

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

NEA-PSHSS-14-001

Weekly Report 30 — March 2, 2015

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Key Points

- On February 26, 2015, ISIL released a video showing multiple episodes of intentional destruction of antiquities at the **Mosul Museum** and the archaeological site of **Nineveh**/Kuyunjik, one of the three capital cities of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. In the Mosul Museum, ISIL militants and “plain clothed” unidentified assailants destroyed a large number of sculptures from the city of **Hatra**, as well as Neo-Assyrian sculptures, partial reconstructions, and replicas/casts from sites in the Mosul area. The video also includes recent images of the intentional destruction of colossi at Nineveh’s **Nergal Gate**. A high-level Iraqi government source with detailed knowledge of Hatra and the Mosul Museum confirmed with ASOR CHI that the Hatra sculptures were ancient. Some media stories initially claimed that the majority were replicas and that the originals reside in the Baghdad Museum. This story was subsequently copied and exaggerated in various media outlets. It was reported to ASOR CHI that in 2003 the SBAH did move sculptures from the site of Hatra to the Baghdad Museum, giving rise to the confusion over the authenticity of the Mosul Museum sculptures, which sources report are indeed ancient and have been installed there since 1973. The ISIL video also shows many antiquities from ancient Balawat and other sites that were not destroyed in the video. In 2014, ASOR CHI received reliable reports from Mosul that the local ISIL Sharia Court had ordered the sale of valuable portable antiquities from the museum and the destruction of the “idols,” which are, coincidentally, objects too large for easy transport/trafficking and too well known for ready sale on the illicit market.

With regard to the destruction of the Nergal Gate, sources in Mosul claimed that ISIL had planned a destruction using explosives, but local residents living near Nineveh complained of the danger to their homes. This may have given rise to previous rumors (January 28, 2015) that ISIL was planning to blow up the “walls of Nineveh.” [IHI Incident Reports IHI 15-0033 and 15-0034](#) (pp. 108–132)

- ISIL militants also burned large numbers of books from Mosul’s libraries — see update to [IHI Incident Report IHI 15-0035](#). (pp. 133–134)
- ASOR CHI has completed preliminary versions of Incident Reports on damage to sites in northern Iraq in the Nineveh and Salah ad-Din Provinces and will continue to update these reports and complete additional reports. ISIL deliberate destructions of heritage places represent the vast majority of damage. See the special section below on ISIL deliberate destructions in the Tel Afar area. (pp. 9–10, 54–101)

¹ 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.

- On February 27, 2015, ISIL militants in **Mosul** reportedly destroyed the **al-Khidr Mosque**. [IHI Incident Report IHI 15-0032](#) (pp. 102–107)
- ASOR CHI updated its Incident Report on damage to the **Umayyad Mosque in Damascus** [SHI Incident Report SHI 15-0019](#). (pp. 11–23)

Heritage Timeline

March 1, 2015

APSA posted a report on the status of the **Khan al-Basha** in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. [SHI Incident Report SHI 15-0046](#)
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1148-aleppo-khan-al-basha.html>

- **APSA** posted a report on the status of the **Qadi al-Askar Mosque** in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. [SHI Incident Report SHI 15-0045](#)
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1145-aleppo-qadi-askar-mosque.html>

- **The Daily Beast** published an article titled “**Why ISIS just beheaded history**” (by Candida Moss and Joel Baden). The article argues that the destruction of antiquities by ISIL should not be attributed to militant Islam but to a more general practice by which conquering and/or totalitarian regimes seek to undermine existing belief systems by eradicating evidence of alternative cultural practices and the traces of the past.
<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/03/01/why-isis-just-beheaded-history.html>

- **Voice of America** published an article titled “**In Iraq, Syria, Battling to Preserve Cultural Heritage Under Siege**” (by Carol Guensburg). Drawing on interviews with Michael Danti (Co-Director, ASOR CHI), Amr al-Azm (SHOSI), and Susan Pittman (US Dept. of State), the article highlights a number of different efforts by individuals, organizations, and governments to combat the illegal trade in antiquities and the ongoing destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria.
<http://www.voanews.com/content/in-iraq-syria-battling-to-preserve-cultural-heritage/2663070.html>

February 28, 2015

Al Arabiya published an article titled “**Baghdad museum reopens 12 years after looting.**” Citing Qais Hussein Rashin (Deputy Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, Iraq), the article claims that the reopening of the museum was intended as a response to the destruction of artifacts in the Mosul Museum by ISIL.
<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/life-style/art-and-culture/2015/02/28/Iraq-reopens-Baghdad-museum-12-years-after-looting-.html>

- **The Washington Post** published an article titled “**Shuttered for a decade, Iraq’s national museum reopens its doors**” (by Loveday Morris). Citing officials, the article claims that the reopening of the museum was intended to send a message of defiance to ISIL, in the wake of their destruction of artifacts in the Mosul Museum.
http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/shuttered-for-a-decade-iraqs-national-museum-reopens-its-doors/2015/02/28/49ad5a8a-bf60-11e4-9dfb-03366e719af8_story.html

- **BBC World Service** posted an interview with **Eleanor Robson** (professor of Ancient Middle Eastern History at University College London) titled “**Ancient Statues destroyed by ISIS.**” According to Dr. Robson, some of the objects destroyed appear to have been originals (e.g. from the sites of Hatra and Nineveh), while others were clearly reproductions (e.g. based on originals held by the British Museum).
<https://soundcloud.com/bbc-world-service/ancient-statues-destroyed-by-isis>

- The **LA Times** published an article titled “**The Mosul Museum video from Islamic State could be a staged drama**” (by Christopher Knight). Citing indications that some of the objects destroyed in the Mosul Museum were modern reproductions, the article claims that video “may well be a carefully staged, falsified dramatic event” intended to recruit followers and incite enemies of ISIL into action.
<http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/arts/la-et-cm-mosul-museum-knight-notebook-20150228-column.html>

February 27–28, 2015

The **Neubauer Collegium** for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago hosted a conference titled “**Archaeological Looting: Realities and Possibilities for New Policy Approaches.**”
http://neubauercollegium.uchicago.edu/events/uc/archaeological_looting/

February 27, 2015

The **British Museum** released a press statement condemning the acts of destruction at the Mosul Museum and the Nergal Gate of Nineveh. According to the statement, “**none of the objects featured in this video are copies of originals in the British Museum.**”
http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press.aspx

- **MEDMAK Syrian Archaeologist Studies Center** reported on the unanimous adoption by the **UN Security Council** of Resolution 2199 (2015), condemning any trade with the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as Daesh). The UNSC affirmed that this includes direct and indirect trade in oil and refined products, as well as the trade in items of cultural, scientific, and religious importance.
<https://medmakblog.wordpress.com/2015/02/27/unanimously-adopting-resolution-2199-2015-2/>

- PBS Newshour** published an interview with **Bernard Haykel** (Princeton Univ.) and **Michael Danti** (Boston Univ.) titled “**What Islamic State gains by destroying antiquities in Iraq.**” The interview addressed both the destruction of artifacts by ISIL and the theatricality of the videos in which these acts of destruction were released to the global public. It contextualized the destructions within ISIL propaganda strategies more broadly and within the doctrinal positions that they have adopted, as well as within the ongoing patterns of heritage destruction used as a tactic of terror by ISIL and related groups. The PBS story also drew attention to **UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova’s** recent denouncement of the ISIL actions in Mosul as a “**war crime**” that the world should punish in UNESCO’s name.
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/islamic-state-gains-destroying-antiquities-iraq/#.VPH4RFMo0Z8.facebook>
- ISIL** militants allegedly destroyed the **al-Khidr Mosque** in Mosul.
[IHI Incident Report IHI 15-0032](#)
- WABC Morning Radio (Boston)** reported on the destruction of antiquities in Iraq by “ISIS monsters.” Calling the destruction “**trademark of barbarians from time immemorial,**” the radio commentators attributed the violence of the recent destruction in Mosul to the narrow and singular fundamentalism pursued by ISIL. Interviewee and **ASOR CHI Co-Director Dr. Michael Danti** reported that a Sharia court in Mosul had authorized the sale of portable antiquities from the museum and the destruction of larger works. Danti further characterized the calculated destruction of heritage as a form of psychological warfare.
<http://www.mcintyreinthemorning.com/podcast/mcintyre-in-the-morning-2-27-2015-6am/>
- Gates of Nineveh** published a blog post titled “**Assessing the Damage at the Mosul Museum, Part 1: the Assyrian Artifacts**” (by Christopher Jones). The post focused on identifying the sculptures – specifically the Assyrian sculptures – destroyed in the video footage released by ISIL. Among the items listed were the heavily damaged, *in situ* winged bulls (*lamassu*) from the Nergal Gate of Nineveh and a number of objects from the Mosul museum, including the bronze gates of Balawat, reliefs from Khorsabad and Maltaï, and a number of relief panels that may be copies.
<https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2015/02/27/assessing-the-damage-at-the-mosul-museum-part-1-the-assyrian-artifacts/>
- The Independent** published an article titled “**Iraq: Isis militants pledge to destroy remaining archaeological treasures in Nimrud**” (by Patrick Cockburn).
<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iraq-isis-militants-pledge-to-destroy-remaining-archaeological-treasures-in-nimrud-10076133.html>

- **The Wall Street Journal** published an article titled “**The Destruction of Cultural Heritage Should be a War Crime**” (by Eric Gibson). The article argues that the definition of “crimes against humanity” should be broadened to include cultural heritage, making acts such as that perpetrated by ISIL in the Mosul Museum war crimes punishable by the International Court of Justice in The Hague. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/the-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-should-be-a-war-crime-1425073230>

February 26, 2015

ISIL released a **video** showing the destruction of statues, other artifacts, and plaster reproductions in the **Mosul Museum** and at the site of **Nineveh (Nergal Gate and Sennacherib’s Palace)**. Objects are shown being pushed over, smashed, and attacked with sledgehammers and power tools. According to ARCA, citing Eleanor Robson, the video has been confirmed as authentic. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WMOyGVV_gc&feature=youtu.be&app=desktop

<http://art-crime.blogspot.it/2015/02/a-museum-in-mosul-that-needs-break-not.html>

- The Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD), the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), the Society for American Archaeology (SAA), and the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) released a **joint statement condemning the destruction of works of art held in the Mosul Museum** and urging action by their members, the authorities, and museums and archaeological communities around the world. <http://www.archaeological.org/news/aianews/18742>

- The **DGAM** posted an assessment of the “**light**” **damage inflicted on four historical buildings in Damascus by shelling on February 5, 2015**. The four buildings include the Sakka Amini House, the Umayyad Mosque, a residence, and the Abou al-Ezz Restaurant. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-019 Update** <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1605>

- **NBC News** reported on the **destruction of artifacts by ISIL** in the “cradle of civilization,” calling the destruction of statues at the Mosul museum “cultural genocide” and an onslaught against the artifacts of “civilization itself.” The report includes a brief interview with **ASOR CHI Co-Director Dr. Michael Danti**. <http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/video/priceless-iraqi-artifacts-destroyed-by-isis-405129795627>

- Conflict Antiquities** published a blog post titled “**Islamic State has toppled, sledgehammered and jackhammered (drilled out) artefacts in Mosul Museum and at Nineveh**” (by Sam Hardy). The post reports that the extremism evident in the Mosul Museum footage represents an attempt on the part of ISIL to compensate for apparent compromise on the question of the tomb of Suleyman Shah several days prior. The post also draws attention to the pragmatism adopted by ISIL in destroying antiquities in Mosul which were impractical to sell on the illicit market. The article provides an extensive set of still images from the original video footage.
<https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2015/02/26/iraq-mosul-museum-nergal-gate-nineveh-destruction/>
 - The New York Times** published an article titled “**ISIS Onslaught Engulfs Assyrian Christians as Militants Destroy Ancient Art**” (by Anne Barnard). The article – which covered both the destruction of ancient Assyrian antiquities at the Mosul museum and Nineveh and the persecution of communities of Assyrian Christians in northeastern Syria – draws a direct comparison between the tactics of ISIL in Syria and Iraq and the “rampages” of medieval barbarians. Citing Amr al-Azm, the article also describes the spread of images of cultural destruction by ISIL as an explicit and pragmatic strategy to gain credibility.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/27/world/middleeast/more-assyrian-christians-captured-as-isis-attacks-villages-in-syria.html>
 - BBC News Middle East** published an interview with Prof. Eleanor Robson (University College London/British Institute for the Study of Iraq) titled “**Islamic State ‘destroys ancient Iraq statues in Mosul.’**” In discussing the Mosul Museum destruction videos, Robson points out that ISIL had a twofold intention in their published acts of destruction: first, to shock and repulse the world in general at the destruction of cultural heritage, and second, to attack the history of the people of Mosul in a targeted fashion. This represents for Robson an interesting shift for ISIL from sectarian attacks to localized targeting.
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31647484>
- February 24, 2015 **APSA** posted a report on the **Matbakh al-Ajami** in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-0044**
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1138-aleppo-al-matbakh-al-ajami.html>
- February 23, 2015 **Live Science** published an article titled “**Turkish Troops Relocate Historic Tomb in Syria**” (by Megan Gannon), featuring commentary by ASOR CHI Co-Director Dr. Michael D. Danti.
<http://www.livescience.com/49907-turkish-troops-move-ottoman-tomb.html>

- **Today's Zaman** published an article titled “**Syria accuses Turkey of ‘facilitating’ smuggling of antiquities across border.**”
http://www.todayszaman.com/diplomacy_syria-accuses-turkey-of-facilitating-smuggling-of-antiquities-across-border_373445.html
- **The Fiscal Times** published an article titled “**ISIS Burns 8000 Rare Books and Manuscripts in Mosul**” (by Riyadh Mohammed).
<http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/02/23/ISIS-Burns-8000-Rare-Books-and-Manuscripts-Mosul>

Military and Political Context

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

1. Al-Hasakah Province
 - On February 23, ISIL fighters attacked the YPG-held town of Tel Tamr, northwest of the city of al-Hasakah, and seized several neighboring villages.²
 - From February 23 to at least February 26, ISIL kidnapped at least 220 Assyrian Christian civilians from at least 10 villages southeast of Tel Tamr.³
 - During the reporting period, YPG forces and the Syriac Military Council, supported by at least a dozen coalition airstrikes, captured dozens of villages from ISIL control and were able to advance to within 5 km (3 miles) of the ISIL stronghold of Tel Hamis, with ISIL taking on heavy casualties.⁴
2. Aleppo Area
 - During the reporting period, several rebel groups clashed with pro-regime forces in towns north of Aleppo, including Bashkwi and Handarat.⁵
3. Damascus
 - On February 23, in the Sayyida Zeinab neighborhood of southwestern Damascus, a suicide car bomb killed at least 6 people and wounded at least 14 others at a joint National Defense Force (NDF)-Hezbollah checkpoint; it is unknown what party carried out the attack.⁶
4. Kobani Area
 - During the reporting period, at least a dozen coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions near Kobani.⁷

² C. Kozak. “Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015,” <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

³ <http://syriahr.com/en/2015/02/the-is-kidnaps-220-assyrian-civilians-in-tal-tamir-countryside/>;
<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/isis-hundreds-of-assyrian-christian-hostages-in-syria/>;
<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/02/26/us/ap-ml-islamic-state-news-guide.html>

⁴ C. Kozak. “Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015,” <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>;
<http://syriahr.com/en/2015/02/kurdish-forces-kill-132-isil-militants-in-syrias-hasakah/>;
http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁵ C. Kozak. “Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015,” <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

⁶ C. Kozak. “Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015,” <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

⁷ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

Other key points:

- The new focus of ISIL on al-Hasakah Province could be to offset a slowdown in fighting around Kobani.⁸ In addition, ISIL probably seeks to control Tel Tamr to cut off the main highway between Ras al-Ayn and the city of al-Hasakah, which would limit YPG reinforcements to the area.⁹
- For now, various rebel groups are successfully preventing regime forces from encircling Aleppo and cutting off their supply lines, thus making Aleppo's fall to regime forces a less imminent possibility.¹⁰
- On February 24, Human Rights Watch released a report that accused the Syrian government of dropping barrel bombs on hundreds of rebel-controlled sites over the past year, including at least 450 sites in the town of Deraa and at least 1,000 sites in Aleppo, despite a UN Security Council measure condemning the use of barrel bombs.¹¹

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

1. Tikrit Area

- On February 23, intense fighting took place south of Tikrit between Shiite Popular Mobilization militia fighters and ISIL fighters.¹²
- With clashes intensifying over the preceding few days in the area, on March 1, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced that the Iraqi government's operation to retake Tikrit and surrounding towns from ISIL has officially commenced; a fighting force of about 30,000 that includes Iraqi security forces, Shiite Popular Mobilization militia forces, Sunni tribal fighters, and Iranian military advisors is involved in the offensive. The outcome of this offensive might indicate the potential for success of a similar offensive to retake Mosul this spring.

2. Anbar

- During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around the Ain al-Asad airbase, where U.S. marines are training local forces.¹³
- During the reporting period, Iraqi security forces, with the help of Shiite militiamen and tribal fighters, sought to drive ISIL fighters from the town of al-Baghdadi, which is only 5 km (3 miles) from the Ain al-Asad airbase.¹⁴

3. Baghdad

- On February 24, a car bomb and an IED in the Jisr Diyala area of southern Baghdad killed 22 people and injured 51 others.¹⁵

⁸ C. Kozak. "Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015," <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

⁹ C. Kozak. "Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015," <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

¹⁰ C. Kozak. "Syria Situation Report: February 17-23, 2015," <http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/>

¹¹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/25/world/middleeast/syria-dropped-barrel-bombs-despite-ban-report-says.html>

¹² S. Adnan and ISW Iraq Team. "Iraq Situation Report: February 24-25, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/>

¹³ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html;

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/23/us-mideast-crisis-usa-iraq-idUSKBN0LR18X20150223>

¹⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/24/us-mideast-crisis-baghdad-idUSKBN0LS20H20150224>

¹⁵ S. Adnan and ISW Iraq Team. "Iraq Situation Report: February 24-25, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/>;
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31609386>

4. Mosul Area

- During the reporting period, several coalition airstrikes hit ISIL positions around Mosul.¹⁶

Other key points:

- On February 24, the Pentagon said that about \$17.9 million of military equipment for Iraqi security forces had arrived in Iraq this past week.¹⁷
- Both ISIL and Iraqi security forces, along with about 2,000 Shiite Popular Mobilization militia fighters, are preparing for a battle for Tikrit, which ISIL currently controls.¹⁸

The major international events during the reporting period that impact the ground situation in Syria and Iraq were:

- In a news conference on February 24 in Kuwait, new U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter embraced the current strategy followed by the U.S. in fighting ISIL, while highlighting the need to improve collaboration with international partners and the necessity of equipping moderate Syrian rebel groups, which he confidently said were possible to identify.¹⁹
- On February 24, the Prime Minister of New Zealand announced that his country would be joining the international coalition to fight ISIL, most likely in May, in close coordination with Australia, by sending 143 non-combat troops to Iraq.²⁰ Australian President Tony Abbott is reportedly close to announcing the deployment of hundreds of Australian troops to Iraq in addition to the 200 special forces already there; these new Australian troops will most likely train Iraqi soldiers with the New Zealand troops.²¹
- On February 24, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, which is part of the international coalition fighting ISIL, assured President Obama that Qatar is committed to both fighting Islamist extremists and supporting the moderate Syrian opposition.²²

ISIL Deliberate Destructions of Heritage in the Tel Afar Region

Human Rights Watch reports describe a systematic campaign of terrorizing and forcibly displacing Shia Turkmen communities in the Tel Afar region that took place June 23–26, 2014. Since ISIL took control of the area on June 16, 2014, nearly 90% of the population had fled, and reports indicate that ISIL kidnapped 40 men from the surrounding communities during the three-day spree. During

¹⁶ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html;

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/us-mideast-crisis-airstrikes-idUSKBN0LU2DH20150226>

¹⁷ <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/02/24/world/middleeast/24reuters-mideast-crisis-iraq-usa.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/02/25/world/middleeast/25reuters-mideast-crisis-iraq.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/24/us/politics/defense-chief-vouches-for-us-strategy-on-isis.html?src=xps>

²⁰ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-31598270>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/24/us-mideast-crisis-newzealand-iraq-idUSKBN0LS0B520150224>; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/new-zealand-to-send-troops-for-iraq-training-operation-1424753543>

²¹ <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-02-24/australia-poised-to-send-additional-troops-to-iraq/6259870>; <http://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2015/feb/25/julie-bishop-refuses-to-rule-out-sending-more-australian-troops-to-iraq>

²² <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/24/us-mideast-crisis-qatar-usa-idUSKBN0LS2JE20150224>

this time, HRW reports that ISIL additionally destroyed eight mosques and three shrines located in the villages around Tel Afar. According to HRW:

“ISIS members removed all Iraqi state flags in the two villages and replaced them with black banners that bear the Islamic creed, “There is no god but God, Muhammad is the messenger of God,” the nine villagers said. ISIS also hoisted the banners over the Shia shrine in Guba, al-Imam al-Abbas (IHI 15-018), and three Shia mosques – al-Ridha in Guba (IHI 15-019), and al-Zahraa (IHI 15-020) and al-Imam Hussein (IHI 15-021) in Shireekhan, they said. “Every time they hoisted the banner they would shout, ‘Allahu Akbar [God is Great],’ and fire shots in the air,” said Mohsen, 49.

ISIS placed explosives in Imam Abbas’ shrine and the three Shia mosques, and on June 24 blew them up, said one witness from Guba and one from Shireekhan as well as the local activists. All others interviewed said they had heard from Sunni inhabitants of the villages, or relatives who had not yet fled, that ISIS had destroyed the places of worship. At that point any remaining Shia in the villages fled, they said.

ISIS also took over the homes of prominent residents of the two villages, the residents said. They said they were certain that the fighters were ISIS because of their black banners and their destruction of Shia places of worship. Some of the residents said they or their neighbors had initially fled after ISIS took Mosul but subsequently trickled back into Guba and Shireekhan, lured by reports that the villages were calm and fears that if they did not return, ISIS would encourage Sunnis to occupy their homes.

In Tal Afar, ISIS on June 25 destroyed the Shia shrines of Imam Sa’ad (IHI 15-001) and Khider al-Elias (IHI 15-007), a historic shrine on a site where Christians and Yezidis, a Kurdish minority sect, also worshipped, as well as the mosque of Hashim Antr (IHI 15-008), two journalists and an activist from the city told Human Rights Watch. The following day, ISIS destroyed four more mosques in Tal Afar – Imam Sadiq (IHI 15-009), al-Abbas (IHI 15-010), Ar Mahmoud (IHI 15-004), and Ahl al-Beit (IHI 15-011), they said.”²³

Digital Globe satellite imagery obtained by CHI shows five additional places of worship in the Tel Afar area that were destroyed by ISIL during this time. The Husseiniyeh of Martyrs Lashkar-e Mulla (IHI 15-002) and the Husseiniyeh Mullah Mahmoud (IHI 15-004) have been reported by media outlets, but the Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi al-Mawla (IHI15-003), the Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib (IHI15-005), and an Unidentified Mosque (IHI 15-006) have only been documented by remote sensing.

Reports based on ISIL social media posts indicate that the Qaddo Mosque (IHI15-012), Mosque of Sheikh Jawad Al Sadiq (IHI15-013), Mosque of Imam al-Hakim (IHI15-014), Tomb and Shrine of Ahmed ar-Rifa'i (IHI15-015), and Tomb of Sheikh Ibrahim (IHI 15-016) were also destroyed during this campaign.

Key Heritage Recommendations and Actions

- ASOR CHI will prioritize the completion of additional/updated Incident Reports on the Mosul Museum Incident, Nineveh, and other intentional destructions in northern Iraq.

²³ <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 15-019 Update

Report Date: February 5, 2015 (updated February 27, 2015)

Site Name: Umayyad Mosque (Great Mosque; SHI 643), Sakka Amini House, a residence, and the Abou al-Ezz Restaurant in Damascus

Date of Incident: February 5, 2015

Location: UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Damascus (Damascus governorate)

Coordinates:

Site Description:

According to Ross Burns:

It is impossible to summarise in a few words the beauty and significance of [the Umayyad Mosque]. Few other structures from the ancient world speak so eloquently of the many phases of their history—its beginnings as the temple of the early Roman period dedicated to Jupiter (as successor to the Semitic deity, Hadad, god of the heavens and of fertility); its conversion to the Byzantine church of St John (the Baptist?); its rebuilding in the first years of the eighth century as the great congregational mosque of the new Islamic capital of a world empire; its many vicissitudes since that date including Mongol destruction and the great fire of 1893. It is, in itself, a museum to 3000 years of history and a contemporary place of prayer and contemplation.²⁴

Site Date: Umayyad Mosque (early first millennium BC – nineteenth century AD)

Source of Destruction: Rocket attacks by Jaysh al-Islam (Islam Army), directed against various areas within Damascus. One rocket appears to have landed within the Great Square of the Umayyad Mosque, and three rockets are reported to have hit near the mosque. On February 26, 2015, the DGAM posted an assessment and some photos of the “light” damage inflicted on four historical buildings by the shelling on February 5.

Umayyad Mosque (southwestern side: column gallery near the Dome of the Treasury and the roof): “fragmentation effects” scattered on the columns; minor damage to the roof.

Sakka Amini House (inner courtyard and interior walls at the western portico): fragmentation on the stone floor and the walls.

Residence (interior façades overlooking the courtyard): “fragmentation effects” scattered on the walls; wooden doors smashed

²⁴ Burns, Ross. 2014. Damascus دمشق — itinerary 02 the Great Mosque of the Umayyads. *Monuments of Syria* website. <http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/damascus-%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%82-itinerary-02-the-great-mosque-of-the-umayyads/>

Abou al-Ezz Restaurant (the roof): damaged brickwork

Pattern:

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/05/us-mideast-crisis-syria-damascus-idUSKBN0L90J120150205>

ABC news: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/International/damascus-syria-wakes-massive-rocket-attacks/story?id=28743309>

NBC news: <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/damascus-hit-rockets-fired-islam-army-insurgents-state-media-n300611>

Aljazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/mortar-lands-near-ancient-syrian-mosque-20131129174038319409.html>

DGAM:

<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1605>

Scholarly:

Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. London: I.B. Tauris. pp. 99–106.



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Umayyad Mosque, Damascus (DGAM)



Sakka Amini House, Damascus (DGAM)



Sakka Amini House, Damascus (DGAM)



Sakka Amini House, Damascus (DGAM)



Sakka Amini House, Damascus (DGAM)



Residence, Damascus (DGAM)



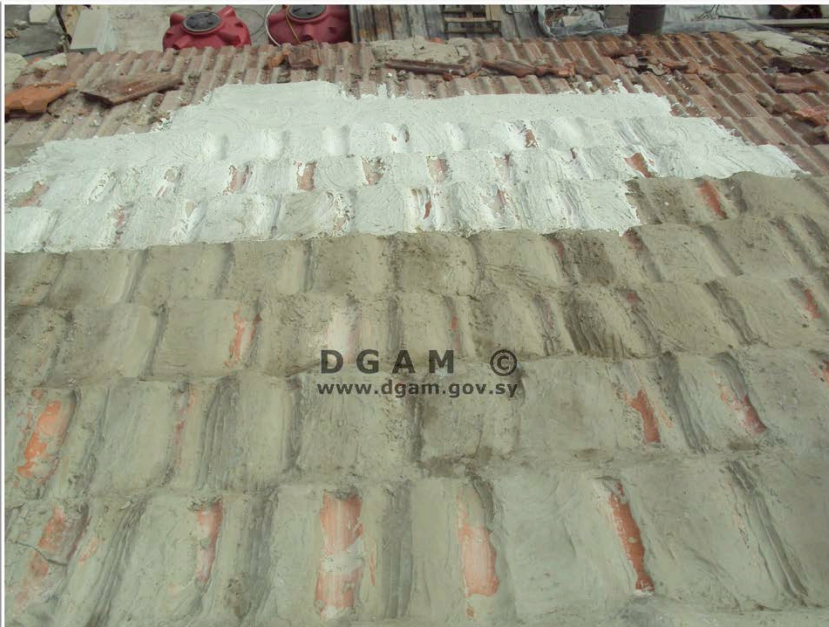
Residence, Damascus (DGAM)



Residence, Damascus (DGAM)



Residence, Damascus (DGAM)



Abou al-Ezz Restaurant, Damascus (DGAM)

SHI 15-0044

Report Date: February 24, 2015

Site Name: Matbakh al-Ajami (al-Matbakh al-Ajami; Palace of Majd al-Din ibn ad-Daya)

Date of Incident: Unspecified

Location: UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, 150 meters west of the Citadel, on the same square as the Khan al-Sabun, Madrasa al-Sahibiye, and Khan al-Wazir

Coordinates:

Site Description:

According to Ross Burns:

[T]he Matbakh al-Ajami [is] a Zengid (12th century) palace which formerly housed a small museum of folklore....The façade was reconstructed when the street was widened in 1950. The rebuilt entrance incorporates a doorway rescued from another palace, of the Ottoman, Othman Pasha. The doorway may be Ottoman or Mamluk but consciously imitates the Ayyubid love for fantastic interlaced decoration. The *muqarnas* of the north *iwan* is particularly notable.²⁵

According to Yasser Tabbaa:

The so-called Matbakh (kitchen) al-'Ajami of Aleppo is located about 150 meters west of the Citadel, on a modern street that connects the Citadel with the Great Mosque. In all likelihood, this was originally an Ayyubid palace that was built in the early 13th century by the notable al-'Ajami family, making it the only remaining non-royal Ayyubid palace in Syria. Its identification rests on a passage in Ibn Shaddad that describes the Madrasa al-Sharafiyya, which was built by Banu al-'Ajami, and their nearby palace. About a third of this palace, including its entire southern *iwan*, was demolished when the street to its south was widened in 1965 and the palace was given a façade in the Mamluk style.

An inconsequential entrance leads to the northeastern corner of a spacious courtyard surrounded by four *iwans* and covered by a dome on *muqarnas* pendentives, possibly the largest preserved Ayyubid dome. All four *iwans* are flanked by narrow arched openings, forming a tripartite façade composition, typical of all Ayyubid palaces. The northern *iwan* is framed by an elaborate arch with pendant *voussoirs* and vaulted by an exquisite *muqarnas* vault that resembles a starry sky. Service rooms accessed by a door behind this *iwan* may have also belonged to the palace, but they had not been properly explored prior to encroachment.²⁶

Site Date: Zengid (12 century AD) or Ayyubid (early 13th century AD)

Source of Destruction: APSA posted 25 photos showing the state of the structure at various points in time; in some cases, dates are provided to allow for comparison. The photos show major damage to both domes (one of which belongs to an adjacent building, Hajj Musa al-Amiri Mosque), as well as large holes and numerous pockmarks in the exterior façade of the structure. A large pile of rubble indicates the collapse of part of the southwestern corner of the structure. The two ornate doors fronting the street are not visible in some photos and could potentially have been removed and/or destroyed, but they may simply have been left open. The photos also provide vivid evidence for the level of destruction in the surrounding neighborhood. Two of the photos posted by APSA (see photo captions below), showing damage to the street facade and dome, were posted on the DGAM

²⁵ Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. London: I.B. Tauris. p. 42

²⁶ <http://archnet.org/sites/10559>

website on May 6, 2014.²⁷ The *Monuments of Syria* website cites a photo posted on the DGAM website in June 2014, showing damage to the street facade and dome, and also a clip posted by AQPSA on January 27, 2015, showing that more of the dome had collapsed.²⁸

Pattern: Ongoing urban warfare in the Ancient City of Aleppo.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1138-aleppo-al-matbakh-al-ajami.html>

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1263>

Monuments of Syria: <http://monumentsofsyria.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Syria-damage-list-Feb-2015.pdf>

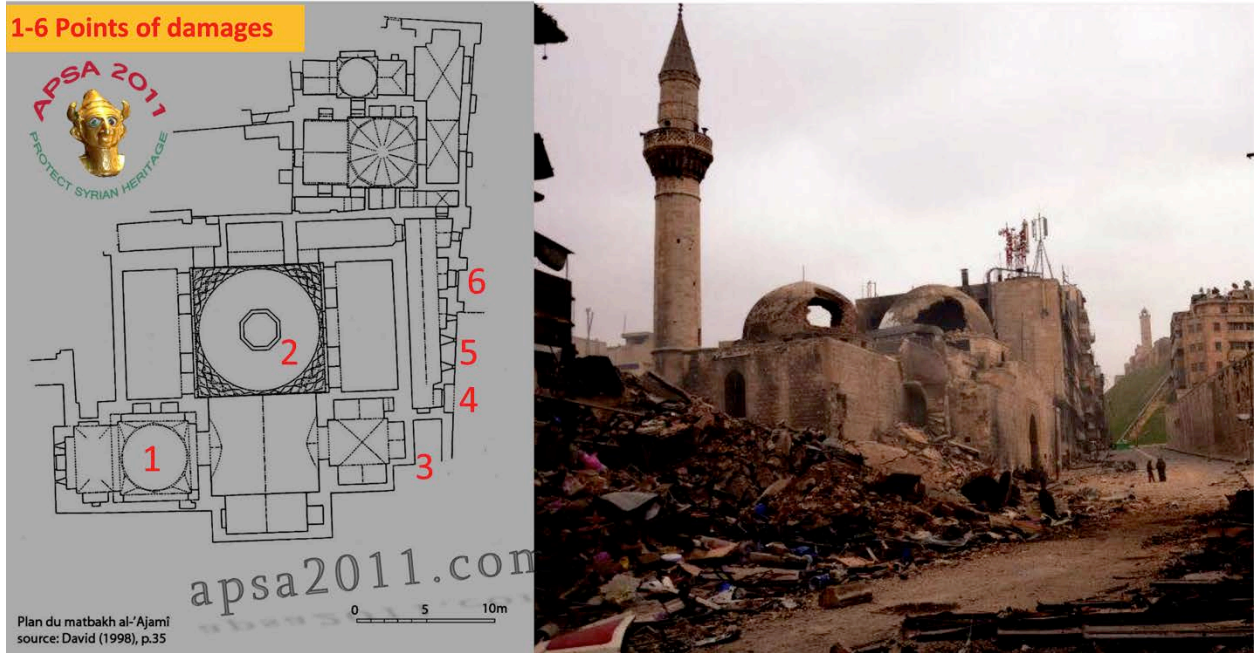
Scholarly:

Tabbaa, Yasser. Matbakh al-Ajami, Aleppo, Syria. Archnet. <http://archnet.org/sites/10559>

Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. London: I.B. Tauris. p. 42

²⁷ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1263>

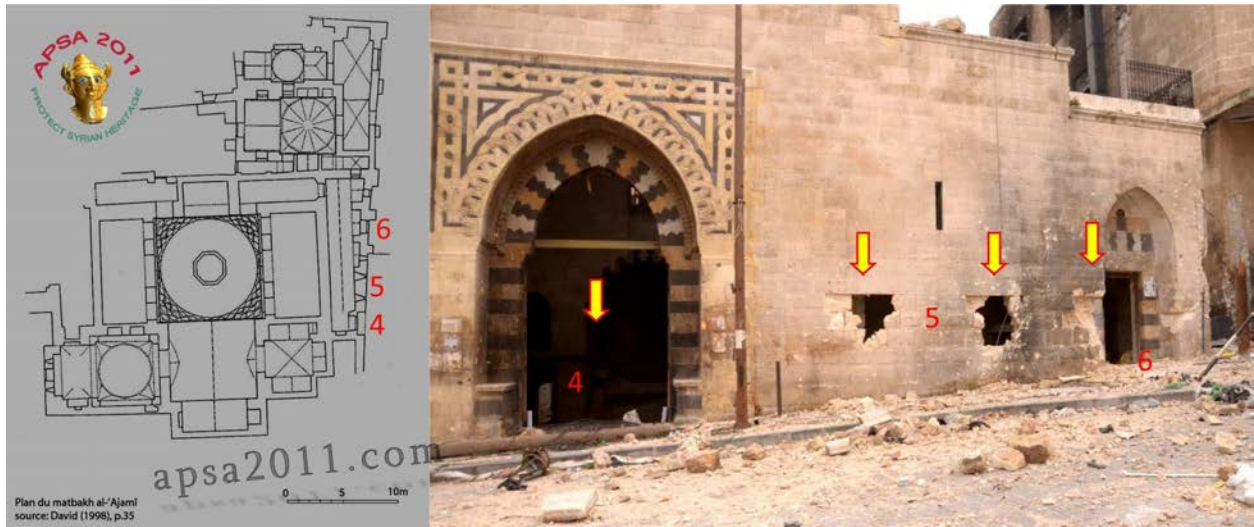
²⁸ <http://monumentsofsyria.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Syria-damage-list-Feb-2015.pdf>



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Street view showing Matbakh al-Ajami (second building on the right) (APSA)



View from Matbakh al-Ajami (first building on the left) toward the Aleppo Citadel (APSA)



Street view showing Matbakh al-Ajami (first building on the left) (APSA)



Street view showing Matbakh al-Ajami (second building on the left, beyond the large pile of rubble) and the Aleppo Citadel in the distance (APSA; also posted on DGAM website May 6, 2014)



Matbakh al-Ajami (on the right) (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



View from Matbakh al-Ajami (first building on the left) toward the Aleppo Citadel (APSA; also posted on DGAM website May 6, 2014)



View from Matbakh al-Ajami (first building on the left) toward the Aleppo Citadel (APSA)



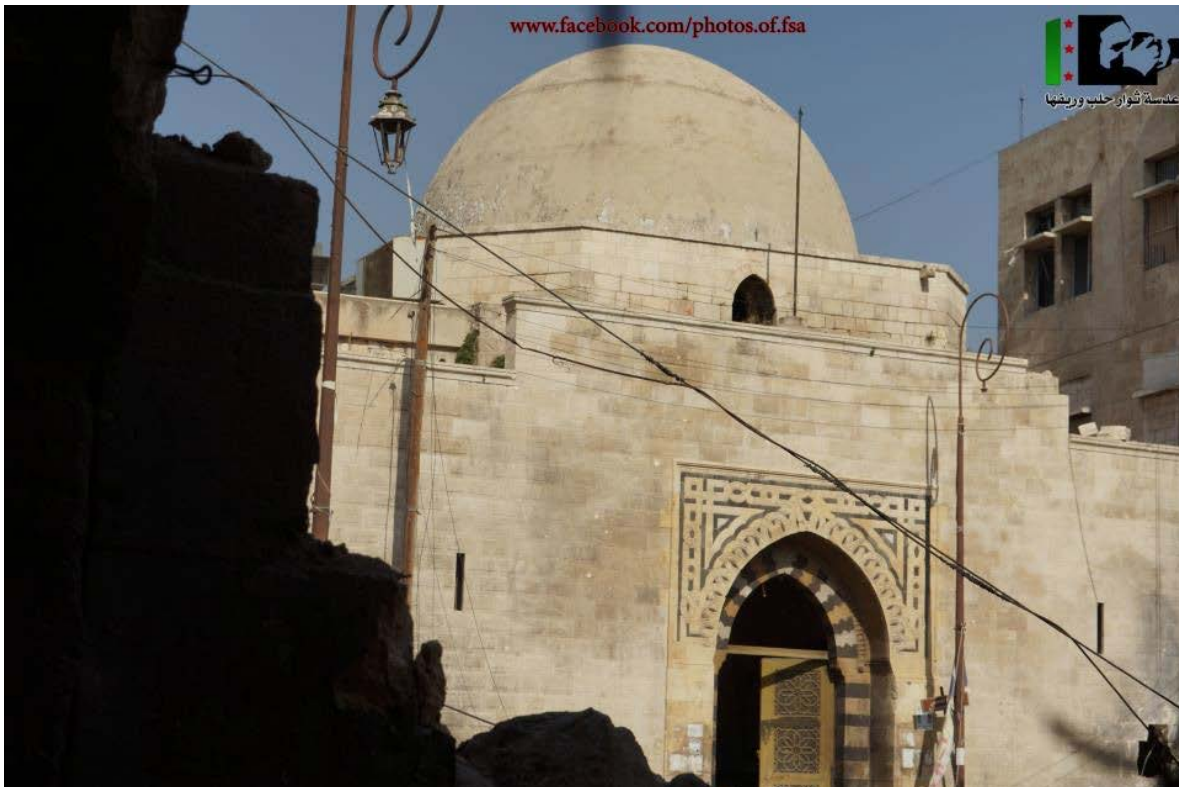
Matbakh al-Ajami (first building on the left) (APSA)



Map showing location of Matbakh al-Ajami (within red rectangle). Aleppo Citadel is visible at the right edge of the map. (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)



Matbakh al-Ajami (APSA)

SHI 15-0045

Report Date: March 1, 2015

Site Name: Qadi 'Askar Mosque

Date of Incident: August 13, 2013

Location: Aleppo

Coordinates:

Site Description: There are currently few sources on this mosque. The mosque is Gaube and Wirth No. 618.

Site Date: Constructed in 1657. Early Ottoman.

Source of Destruction: SARG forces dropped a barrel bomb on or near the structure on August 13, 2013.

Pattern: Probable intentional targeting/destruction through military means.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI has designated the Old City of Aleppo and immediately surrounding areas high priorities for monitoring and mitigation efforts.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA Website: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1145-aleppo-qadi-askar-mosque.html>

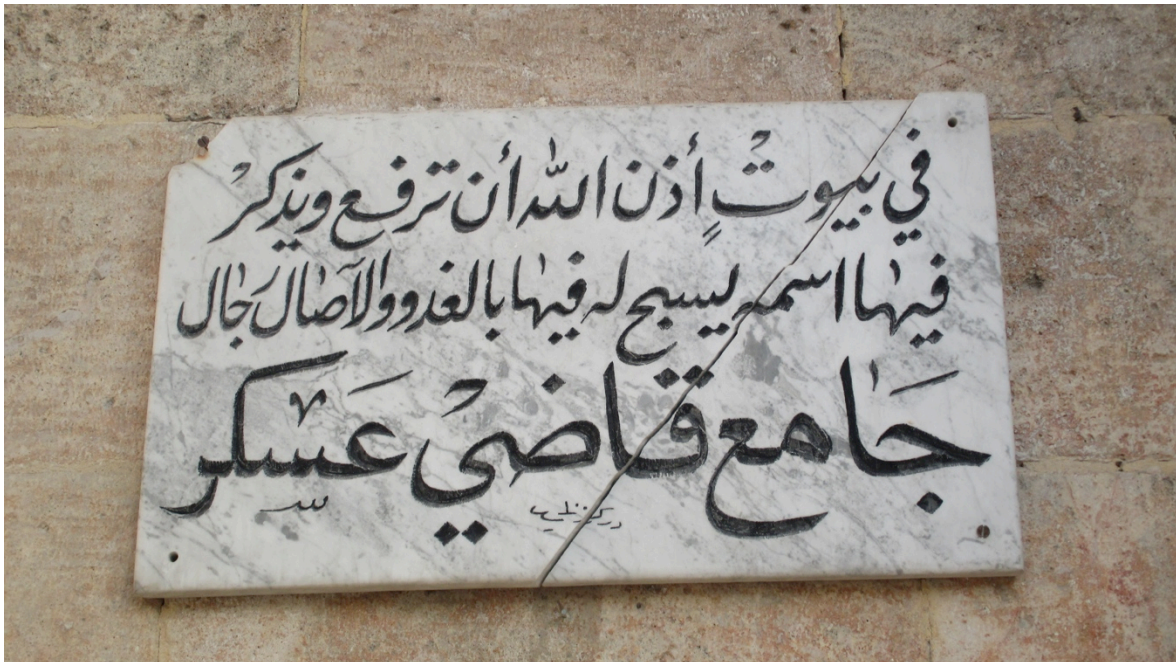
Scholarly:

Gaube, Heinze and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo* (Wiesbaden: Ludwig Reichert), pp. 114, 185, 408.

Gazzi, II, 394.



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (Halab News).



Signage at the Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



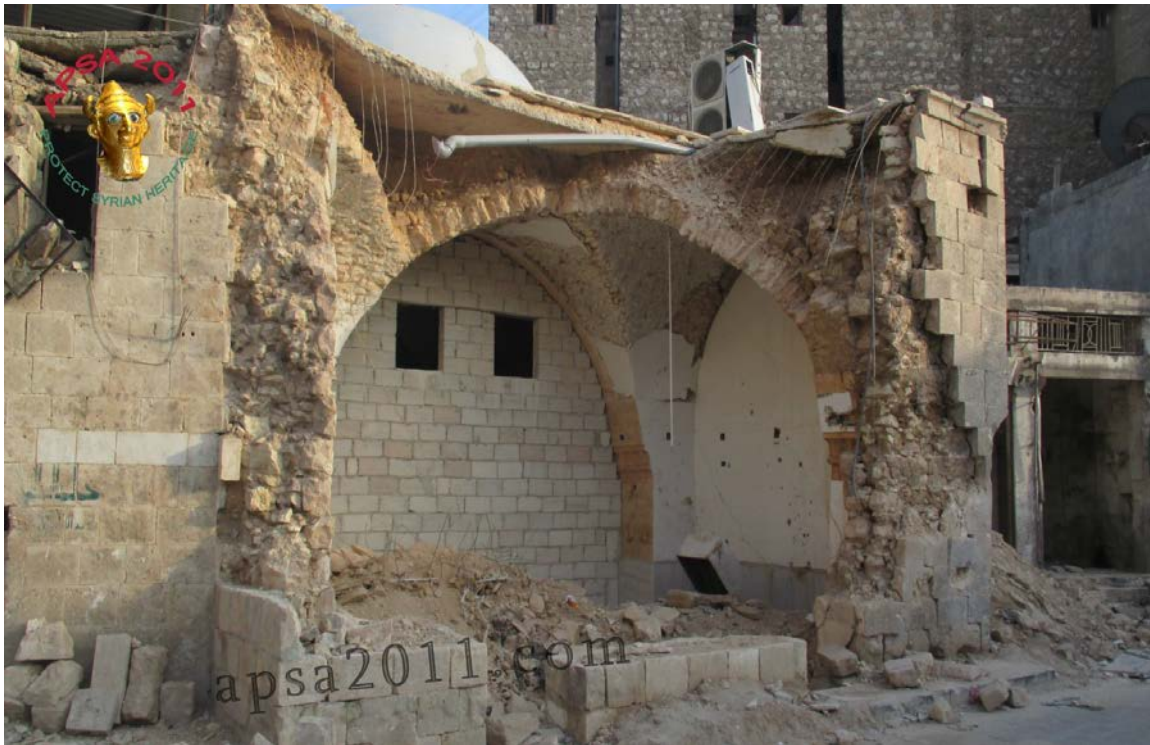
The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (APSA).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (Halab News).



The Qadi 'Askar Mosque (Halab News).

SHI 15-0046

Report Date: March 1, 2015

Site Name: “Khan al-Basha”

Date of Incident: Unspecified (but there were reports of damage in this area on January 28, 2015)

Location: Bab al-Hadid area of Aleppo east of the Banqusa Mosque, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo

Coordinates:

Site Description: Local informants call this structure the “Khan al-Basha.” The damaged area in photos corresponds to the “Gewölbehalle” (Gaub and Wirth No. 556²⁹) described as “Teils Lagerraum, teils Färberrei,” a passageway that leads to the northeast corner of the large Khan/Khan al-Ikingi/Pehmar Khan (Gaub and Wirth no. 555). The metal door shown in the APSA photos may be the entrance to No. 555, although further information is necessary for confirmation. On the development of this area of the Old City in the 15th Century CE, Gaube and Wirth³⁰ provide the following details, “Die Banqusa-Straße erwähnt er als nächste. In ihr waren in seiner Zeit ein Suq und ein Han als Nachfolger eines älteren Suq Angelegt worden. Der Han is sehr wahrscheinlich die anlage Kat. 555.”

Site Date: Exact date not yet determined. The damaged structures shown in the APSA photos, however, are likely associated with the Khan al-Ikingi immediately to the east, dating to the 15th Century and restored in 1734, 1928, and 1936.

Source of Destruction: Urban warfare — probably barrel bomb damage, but this remains to be verified.

Pattern: Urban warfare in the Old City of Aleppo.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA Website: <http://www.apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1148-aleppo-khan-al-basha.html>

Scholarly:

Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo*. (Wiesbaden: Ludwig Reichert).

²⁹ Gaub eand Wirth. 1984: 402.

³⁰ Gaube and Wirth 1984: 86, No. 68 and p. 207.



Image showing the Banqusa Mosque and Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (Digital Globe)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



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The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)



The Khan al-Basha in Aleppo (APSA)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 15-0001

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqeel Ibn Abi Talib

Date of Incident: June 25–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: A shrine and mosque complex dedicated to a descendant of Aqeel ibn Abi Talib, brother of Ali, the First Imam appointed by the Prophet Muhammad.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera (reposted images from social media, original accounts now disabled):

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/islamic-state-claims-shia-mosque-destruction-20147414533266331.html>

AFP (via al Arabiya): <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/2014/07/05/ISIS-destroys-Shiite-mosques-shrines-in-Iraq.html>

Shafaaq:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isil-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:



The Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqil Ibn Ali Talib in Tel Afar, Iraq.



Demolition of the shrine with caption “The destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Imam Saad bin-Aqeel in Tel Afar” (posted on Twitter, original account now disabled).



ولاية نينوى | تفخيخ ونسف معبد (حُسينية سعد بن عقيل) في مدينة تلعفر
Demolition of the shrine with caption “The destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Imam Saad bin-Aqeel in Tel Afar” (posted on Twitter, account now disabled).



The Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqeel Ibn Ali Talib on January 8, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqeel Ibn Ali Talib on July 4, 2014 after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe)



The Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqeel Ibn Ali Talib on July 4, 2014 after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)

IHI 15-0002

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Martyrs of Lashkar-e Mulla

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The destroyed mosque complex is located on the north end of town just south of highway 47 and the Farouq Mosque, which currently appears to be undamaged.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dating to January 8, 2014, the mosque was still standing. In imagery dating to July 4, 2014, the mosque has been destroyed.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera (reposted images from social media, original accounts now disabled):
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/islamic-state-claims-shia-mosque-destruction-20147414533266331.html>

Scholarly:



The Mosque of Martyrs of Lashkar-e Mulla in Tell Afar, Iraq, on January 8, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Martyrs of Lashkar-e Mulla in Tel Afar, Iraq, on July 4, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Martyrs of Lashkar-e Mulla in Tell Afar, Iraq, on November 19, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of the Martyr of Lashkar-e Mulla (posted on Twitter, account now disabled)



Demolition of Mosque of the Martyr of Lashkar-e Mulla with caption “Destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Askar Mulla (Lashkar-e Mulla) in Tel Afar” (posted on Twitter, account now disabled)

IHI 15-0003

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi al-Mawla

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Mosque complex located south of the citadel.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dating to January 8, 2014, the mosque was still standing. In imagery dating to July 4, 2014, the mosque has been destroyed.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Scholarly:



The Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi al-Mawla in Tel Afar, Iraq, on January 8, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi al-Mawla in Tel Afar, Iraq, on July 4, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad Taqi al-Mawla in Tel Afar, Iraq, on November 19, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)

IHI 15-0004

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Husseiniyeh Mullah Mahmoud (probably the Ar-Mahmoud /Ar Mamut Mosque in online media accounts)

Date of Incident: June 26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Immediately east and across the street from the Shrine of Imam Saad Ibn Aqil Ibn Ali Talib (IHI15-001)

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dating to January 8, 2014, the mosque was still standing. In imagery dating to July 4, 2014, the mosque has been destroyed. The fallen minaret is visible in the images.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Shafaq:

<http://english.shafaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isis-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:



The Husseiniyeh Mullah Mahmoud in Tel Afar, Iraq, on January 8, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Husseiniyeh Mullah Mahmoud in Tel Afar, Iraq, on July 4, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



The Husseiniyeh Mullah Mahmoud in Tel Afar, Iraq, on November 19, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)

IHI 15-0005

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib

Date of Incident: June 25–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, located 50km west of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: A small mosque complex on the west side of town just east of Highway 47, most likely dedicated to a Ali ibn Abi Talib, the First Imam appointed by the Prophet Muhammad.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dating to January 8, 2014, and July 4, 2014, the mosque appears to be standing. In imagery dating to September 7, 2014, the mosque is confirmed as destroyed.

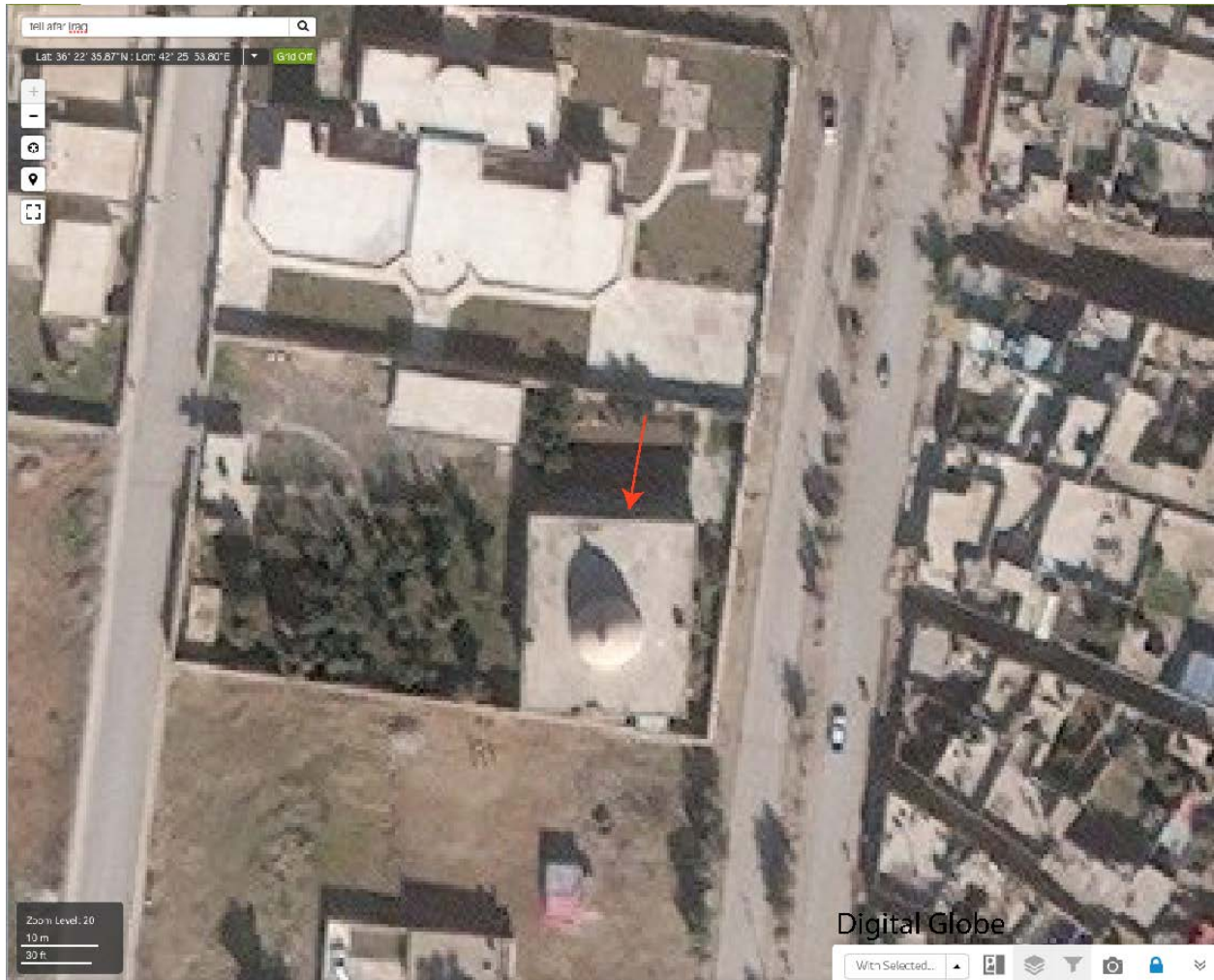
Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Scholarly:



The Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib in Tel Afar, Iraq, on January 8, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib in Tel Afar, Iraq, on July 4, 2014. The structure is intact. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib in Tel Afar, Iraq, on September 7, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



The Mosque of Ali Ibn Abi Talib in Tel Afar, Iraq, on November 19, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction (Digital Globe).

IHI 15-0006

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Unidentified Mosque

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Small mosque complex located northeast of the Ras al-Jedi traffic circle.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dating to January 8, 2014, and July 4, 2014, the mosque appears to be standing. In imagery dating to September 7, 2014, the mosque is confirmed as destroyed.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Scholarly:



Unidentified mosque in Tel Afar, Iraq, on January 8, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



Unidentified mosque in Tel Afar, Iraq, on July 4, 2014, prior to the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



Unidentified mosque in Tel Afar, Iraq, on September 7, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)



Unidentified mosque in Tel Afar, Iraq, on November 19, 2014, after the ISIL deliberate destruction. (Digital Globe)

IHI 15-0007

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Shrine of Khider al-Elias

Date of Incident: June 25, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shrine holy to Shi'a, Christians, and Yezidis. Dedicated to the Prophet Elijah in Christian and Yazidi theology. Also associated with al-Khadir, a messenger or prophet described in the Quran as a servant of God possessing mystic knowledge.³¹

Site Date: Unknown, most likely historic.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant ethnic and religious minority populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Shafaq:

<http://english.shafaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isis-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:

Meri, Josef W. 1999. "Re-appropriating Sacred Space: Medieval Jews and Muslims Seeking Elijah and al-Khadir." *Medieval Encounters* 5.3: pp.237-264.

³¹ Meri, Josef W. 1999. "Re-appropriating Sacred Space: Medieval Jews and Muslims Seeking Elijah and al-Khadir." *Medieval Encounters* 5.3: pp.237-264.

IHI 15-0008

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Hashim Antr

Date of Incident: June 25, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a mosque.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0009

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque Imam Sadiq

Date of Incident: June 26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Mosque most likely associated with Ja'far al-Sadiq, Sixth Imam.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Shafaaq:

<http://english.shafaaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isis-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0010

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of al-Abbas

Date of Incident: June 26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a mosque most likely associated with Abbas ibn Ali, son of First Imam Ali and Fatima, who was killed during the Battle of Karbala.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0011

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque Ahl al-Beit

Date of Incident: June 26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a shrine associated with the family of the Prophet Muhammad.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Shafaaq: <http://english.shafaaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isis-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0012

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Qaddo Mosque

Date of Incident: June 25–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Wasat: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/mobile/article?articleid=25855>

Al Jazeera (reposted images from social media, original accounts now disabled):
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/islamic-state-claims-shia-mosque-destruction-20147414533266331.html>

Scholarly:



Demolition of the Qaddo Mosque (Al Wasat)



Demolition of the Qaddo Mosque with caption "The destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Qaddo in Tel Afar" (posted on Twitter, original account now disabled)

IHI 15-0013

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Sheikh Jawad Al Sadiq (Note: structure very similar to the Husseiniya of Jawad in Tel Afar covered in IHI 15-013)

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a mosque that was previously attacked during Friday prayers by two suicide bombers in 2008, killing four and injuring 17.³²

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera (reposted images from social media, original accounts now disabled):
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2014/07/islamic-state-claims-shia-mosque-destruction-20147414533266331.html>

Scholarly:

³² <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/7247087.stm>



"The destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Jawad in Tel Afar" (posted on Twitter, original account now disabled)



"The destruction of the Husseiniya Temple of Jawad in Tel Afar" (posted on Twitter, original account now disabled)

IHI 15-0014

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Imam al-Hakim

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Shafaq: <http://english.shafaq.com/index.php/security/10325-isil-blow-up-3-shrines-and-shia-mosques-in-tal-afar-west-of-mosul>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0015

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Tomb and Shrine of Ahmed ar-Rifa'i

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014

Location: town of Muhallabiyah, outside of Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Sufi complex dedicated to Ahmed ar-Rifa'i, founder of the Rifa'i Order in Sufi mysticism.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely historic.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant ethnic and religious minority populations. One of the several places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the area around Tel Afar between June 24 and 26, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Wasat: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/mobile/article?articleid=25855>

Scholarly:



Demolition of the Tomb and Shrine of Ahmed ar-Rifa'i (posted on Twitter, original account now disabled)

IHI 15-0016

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Tomb of Sheikh Ibrahim

Date of Incident: June 24–26, 2014 (exact date unknown)

Location: village of Sheikh Ibrahim near Mullahabiyah, 25km southwest of Tel Afar, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Small mosque and shrine complex located in the modern village of Sheikh Ibrahim.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction. In Digital Globe imagery dated January 19, 2014, the tomb is still intact. In imagery dated September 7, 2014, it has been destroyed.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Wasat: <http://www.alwasat.ly/ar/mobile/article?articleid=25855>

Scholarly:



The Sheikh Ibrahim Tombs in Sheikh Ibrahim, Iraq, on January 19, 2014, prior to its deliberate destruction by ISIL. (Digital Globe)



The ruins of the Sheikh Ibrahim Tombs in Sheikh Ibrahim, Iraq, on September 7, 2014, after its deliberate destruction by ISIL. (Digital Globe)



Demolition of Sheikh Ibrahim (Al-Wasat)

IHI 15-0017

Report Date: January 31, 2015, **updated February 27, 2015**

Site Name: Central Library of Mosul University and other university libraries

Date of Incident: January 2015, precise date unknown.

Location: Mosul, Ninawa governorate

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Mosul Central Library is a system of multiple repositories of research volumes, archives, rare books, maps, and other collections for Mosul University. The main repository is the Central Library, which holds the primary research collection for the campus. Other libraries across the university's many colleges also have specialized libraries. In 2003 the Central Library was damaged and vandalized,³³ and since then the university has rebuilt the collection.³⁴

Site Date: multiple

Source of Destruction: Looting and vandalism by ISIL.

Pattern: On January 31, 2015, the Associated Press reported that ISIL broke into the Mosul University library and burned books on science and culture in front of students. An unnamed Mosul University professor of history claims that ISIL had been vandalizing and destroying libraries in the city since December, specifically noting extreme damage to the Mosul Museum library, the Sunni Muslim Library, and the library of the Latin Church and Monastery of the Dominican Fathers. Local sources also alleged that ISIL has been using Syrian-registered refrigeration trucks to transport stolen rare books and ancient texts belonging to Mosul-area libraries, supposedly to be sold on the black market. Sources informed ASOR CHI that ISIL had burned books on philosophy, history, geography, and science from the Mosul University Central Library.

On February 21, 2015, news agencies reported that the Mosul University theater was destroyed, though there have been no indications that the Central Library collection was vandalized again during the attack on the Mosul Central Public Library (IHI15-035). Instead, reports allege that the university campus is being used as a barracks for ISIL operatives, while other parts of the campus are said to have been inhabited by individuals displaced by the conflict.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:

³³ J.-M. Arnoult (2003) *Iraq: Assessment of Iraqi cultural heritage—Libraries and archives*. UNESCO, Paris.

³⁴ Johnson, Ian (2005) "The impact on libraries and archives in Iraq of war and looting in 2003—A preliminary assessment of the damage and subsequent reconstruction efforts." *The International Information & Library Review*. Volume 37.3: pg 209–271.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Associated Press: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/1ec4e2a1bb5b4dce97faa462478f7c0e/iraqi-libraries-ransacked-islamic-state-group-mosul>

UNESCO: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/iraq-office/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco_alarmed_by_news_of_mass_destruction_of_books_in_mosul

Elaph: <http://www.elaph.com/Web/Culture/2015/2/985403.html>

Al Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/02/sacrificial-books-mosul-150227060556341.html>

The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/feb/26/isis-destroys-thousands-books-libraries>

Scholarly:

Mosul University Library: <http://libcentral.uomosul.edu.iq/>

IFLA Report assessing damage to libraries in Iraq following the 2003 invasion:
<http://archive.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq0205.htm>

J.-M. Arnoult (2003) *Iraq: Assessment of Iraqi cultural heritage—Libraries and archives*. UNESCO, Paris.

Shaw, G. (2003). *Assessment of damage to libraries and archives in Iraq*. London: British Library, 1 May. [Online]: <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq0205.htm>

Johnson, Ian (2005) "The impact on libraries and archives in Iraq of war and looting in 2003—A preliminary assessment of the damage and subsequent reconstruction efforts." *The International Information & Library Review*. Volume 37.3: pg 209–271.

IHI 15-0018

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Shrine of Imam al-Abbas

Date of Incident: June 24, 2014

Location: village of Guba, adjacent to Shireekhan, 5km north of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a shrine most likely dedicated to Abbas ibn Ali, son of First Imam Ali and Fatima, who was killed during the Battle of Karbala.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations, with several places of worship in the area around Tel Afar targeted between June 24 and 26, 2014. One of the four places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the villages of Guba and Shireekhan on June 24, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0019

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Al-Ridha

Date of Incident: June 24, 2014

Location: village of Guba, adjacent to Shireekhan, 5km north of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Shi'a mosque, most likely associated with Ali al-Ridha, Eighth Imam.

Site Date: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations, with several places of worship in the area around Tel Afar targeted between June 24 and 26, 2014. One of the four places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the villages of Guba and Shireekhan on June 24, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0020

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Al-Zahraa

Date of Incident: June 24, 2014

Location: village of Shireekhan, adjacent to Guba, 5km north of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations, with several places of worship in the area around Tel Afar targeted between June 24 and 26, 2014. One of the four places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the villages of Guba and Shireekhan on June 24, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0021

Report Date: January 16, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Al-Imam Hussein

Date of Incident: June 24, 2014

Location: village of Shireekhan, adjacent to Guba, 5km north of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Unknown, most likely modern.

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places in areas with significant Shia/Turkmen populations, with several places of worship in the area around Tel Afar targeted between June 24 and 26, 2014. One of the four places of worship destroyed by ISIL in the villages of Guba and Shireekhan on June 24, 2014.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/06/27/iraq-isis-kidnaps-shia-turkmen-destroys-shrines>

Scholarly:

IHI 15-0022

Report Date: January 21, 2015

Site Name: Shrine of Imam al-Dur

Date of Incident: Probably October 2014³⁵

Location: Al Dur, located 20 km north of Samarra city, Salah ad-Din governorate

Coordinates:

Site Description: 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.³⁶

The 'Uqaylid 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: 11th century CE

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction (see also CHI Incident Report IHI 15-013)

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.”³⁷ 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 ISIL.

³⁵ In late October 2014, photos and rumors about the destruction of Imam Dur were circulating (see <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/iraq-samarra-islamic-state-destruction-shia-shrine-imam-al-daur/>). On November 26, a video was released showing the destruction of Imam Dur and other structures in Salah al-Din governorate (see <https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2014/11/27/november-isis-report/>).

³⁶ <http://archnet.org/sites/3838>

³⁷ 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

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI 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><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0xKJZ1dJrg8>

Gates of Nineveh: <https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2014/11/27/november-isis-report/>

Conflict Antiquities: <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2014/10/30/iraq-samarra-islamic-state-destruction-shia-shrine-imam-al-daur/>

Scholarly:

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



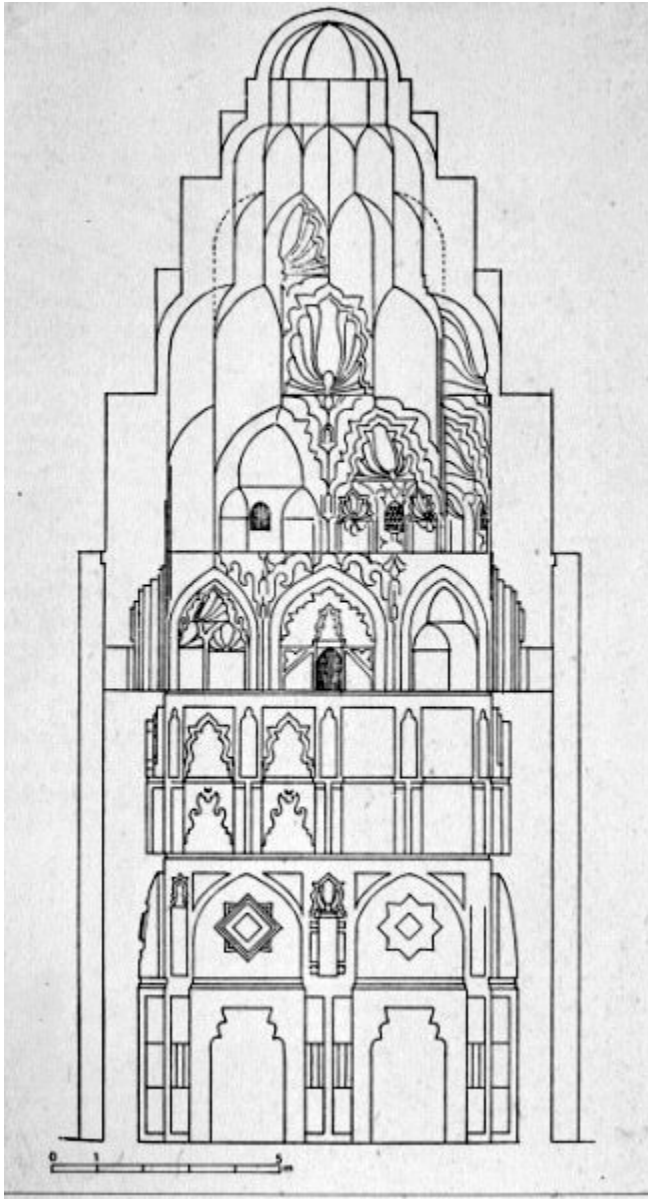
Imam Dur in 1909 (Gertrude Bell Archive, Newcastle University)



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)



Shrine of Imam al-Dur prior to destruction.



Shrine of Imam al-Dur during demolition with caption “Cleansing the earth of idols worshipped that exclude The Almighty Allah.”

IHI 15-0032

Report Date: February 27, 2015

Site Name: al-Khidr Mosque

Date of Incident: February 27, 2015

Location: Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The al-Khidr Mosque, known colloquially as the “Collector of Greens” Mosque, and also known as al-Mujahidi Mosque, the Mosque of Rabd, or the Red Mosque. The building was known for its location on the banks of the Tigris as well as its ornate plaster and brick decorative architectural features.

Site Date: 1133 CE

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places significant to Shia or Sufi populations as well as other religious and ethnic minorities.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.

Sources:

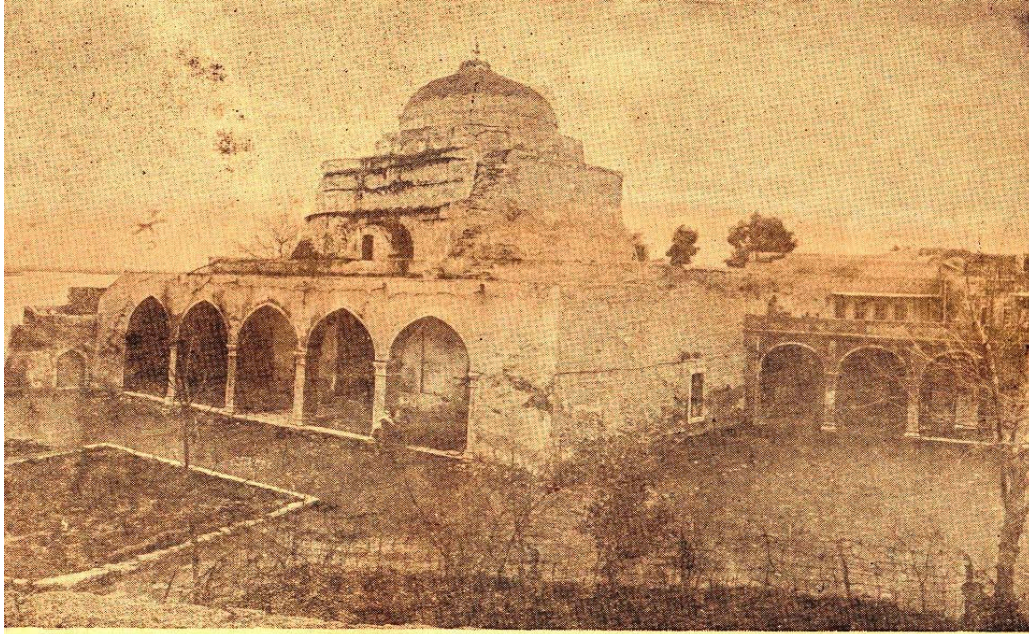
Online Reporting:

Shafaaq: <http://www.shafaaq.com/sh2/index.php/news/iraq-news/91865-2015-02-26-11-57-17.html>

Almada Press: <http://www.almadapress.com/ar/news/لقرابة تاريخه يعود جامعها يزيل داعش>

Scholarly:

Video from Ninawa Waqf about the al-Khidr Mosque:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmaLWFB7IRQ>



الشكل (٦) : مصلى جامع مجاهد الدين ، وفيه القبة القديمة التي بناها مجاهد الدين •

al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph (Almada Press)



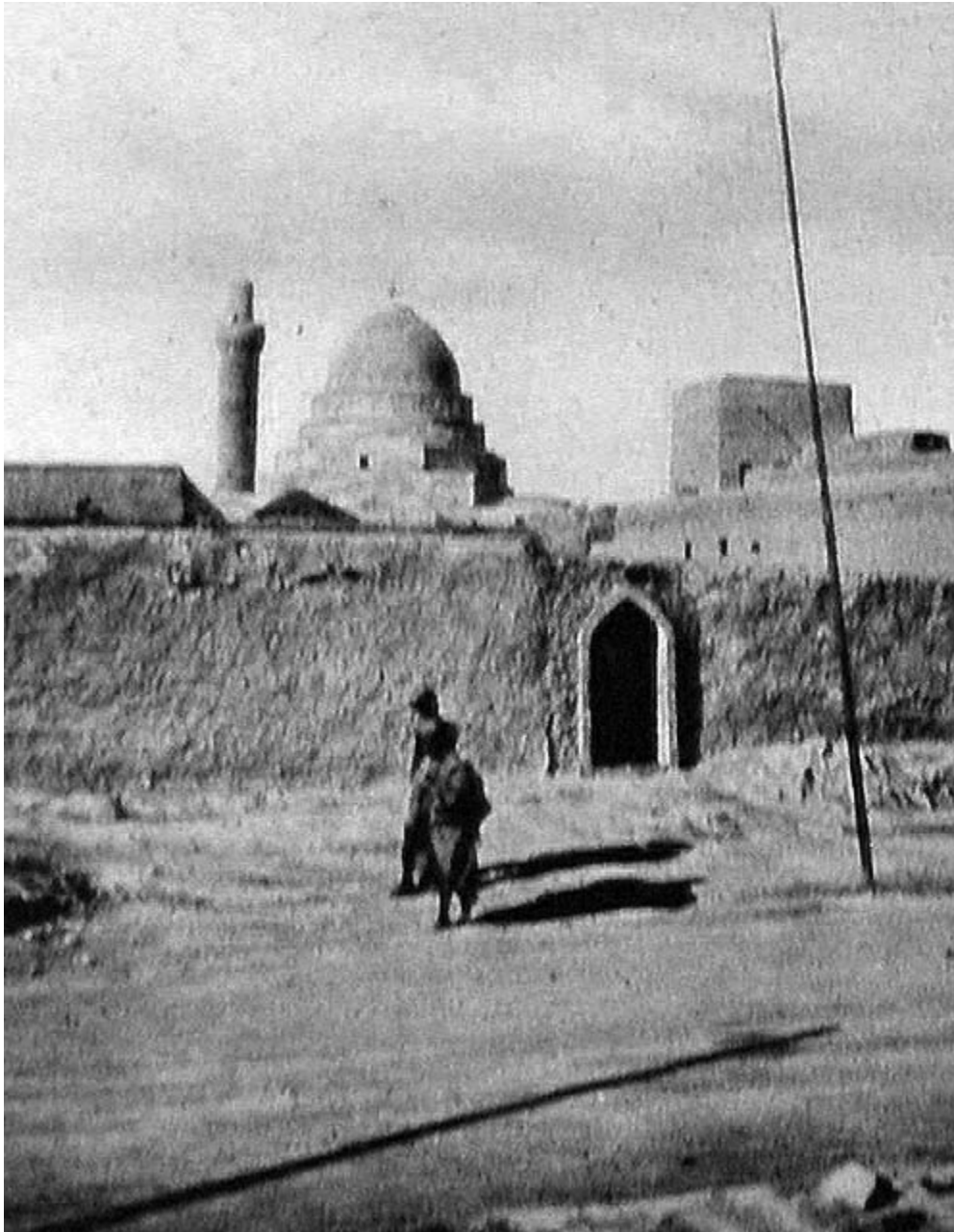
al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph (<http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-QCB4SNn7lO8/Ux0pypSPM5I/AAAAAAAAABOg/lXV7FyvvjsU/s1600/%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9+12.jpg>)



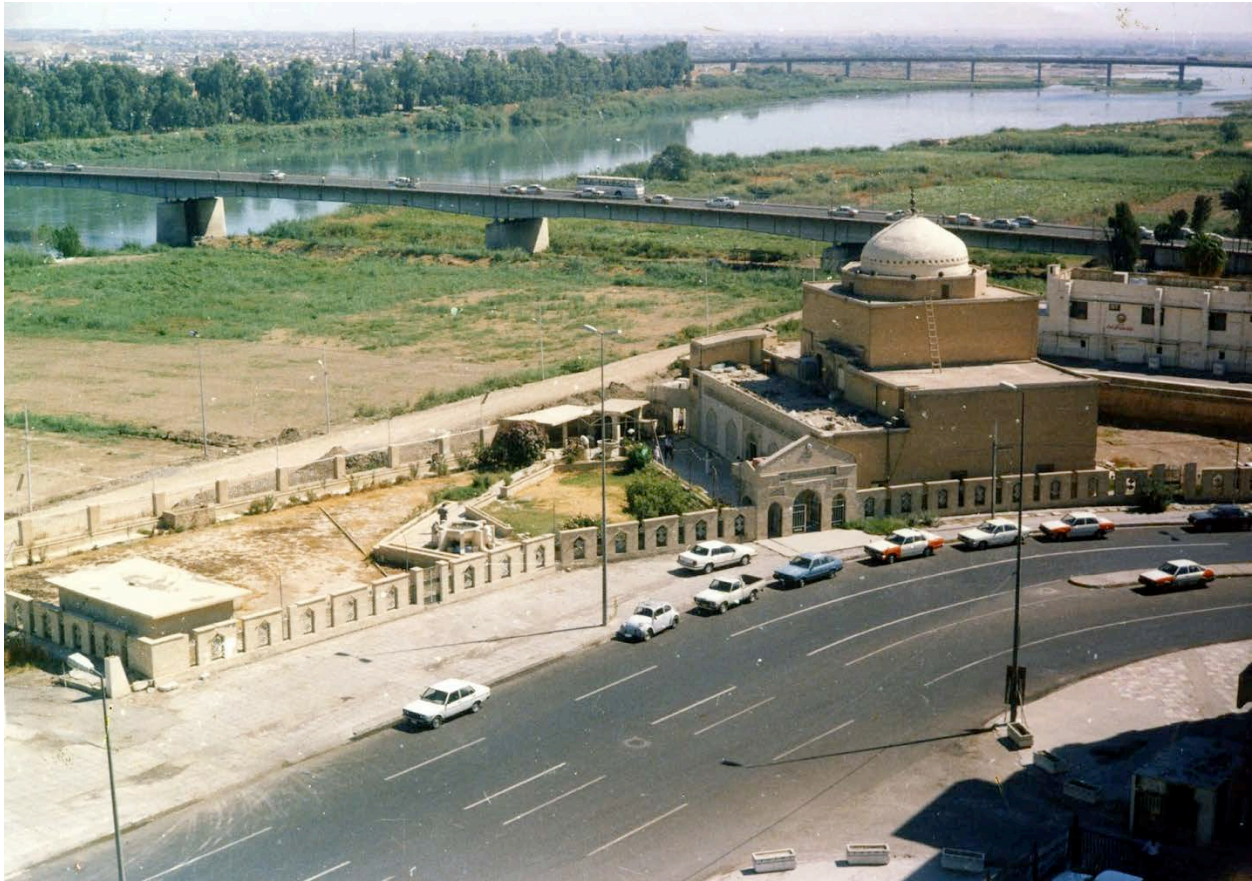
al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph (http://2.bp.blogspot.com/-SiKG9H3HtzQ/Ux0yF1ShPii/AAAAAAAAABRc/7cc3tKIXmvY/s1600/165012_453760868005931_750215592_n.jpg)



al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph ([http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-2Ynsk-ukv3M/Ux0Z_BXn49I/AAAAAAAAABFM/Xs1hcmXSj0A/s1600/1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%84++\(796\).jpg](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-2Ynsk-ukv3M/Ux0Z_BXn49I/AAAAAAAAABFM/Xs1hcmXSj0A/s1600/1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%84++(796).jpg))



al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph ([http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-t8NA7ydx2d4/Ux0Z7K1Y8cl/AAAAAAAAABFE/Gg008f4up7Q/s1600/1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%84++\(66\).jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-t8NA7ydx2d4/Ux0Z7K1Y8cl/AAAAAAAAABFE/Gg008f4up7Q/s1600/1%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%88%D8%B5%D9%84++(66).jpg))



al-Khidr Mosque in an undated photograph ([http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-wTawfve7QPo/Ux0aGq5Pb1I/AAAAAAAAABFU/7Pk1lyfRC3I/s1600/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%82+%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B1+\(32\).jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/-wTawfve7QPo/Ux0aGq5Pb1I/AAAAAAAAABFU/7Pk1lyfRC3I/s1600/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%82+%D8%B3%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B1+(32).jpg))



Photo of al-Khidr Mosque prior to destruction (Shafaaq).



Photo circulating on social media of al-Khidr Mosque following demolition

IHI 15-0033 [DRAFT]

Report Date: February 26, 2015

Site Name: Nergal Gate, Nineveh

Date of Incident: Unspecified

Location: Mosul, Nineveh archaeological site, Ninawa governorate

Coordinates:

Site Description:

Site Date: 8th century BC

Source of Destruction: An ISIL propaganda video shows men destroying two *lamassu* (human-headed winged bulls) with sledgehammers and electric drills.³⁸

Pattern: Intentional destruction of statuary for propaganda purposes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova has requested that the UN Security Council meet on the destruction of cultural heritage in Mosul.³⁹

Sources:

Online Reporting:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31647484>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/26/isis-fighters-destroy-ancient-artefacts-mosul-museum-iraq>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/28/world/middleeast/destruction-of-antiquities-by-militants-is-denounced.html>

Scholarly:

Screenshots of the February 26 ISIL video courtesy of Sam Hardy,

<https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2015/02/26/iraq-mosul-museum-nergal-gate-nineveh-destruction/>

³⁸ Full video (Arabic, no subtitles): <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=208995065937849>; English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4-ljQpnTUM>

³⁹ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1239>







IHI 15-0034 [DRAFT]

Report Date: February 26, 2015

Site Name: Mosul Museum

Date of Incident: Unspecified

Location: al-Jamhuriya Street, Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Mosul's main archaeology museum, specializing in material from Assyria and Hatra.

Site Date: Modern

Source of Destruction: An ISIL propaganda video shows men throwing statues on the ground and destroying them with sledgehammers and electric drills.⁴⁰ Although some of the objects destroyed in the museum were reproductions, a number of reconstructed/original statues were destroyed. Apparently, most of the destroyed originals were from Hatra, while most of the destroyed reproductions were from Assyrian sites.⁴¹ The museum also saw heavy looting in 2003.

Destroyed objects:⁴²

Originals

- 1 *lamassu* (human-headed winged bull)
- 7 statues from Hatra
- Artifacts from Nineveh

Reproductions

- 1 Statue of Assyrian king Sargon
- Wall mounted casts

Pattern: Intentional destruction of museum artifacts for propaganda purposes.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova has requested that the UN Security Council meet on the destruction of cultural heritage in Mosul.⁴³

⁴⁰ Full video (Arabic, no subtitles): <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=208995065937849>; English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4-ljQpnTUM>

⁴¹ <https://twitter.com/cwjones89/status/571072106961764353>

⁴² Sam Hardy, <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2015/02/26/iraq-mosul-museum-nergal-gate-nineveh-destruction/>

⁴³ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1239>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-26/islamic-state-says-it-destroyed-ancient-relics-in-mosul-museum>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/26/isis-fighters-destroy-ancient-artefacts-mosul-museum-iraq>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/27/world/middleeast/historians-pore-over-isis-video-of-smashed-statues-for-clues-to-whats-been-lost.html>

https://soundcloud.com/bbc-world-service/ancient-statues-destroyed-by-isis?ocid=socialflow_twitter

Scholarly:

Screenshots of the February 26 ISIL video courtesy of Sam Hardy,
<https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2015/02/26/iraq-mosul-museum-nergal-gate-nineveh-destruction/>.





































هذه الأصنام والتمائيل لم تكن ظاهرة في عهد



IHI 15-0035 Update

Report Date: February 27, 2015

Site Name: Mosul Central Public Library

Date of Incident: January 2015, precise date unknown (looting and vandalism), February 21, 2015 (destruction of library)

Location: Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Mosul Central Public Library was originally established in 1921 and is the oldest public library in northern Iraq. Its collection includes Ottoman-era maps and manuscripts, as well as donations from Maslawi families, and it is one of the only repositories for early 20th century Iraqi newspapers and periodicals. In April 2003, the library lost a third of its collection when it was vandalized and looted following the invasion of Coalition forces, but some of the collection was saved by Mosul citizens. The library also had its own bookbinding and maintenance department to care for the collection.

Site Date: 1978

Source of Destruction: Looting and vandalism by ISIL.

Pattern: On January 31, 2015, the Associated Press reported that sources living near the Mosul Central Public Library had witnessed ISIL operatives entering the premises sometime in early January and removing approximately 2,000 books on poetry, philosophy, children's literature, sports, health, and culture, leaving behind Islamic-related texts and burning the remaining collection. Online reporting and personal accounts claim that both the Mosul University Central Library and the Mosul Central Public Library, as well as other smaller collections in Mosul, were vandalized and destroyed sometime in January 2015.

On February 21, 2015, ISIL operatives entered the Central Public Library and installed improvised explosive devices throughout the building, which were later detonated with most of the remaining collection inside. Reports estimate that approximate 8,000 books and manuscripts were burned.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: —

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Associated Press:

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/1ec4e2a1bb5b4dce97faa462478f7c0e/iraqi-libraries-ransacked-islamic-state-group-mosul>

UNESCO: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/iraq-office/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco_alarmed_by_news_of_mass_destruction_of_books_in_mosul

History of the Mosul Central Public Library:
<http://www.postpoems.org/authors/nawzat/poem/662150>

Ahram: <http://gate.ahram.org.eg/News/601041.aspx>

Geran: <http://www.geran.co.il/news-3-20292.html>

Elaph: <http://www.elaph.com/Web/Culture/2015/2/985403.html>

Al Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2015/02/sacrificial-books-mosul-150227060556341.html>

Fiscal Times: <http://www.thefiscaltimes.com/2015/02/23/ISIS-Burns-8000-Rare-Books-and-Manuscripts-Mosul>

Scholarly:

Mosul Central Public Library homepage: <http://ninawa-clibrary.org/>

Shaw, G. (2003). *Assessment of damage to libraries and archives in Iraq*. London: British Library, 1 May. [Online]: <http://www.ifla.org/VI/4/admin/iraq0205.htm>

Bibliography of holdings at the Mosul Central Public Library: http://oi-archive.uchicago.edu/OI/IRAQ/iraq_bibliography.html