-led Coalition airstrikes would avoid strikes on cemeteries.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction, explosives; Vandalism.

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

¹²¹ <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-fg-iraq-bartella-20161022-snap-story.html>

¹²² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsvs3tynZM8>

¹²³ <http://www.chaldeansonline.org/village/bartilla.html>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Report München: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8v9ppliUo>



Video still of the interior of Mart Shmone Church as it stands today (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of the interior of Mart Shmone Church as it stands today (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of the interior of Mart Shmone Church as it stands today (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of a toppled altar inside Mart Shmone Church (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of damage to the courtyard and building of Mart Shmone Church, fire damage apparent (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of damage to the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of damage to a tomb inside the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of damage to tombs inside the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of damage to the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of desecrated tombs inside the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of desecrated tombs inside the Local Christian Cemetery (Report München; December 7, 2016)



Video still of desecrated tombs inside the Local Christian Cemetery, a missile is seen to the right of the frame (Report München; December 7, 2016)

IHI 16-0046 UPDATE

Report Date: December 10, 2016

Site Name:

- Sheikh Hassan Shrine (مزار الشيخ حسن)
- Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr (مزار الشيخ ابو بكر)
- Shrine of Sheikh Shams (مزار الشيخ شمس)
- Yezidi Cemetery

Date of Incident: Between August 2014 - November 2016

Location: Bashiqa and Bahzani (بعشيقا وبحزاني), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description:

- Sheikh Hassan Shrine - Yezidi shrine in Bahzani.
- Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr - Yezidi shrine in Bahzani.
- Shrine of Sheikh Shams - Yezidi shrine in Bahzani.
- Yazidi Cemetery - Located in the center of town, near three Yezidi Shrines.

Site Date:

- Sheikh Hassan Shrine - Unknown
- Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr - Unknown
- Shrine of Sheikh Shams - 14th-century CE
- Yezidi Local Cemetery - est. 1261 CE (Yezidi Calendar 6010)

Incident Summary: New photographs show damage to sites in Bashiqa and Bahzani.

Incident Source and Description: ISIL militants captured the town of Bashiqa and Bahzani in August 2014.¹²⁴ Kurdish fighters began efforts to retake the town, encircling it on October 23, 2016.¹²⁵ In early November 2016, Iraqi Peshmerga Forces recaptured the town and began clearing operations. According to a local Yezidi policeman, half of the town is now destroyed and all of the Yezidi shrines were desecrated by ISIL.¹²⁶ Much of the town has been damaged by aerial bombardment.¹²⁷ Recent photographs show additional damage to sites in Bashiqa and Bahzani.

- **Sheikh Hassan Shrine** - Photographs show extensive damage to Sheikh Hassan Shrine, possibly caused by explosives.¹²⁸
- **Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr** - On December 3, 2016 local Facebook group 'Bashiqa and Bahzani News Events' shared photographs of damage to the Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr.¹²⁹ The photographs appear to show intentional destruction to the shrine. For more information on previous damage to Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0046** in

¹²⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-kurds-Yezidi-idUSKBN13C0GC>

¹²⁵ <http://aranews.net/2016/10/peshmerga-forces-break-isis-defense-lines-surround-bashiqa-town/>

¹²⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-kurds-Yezidi-idUSKBN13C0GC>

¹²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XrBKiqBLrRc>

¹²⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1220235424730086

¹²⁹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=604425806349323&id=374869232638316

Weekly Report 119-120.

- **Shrine of Sheikh Shams** - Photographs shared by Bashiqa and Bahzani News showed unidentified persons using a metal detector to detect mines around the Shrine of Sheikh Shams.¹³⁰ The photographs appear to show some damage to the site, including to graves around the shrine. For more information on previous damage to Shrine of Sheikh Shams, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0046** in **Weekly Report 119-120**.
- **Yezidi Cemetery** - Additional photographs shared by several local media outlets and social network pages document extensive intentional destruction inside the Yezidi cemetery.¹³¹ For more information on previous damage to the Yezidi Cemetery, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0046** in **Weekly Report 119-120**.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera:

<http://www.aljazeera.net/encyclopedia/citiesandregions/2015/12/14/-العراق-بين-توتر-وتركيا>

Ankawa: <http://www.ankawa.com/forum/index.php?topic=756441.0>

Bahzani:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=793988340733346&id=246093938856125

بعشيقه وبحزاني:

December 2, 2016: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1220235424730086

Bashiqa and Bahzani News Events:

December 3, 2016: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=604425806349323&id=374869232638316

December 5, 2016: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=605889729536264&id=374869232638316

¹³⁰ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=604425806349323&id=374869232638316

¹³¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=605889729536264&id=374869232638316

Beloved Bahzani (بحزاني الحبيبة):

May 1, 2015: <https://www.facebook.com/388670647899874/photos/a.389874404446165.1073741828.388670647899874/634241273342809/?type=3&theater>

July 8, 2014: <https://www.facebook.com/388670647899874/photos/a.389874404446165.1073741828.388670647899874/515640285202909/?type=3&theater>

IOM:

https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/DOE/LPR/A-Preliminary-Assessment-of-Housing-Land-and-Property-Right-Issues-Caused-by-the-Current-Displacement-Crisis-in-Iraq.pdf

Ishtar TV:

January 2, 2013: <http://ishtartv.com/en/viewarticle.36359.html>

January 14, 2014: <http://www.ishtartv.com/viewarticle.51835.html>

Masajed Iraq: <http://www.masajediraq.com/index.php?type=newsp&typet=1&idn=1872>

Mesopotamia Blog: <http://www.mesopot.com/old/adad5/61.htm>

Niqash: <http://www.niqash.org/en/articles/politics/3166/>

Rudaw: <http://rudaw.net/arabic/kurdistan/131120163>

Sheikh Hassan Shrine (مزار الشيخ حسن)



Sheikh Hassan Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; July 8, 2014)



A photograph of the entrance of Sheikh Hassan prior to damage (Beloved Bashiqa; June 18, 2014)



Sheikh Hassan Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; March 15, 2014)



A photograph showing one view of Sheikh Hassan Shrine (Bashiqa wa Bahzani; December 2, 2016)



Damage seen to Sheikh Hassan Shrine (Bashiqa wa Bahzani; December 2, 2016)



Damage seen to Sheikh Hassan Shrine (Bashiqa wa Bahzani; December 2, 2016)



Damage seen to Sheikh Hassan Shrine (Bashiqa wa Bahzani; December 2, 2016)

Shrine of Sheikh Shams (مزار الشيخ شمس)



Efforts to detect mines around the Shrine of Sheikh Hassan and Shams (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 3, 2016)



Efforts to detect mines around the Shrine of Sheikh Hassan and Shams (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 3, 2016)



Efforts to detect mines around the Shrine of Sheikh Hassan and Shams (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 3, 2016)

Shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr (مزار الشيخ ابو بكر)



The shrine of Sheikh Abu Bakr prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; May 1, 2015)



Photograph, most likely, of Sheikh Abu Bakr Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; March 15, 2014)



Sheikh Abu Bakr Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; February 28, 2014)



Sheikh Abu Bakr Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; February 17, 2014)



Sheikh Abu Bakr Shrine prior to damage (Beloved Bahzani; February 17, 2014)



Damage to Sheikh Bakr Shrine (Bahzani and Bashiqa News Events; December 3, 2016)



Damage to Sheikh Bakr Shrine (Bahzani and Bashiqa News Events; December 3, 2016)



Damage to Sheikh Bakr Shrine (Bahzani and Bashiqa News Events; December 3, 2016)

Yezidi Cemetery



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Documentation of damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen to a Yezidi grave (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)



Intentional damage seen at a Yezidi Cemetery (Bashiqa and Bahzani News; December 5, 2016)

IHI 16-0033

Report Date: November 30, 2016

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

Date of Incident: 2014 to present

Location: al-Nur Neighborhood, Mosul, Ninawa Governorate

Site Description: Chaldean Catholic Church

Site Date: early 2000s CE

Incident Summary: New reports and photographs show damage to the Church of the Holy Spirit.

Incident Source and Description: On November 30, 2016 new photographs of the Church of the Holy Spirit were released on social media after its liberation from ISIL.¹³² The photographs show vandalism to the interior of the church. The photographs show little to no damage on the outside of the church, but there is a great deal of trash and rubble on the road alongside the church fence. This church was reportedly vandalized by ISIL after Mosul was captured by the group in 2014.

Pattern: Vandalism.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Christians of Iraq: <https://twitter.com/iraqichristian/status/803964547560247296>

¹³² https://twitter.com/assyrian_anon/status/477389500985774080



The outside of the Church of the Holy Spirit (Christians of Iraq; November 30, 2016)



Vandalism to the inside of the Church of the Holy Spirit (Twitter; June 11, 2014)



Vandalism to the inside of the Church of the Holy Spirit (Twitter; June 11, 2014)