

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

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Weekly Report 25 — January 26, 2015

Michael D. Danti, Jesse Casana, Tate Paulette, Kathryn Franklin, and Cheikhmous Ali

## Key Points

- ASOR CHI Co-Director Prof. Jesse Casana and his team at the University of Arkansas released new statistics on heritage destruction in Syria based on a comprehensive analysis of 740 archaeological sites analyzed using satellite imagery, primarily archaeological mounds. See the “Arkansas Team Damage Assessment Statistics” below. **The results confirm a significant and steady increase in looting since the start of the Syrian conflict across Syria.** (pp. 3–6)
- The last image uploaded by Jabhat Ansar al-Din and Jabhat al-Nusra to document their destruction of the Nabhaniyeh shrine (cf. Weekly Report 24 Incident Report SHI15-009) is a photo of a participant holding up an edict, which according to online sources indicates their sanction by the Sharia Court in Aleppo and the Countryside.
- An ISIL video released on *Youtube* shows the deliberate, performative destruction of five religious sites in Iraq occurring in 2014. [IHI Incident Report IHI15-013](#). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xKJZ1dJrg8> (pp. 23–27)

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<sup>1</sup> This report is based on research conducted by the “Syria Preservation Initiative: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria.” 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.

## Heritage Timeline

- January 26–30, 2015      Representatives from the Syrian **DGAM**, the Ministry of the Interior and the Department of Customs will participate in a training seminar to protect movable heritage during and after the conflict, organized by the Beirut Office of UNESCO under the directive of **UNESCO's Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Initiative**.  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1576>  
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/safeguarding-syrian-cultural-heritage/>
- January 25, 2015      *Al-Manar Channel 2* released a news story on the state of the **Old City of Aleppo** showing video footage of SARG-controlled areas.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8xOGT8m3iE>
- January 23, 2015      *APSA* website released a report updating the status of the **Hammam Yalbougha** in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ancient City of Aleppo. This historic bathhouse was severely damaged by tunnel bombings in 2014. *SHI Incident Report SHI15-014*.  
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/911-yalbougha-2.html>
- January 22, 2015      *Today in Syria* published a list of events, which included an image of damage to the interior of the **al-'Omari Mosque in Bosra**. APSA had reported bombing damage to the mosque as early as September 2013<sup>2</sup>. *TIS* also reported air strikes to the town of **Tell Brak** in Hasakah, which has a closely associated multi-phase tell site.
- The intensification of **ISIL** action around Kobane/Ayn al-Arab raises the question (for one Washington think-tank commentator<sup>3</sup>) of the security of the **Tomb of Suleyman Shah**, grandfather of Osman I, founder of the Ottoman Empire. This tomb is a small enclave of Turkish sovereign territory located in Jabar-Kalesi, on a small peninsula on the northern bank of the Euphrates. In August, 2012, Turkish president Erdogan warned that an attack on the tomb would

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mURK07-erRU>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/01/ottoman-nato-syria-tomb-201512165137950686.html>

be an infringement of Turkish, and therefore NATO, sovereignty.

January 21, 2015

**Guguk Tube released an ISIL** video on *Youtube* showing deliberate, performative destruction of **five shrines in Nineveh (Mosul), Salahuddin, and Samarra Provinces**. The destruction was carried out by means of IEDs, hand tools, and bulldozers. The contemporary shrines have been temporarily identified as those of Sa'id Hamad Mahmoud al-Naimi in Salahuddin, Sa'id Saleh Ibrahim Al-Naimi, Saida Novh and Sa'id Saleh Al-Naimi, and Sheikh Yahya. One shrine was identified as being the 11th century Imam Dur or tomb of the 'Uqaylid Amir Sharaf ad-Dawla Muslim about 20 km north of Samarra city. This shrine was reported as destroyed by ISIL in late October 2014. [IHI Incident Report IHI15-013](#)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xKJZ1dJrg8>

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DGAM released a report on looting at the site of Resafa in Raqqa Governorate, Syria. [SHI Incident Report SHI15-012](#).  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1574>

January 20, 2015

The **Aleppo Directorate of Awqaf** (Religious/Charitable Endowments) condemned the desecration and destruction of the **Shrine of Sheikh Mohammad Nabhan**, located in the Kiltawiye Mosque in the Bab al-Hadid area of Aleppo by **Jabhat Ansar al-Din** and **Jabhat al-Nusra** on January 18, 2014. The Ministry generally condemned the desecration of shrines of Auliyas (famous Muslim clergymen).

January 6, 2015

**SANA** reported that **ISIL** deliberately destroyed the historic (1886 AD) **Sheikh al-Rawi Tekkiye** (hospice) in the al-Sheikh Yaseen neighborhood of Deir ez-Zor. [SHI Incident Report SHI15-013](#).

## Arkansas Team Damage Assessment Statistics

### **OVERVIEW:**

As part of ASOR's Syrian Heritage Initiative, a team at the University of Arkansas led by Prof. Jesse Casana has been undertaking systematic analysis of looting, bulldozing, construction, and other forms of damage to archaeological sites across Syria using high-resolution satellite imagery made available through Digital Globe. Our methods are discussed in the appendix following. As of January 20, 2015, we have completed comprehensive assessments on 740 sites, distributed across most areas of Syria where

relatively recent Digital Globe imagery is available. Below, we present a few basic statistics of results to date.

## **LOOTING**

To better understand how war-related looting activity relates to historical (pre-conflict) looting, we analyze pre-war looting alongside looting since Spring 2011. It is critical to understand that “pre-war looting” encompasses *all* evidence of looting that has taken place prior to the war. While we cannot be sure of the date of most pre-war looting we record, the vast majority of it predates the earliest available Digital Globe imagery, and thus occurred prior to 2007. In a handful of cases, we can demonstrate that looting occurred prior to 2000, when the first high-resolution commercial imagery is available. The fact that we can document incidents of looting that took place over 15 years ago suggests that the pre-war record of looting encompasses at least two decades of activity, and possibly more.

### **Pre-war looting:**

Severe = 9

Moderate = 18

Minor = 77

Total = 104

Note that we classified pre-war looting at 163 sites as “not visible” due to ground cover, construction, flooding or other factors, as well as to poor quality or insufficiently early imagery. Thus, of the 577 sites where it was possible to assess pre-war looting, 18% show some evidence of looting. Because even at these sites many instances of minor looting could be difficult to detect in imagery, we can assume that the actual percentage of looted sites is higher. On the other hand, our sample over-represents large and well-known sites, and thus some caution is warranted in extrapolating this finding across all site types.

Our analysis of war-related looting shows that the past four years have seen a greater quantity of looting at a larger number of sites than the combined record of all pre-war looting.

### **War-related looting:**

Severe = 12

Moderate = 22

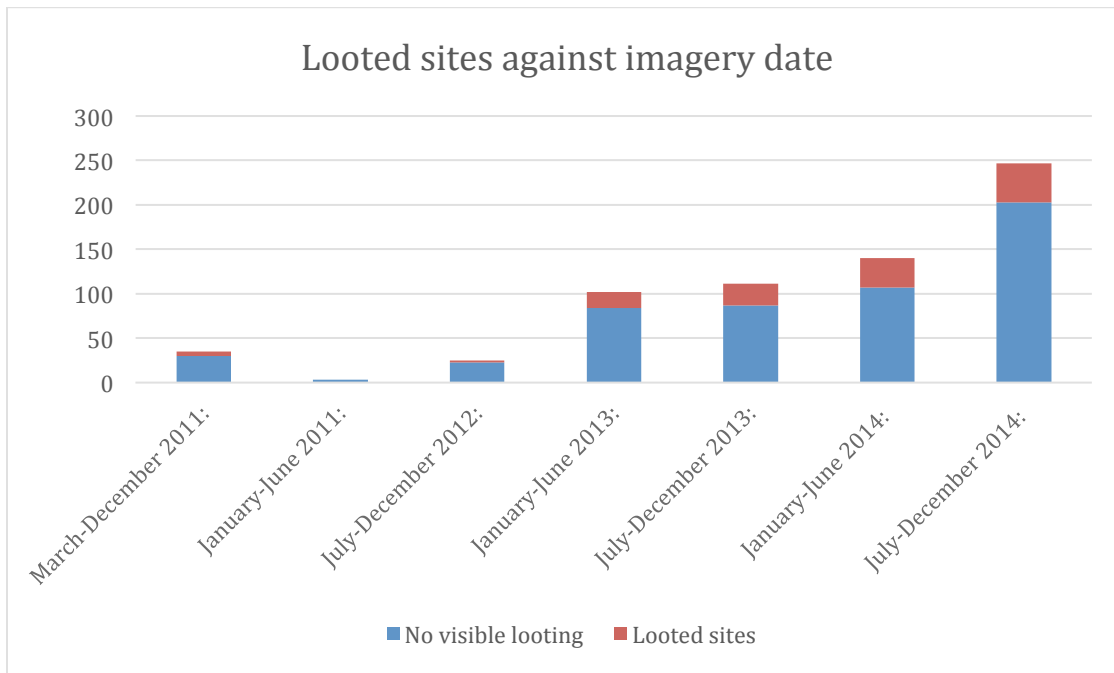
Minor = 98

Total = 132

151 of the assessed sites have ground cover, construction or other features that obscure the surface or otherwise make looting impossible to detect in imagery. An additional 19 of these sites have no imagery available post-dating the war. Of the 570 sites where it was possible to detect war-related looting, we found evidence of looting at 132 sites (23%). It

is important to recognize however that the date of available imagery impedes this analysis. For example, at 56 of the 570 sites included in this figure, the most recent imagery available is from 2012 or earlier. When we consider the date of imagery at all sites where looting was detected, a disturbing trend emerges:

<u>Most recent image</u>	<u>No. of sites able to be assessed</u>	<u>No. of looted sites</u>	<u>% of looted sites</u>
March-December 2011:	30	5	17%
January-June 2012:	3	0	0%
July-December 2012:	23	2	9%
January-June 2013:	84	18	21%
July-December 2013:	87	24	28%
January-June 2014:	107	33	31%
July-December 2014:	203	44	22%



These data suggest what might be intuitively obvious, namely that more recent images tend to reveal more evidence of looting. This also suggests that the overall number and percentage of sites being looted currently is larger than our data reflect.

At the 104 sites with evidence of pre-war looting, we have documented an expansion and continuation of looting at 56 of them, with new looting at 76 of the sites in our sample since 2011. Thus, a history of pre-war looting is a reasonably strong indicator that looting will continue in the future, although many previously unlooted sites are currently being looted.

## **OTHER DAMAGE**

We have recorded a variety of other damage; some key statistics from the 740 assessed are summarized below:

### Sites with evidence of construction

Pre-war construction = 307

Expansion of existing construction since 2011 = 37

New construction since 2011 = 34

### Sites with military garrisons

Pre-war = 1

Post-war = 19

### Sites with evidence of bulldozing

Pre-War Bulldozing = 63

War-related bulldozing = 58

## **Military and Political Context**

**The main theaters of military operations immediately prior to the reporting period in Syria were:**

1. ISIS militants launched an attack initiated by a suicide vest detonation against Kurdish YPG positions in southern and central Ayn al-Arab/Kobane but were repelled by YPG fighters (1/16). YPG forces seized the Mashta Nour hill south of Ayn al-Arab city (1/19).
2. Jabhat al-Nusra (JN) seized the village of Tel Salmu from regime forces, a few hundred meters south of the regime-held Abu al-Duhor Military Airbase. JN claimed to shoot down a regime transport aircraft near the town of Majas, north of the base(1/18). The crash killed over thirty regime and Hezbollah fighters, with unconfirmed reports of IRGC (Iranian Revolutionary Guard) members among the dead as well.
3. Israeli Defense Forces launched an airstrike against a house and several vehicles in the al-Amal Farms area, near the Golan Heights border in northern Quneitra Province. The attack killed IRGC general Mohammed Ali Allahdadi in addition to Hezbollah commanders Abu Ali Tabatabai and Mohammad Issa, and four Hezbollah fighters including Jihad Mughniyeh. The UN increased patrols along the Israeli-Lebanon border in response (1/18).
4. ISIS reportedly deployed reinforcements from southeastern Hassaka Province to areas in the northern countryside of Hassaka city, sparking increased clashes with regime forces northwest and northeast of the city.

5. Kurdish YPG fighters seized several regime positions in northern Hassaka city following clashes with regime soldiers and National Defense Force (NDF) reserve militiamen. Fighting reportedly began after regime units attempted to occupy a building in an area disputed between the two parties. Regime forces shelled YPG-held neighborhoods of the city, with the YPG alleging that regime forces also utilized cluster munitions.<sup>4</sup>

**The main theaters of military operations during the reporting period in Iraq<sup>5</sup> were:**

1. ISIS launched an attack on a headquarters of the External Roads Police in the Sagar area of western Anbar (1/20).
2. An SVBIED targeted forces from the Iraqi Police and tribes in the Albu Ghanim area, east of Ramadi, killing three individuals and injuring 18 others; the forces were “preparing for an attack on ISIS.”
3. Kurdish fighters backed by coalition air strikes have seized large swaths of territory from Islamic State fighters in northern Iraq, including a road used by ISIS to supply the key city of Mosul. In a major offensive launched on 1/21, the peshmerga have fought their way to within 12 miles of the city center and cut off a road that connects Mosul to Tal Afar and Sinjar. In recent days the Kurds have retaken a 185 sq mile area of Sinjar province, west of Mosul, “putting Isis on the back foot and tightening the noose around the city.”<sup>6</sup>
4. On January 21, forces from the 2nd Battalion, 42nd Brigade, of the 11th IA Division captured an ISIS “hideout” in al-Madain district, southeast of Baghdad; the hideout was apparently used to manufacture IEDs and also contained ISIS leaflets.

## **Key Heritage Recommendations and Actions**

\* ASOR CHI is continuing to actively monitor the status of sectarian as well as general cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq.

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<sup>4</sup> Summary analysis drawn from J. Cafarella and C. Kozak 2015 for the Institute for the Study of War

<sup>5</sup> Summary analysis drawn from S. Adnan and J. Sauerhoff 2015 for the Institute for the Study of War

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jan/22/mosul-isis-occupation-kurdish-fighters>

# Syria Incident Reports

**SHI15-012**

**Report Date:** January 21, 2015

**Site Name:** Resafa (Sergiopolis) (SH 959)

**Date of Incident:** Unknown

**Location:** Ar-Raqqa Governorate, 30 km south of Raqqa

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:**

According to Ross Burns,

The great Byzantine fortress-city of Resafa grew up on a site 30 km south of the Euphrates River on the edge of the Syrian steppe. Its location resulted from the martyrdom on this spot of the Christian Roman soldier, Sergius, just before the accession of Constantine and the new policy of tolerance towards Christians.

The site became a pilgrimage centre honouring Sergius and attracted crowds from throughout the Syrian desert interior but also acquired an important military function with the advantages of its massive walls (still largely standing today).

Two major churches can be visited, the most important being that associated with St Sergius. As the saint's remains attracted numerous Arabs from the desert tribes, especially those associated with the pro-Byzantine Ghassanid federation, it continued to attract visitors even after the Islamic conquest. For a time, both crowds of Christians and Muslims shared in honouring the saint and a mosque was added to the courtyard south of the massive cathedral.

On the Euphrates directly north of Resafa, the Roman legionary base at Sura continued as the most important military base in the region. Its remains today are scanty though some fragments of walls and of the castrum or central stronghold, survive on the southern riverbank<sup>7</sup>.

To the south of the town outside of the Roman wall is located the residence of the Umayyad Caliph Hisham b. Abd al-Malik, which comprises several palace complexes extending over an area of c. 3 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Site Date:** 9th century BC through Umayyad

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<sup>7</sup> Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria. A Guide*. (I. B. Tauris).



**Source of Destruction:** According to the DGAM website, the local community reports that limited illegal excavations were carried out in Resafa during the last year. There have also been reports of theft and vandalism to the archaeological expedition house storage, broken doors and theft of restoration equipment. The same source reports that an armed gang “destroyed a part of the western ancient city’s wall” in order to let vehicles pass through. DGAM mentions that the local community played a positive role during the last year in reducing the illegal excavations and preventing damage to the site.

**Pattern:** Continuation from pre-conflict looting: see SHI Incident Report 14-043

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** Recommend remote sensing monitoring for confirmation of looting/damage and identification of new/ongoing destruction and excavation events.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

DGAM Website: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1574>

Scholarly:

Casana Satellite Imagery (Initial site status: see Incident Report 14-043).

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

Technische Universität Berlin West Asia North Africa Cooperation Unit:

[http://www.wanacu.tu-berlin.de/menue/activities/further\\_activities/pilgrims\\_city\\_and\\_caliph\\_residence\\_-\\_the\\_city\\_intra\\_and\\_extra\\_muros\\_resafa-sergiupolis\\_rusafat\\_hisham\\_syria/](http://www.wanacu.tu-berlin.de/menue/activities/further_activities/pilgrims_city_and_caliph_residence_-_the_city_intra_and_extra_muros_resafa-sergiupolis_rusafat_hisham_syria/)



General image of Byzantine walls at Resafa (<http://www.travbuddy.com/Dayr-az-Zawr-travel-guide-1184920/photos>)



General image of Resafa, sourced by DGAM (<http://www.travbuddy.com/Dayr-az-Zawr-travel-guide-1184920/photos>)

**SHI 15-013**

**Report Date:** January 6, 2015

**Site Name:** Sheikh al-Rawi Tekkiye (Hospice)

**Date of Incident:** January 6, 2015

**Location:** al-Sheikh Yaseen neighborhood, Deir ez-Zor

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** Sheikh al-Rawi Tekkiye is a late 19th c building at the NE corner of Sheikh Yassin Garden. It was built in 1886 as a charitable endowment for teaching and worship.

**Site Date:** AD 1886

**Source of Destruction:** According to Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA), terrorists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) exploded the Sheikh al-Rawi Tekkiye (hospice) in al-Sheikh Yaseen neighborhood in Deir ez-Zor on January 6. Civil sources told SANA that the terrorists booby-trapped the Tekkiye site, which dates back to the 19th century, planting a quantity of explosives around it, which led to the destruction of the entire building. DGAM reported in March 2014 that the Minaret of the adjoining Mosque had already been completely destroyed.

**Pattern:** Radical Islamist destruction of Sufi monuments in occupied territories.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** —

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

DGAM Report March 2014

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights: Facebook Sept. 13 2014 (al-Rawi shrine)

<https://www.facebook.com/syriahroe/posts/582637335177942>

<http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=24306>

Scholarly:



Image of al-Rawi Tekkiye (SANA <http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=24306>)

## SHI 15-014

**Report Date:** January 25, 2015

**Site Name:** Hammam Yalbougha, Aleppo (See also Incident Reports SHI14-004 update, SHI14-024, and SHI14-032)

**Date of Incident:** On January 23, 2015 APSA posted new photos and a video detailing damage caused by various tunnel bombings in 2014.

**Location:** UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ancient City of Aleppo

### Coordinates:

### Site Description:

These baths, also known as the Hammam al-Lababidiya, were damaged by 2014 tunnel bombs and during the fighting following the detonations. The eastern parts of the building were leveled. According to Ross Burns, they are,

...the grandest baths in Syria, which since 1985 have been reconstructed and revived for their original purpose by the tourism authorities, having been rescued from service as a felt factory. The *hammam* was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The restoration has been done in a sober style and the two domed warm rooms achieve a striking impact.<sup>8</sup>

Gaube and Wirth provide the following description, "Mamlukisches Bad, vor 1488 errichtet. Es handelt sich um das bei Ibn aš-Šihna erwähnte Bad an-Nasiri, dessen alten Namen auch Gazzi nennt."<sup>9</sup>

**Site Date:** Mamluk, built prior to 1488 AD

**Source of Destruction:** Tunnel bombings carried out by Islamic Front affiliates. APSA posted new photos showing the extent of the damage on January 23, 2015.

**Pattern:** Use of tunnel bombs by Islamic Front in the Ancient City of Aleppo.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI has already designated the Old City of Aleppo a high priority for monitoring and remediation efforts.

### Sources:

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<sup>8</sup> Burns 1992: 39.

<sup>9</sup> Gaube and Wirth 1984: No. 339, p. 382.

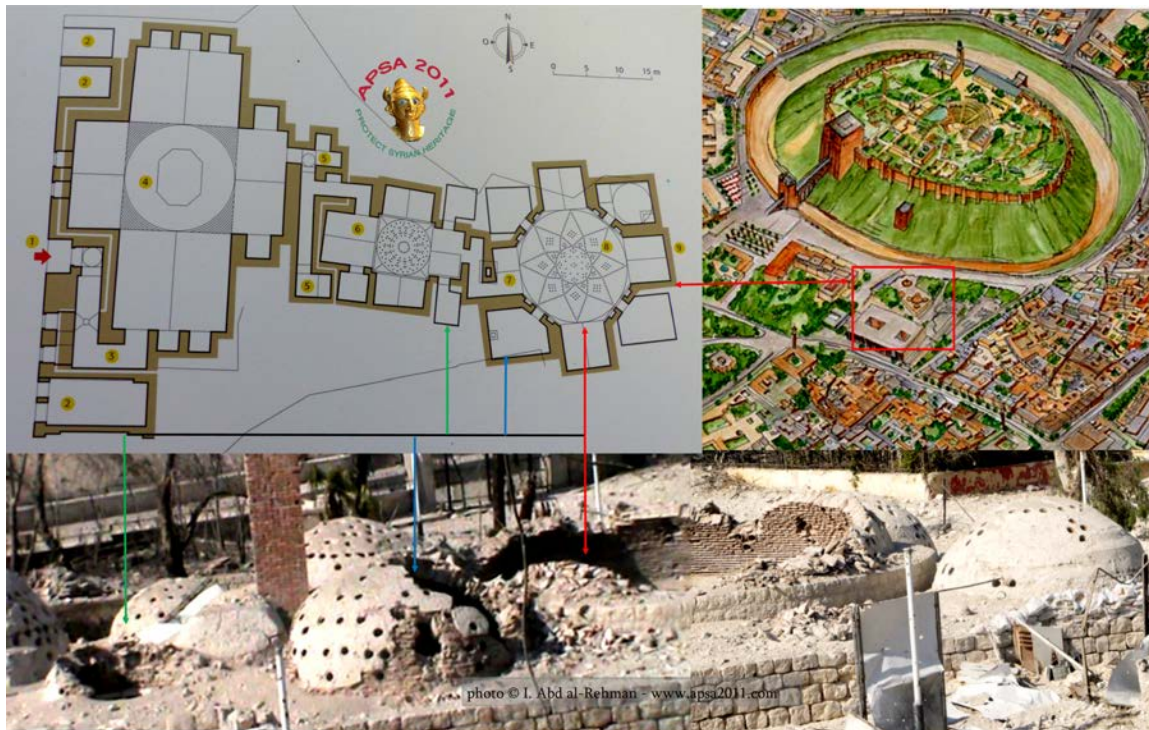


Online Reporting:

APSA Website: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/911-yalbougha-2.html>

Scholarly:

Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo: historische und geographische Beiträge zur baulichen Gestaltung, zur sozialen Organisation und zur wirtschaftlichen Dynamik einer vorderasiatischen Fernhandelsmetropole*. Two Volumes. (Wiesbaden: L. Reichert).



Damage to the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).





Damage to the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).





Damage to the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



Damage to the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo — showing the remains of the Old Serail in the distance (APSA).



Damage to Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).





Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).





Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).



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Damage to one of the domes of the Hammam Yalbougha (bathhouse) in Old Aleppo (APSA).

# Iraq Incident Reports

IHI 15-013

**Report Date:** January 21 2015

**Site Name:** Sufi Shrines in central and northern Iraq, including the shrines of Sa'id Hamad Mahmoud al-Naimi in Salahuddin, Sa'id Saleh Ibrahim Al-Naimi, Saida Novh and Sa'id Saleh Al-Naimi, and Sheikh Yahya. One shrine was positively identified as being the 11th century AD tomb **Imam Dur**, located 20 km north of Samarra city in Al Dor.

**Date of Incident:** Probably October 2014

**Location:** Various: central and northeastern Iraq

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:**

(descriptions pending for contemporary shrines)

**Imam Dur:** According to Archnet,

The **Mausoleum of 'Uqaylid Amir Sharaf al-Dawla Muslim, or Imam Dur**, dates to 1085. The brick mausoleum introduces a muqarnas dome, the first of its kind in Iraq. Bastions project from the four corners supporting this square structure. Its exterior is plain with layered sections on each façade of geometrically patterned, raised brick towards the top of the structure. The architect's name, Abu Shakir ibn Abi' l-Faraj is inscribed in one of these. The inner chamber is also square in plan featuring a domed room with four corner niches that form the support for the octagonal structure from which the five-tiered muqarnas dome climbs. The dome concludes at great height with a small, fluted cupola. The tomb's interior is adorned with stucco ornamentation that recalls earlier 'Abbasid decoration." Its exterior is plain with layered sections on each façade of geometrically patterned, raised brick towards the top of the structure.<sup>10</sup>

The 'Uqailids or 'Uqaylid dynasty was a Shi'a Arab dynasty with several lines that ruled in the Jazira (a region encompassing parts of Turkey, Syria and Iraq between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers) in the late tenth and eleventh centuries. The main dynastic line, centered in Mosul, ruled from AD 990 to 1096.

**Site Date:** The majority of the shrines are (according to reports) modern; the Imam Dur dates to the 11th century AD.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://archnet.org/sites/3838>

## **Source of Destruction:** ISIL deliberate destruction

**Pattern:** The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, declared the destruction of the Imam Dur shrine as “not an isolated case” but part of a wider practice of “cultural cleansing.” Bokova argued that “the intentional targeting and systematic destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq is reaching unprecedented levels.”<sup>11</sup> The destruction of the Imam Dur appears to be part of a broader practice of aggressive destruction of Shi’a monuments and material culture undertaken by ISIS.

## **Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** —

SHI is continuing to monitor the condition of Shi’a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

## **Sources:**

### Online Reporting:

ISIS video footage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xKJZ1dJrg8>

### Scholarly:

Ettinghausen, Richard and Grabar, Oleg. 1987. *The Art and Architecture of Islam 650-1250*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 296–7.

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<sup>11</sup>[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/director\\_general\\_of\\_unesco\\_irina\\_bokova\\_condemns\\_the\\_destruction\\_of\\_the\\_imam\\_dur\\_shrine\\_in\\_iraq/#.VMKG1HDF8j5](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/director_general_of_unesco_irina_bokova_condemns_the_destruction_of_the_imam_dur_shrine_in_iraq/#.VMKG1HDF8j5)





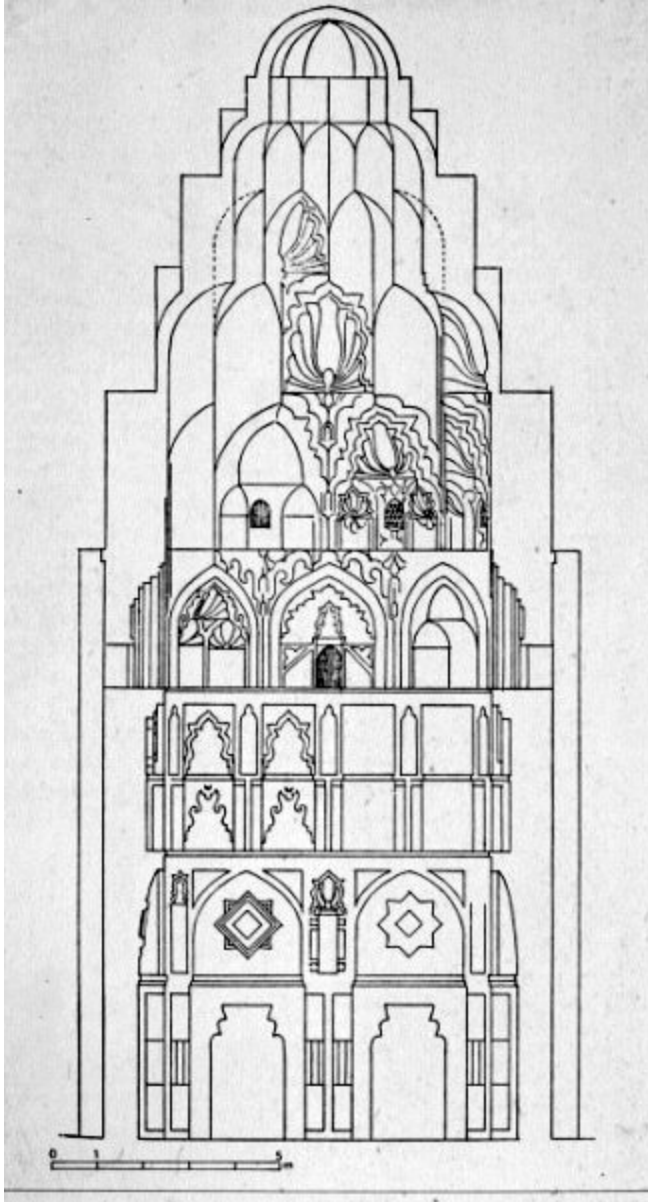
Imam Dur in 1909 (Gertrude Bell Archive, Newcastle University)



Imam Dur, exterior view (<http://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/iraq05-057.html>)



Imam Dur, interior view, muqarnas.  
(<http://www.cemml.colostate.edu/cultural/09476/iraq05-057.html>)



Imam Dur, architectural cross-section (Mitchell G. 1978: 251).