

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

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Weekly Report 31 — March 9, 2015

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Key Points

- ISIL reportedly accelerated its deliberate destruction of heritage places in northern Iraq following the February 26, 2015, release of a video showing earlier deliberate destructions in the Mosul Museum and at the site of Nineveh. The sites of Nimrud, Hatra, Khorsabad, and Assur were allegedly targeted. See [ASOR CHI Incident Reports IHI 15-0067, 0068, and 0070](#). As of the time of this report, credible in-country reports suggest that some destructions occurred; however, we await photographs and new satellite imagery to confirm the reports and assess the damage. (pp. 82–128, 131–133)
- ASOR CHI has continued to gather information on the objects shown in the February 26, 2015, ISIL video showing deliberate destructions in the Mosul Museum and at the site of Nineveh. See [ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0033 Update](#). (pp. 58–79)
- ISIL militants reportedly destroyed the Hamou Qado Mosque and the Mosque of Sheikh Mohammad al-Abariqi in the city of Mosul. See [ASOR CHI Incident Reports IHI 15-0066 and IHI 15-0069](#). (pp. 80–81, 129–130)
- ASOR CHI partner APSA posted new information on the state of the al-Dalati Mosque in Homs. The mosque was damaged by a SARG barrel-bomb attack on February 17, 2015. See [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0048](#). APSA also posted new information on the state of the Haron Dada Mosque and the Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. See [ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 15-0047 and 15-0049](#). (pp. 8–57)

Heritage Timeline

March 9, 2015

The British Institute for the Study of Iraq released a **statement** condemning the recent damage done to the Mosul Museum collection and the sites of Nineveh, Nimrud, and Hatra and calling on the international community to assist the Iraqi government in protecting cultural heritage.

<http://www.bisi.ac.uk/content/statement-bisi-council-9-march-2015>

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.

March 8, 2015

Adel Shirshab (Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in Iraq) said in a press conference that the government was investigating **reports of looting and destruction** at the site of **Khorsabad**, nine miles northeast of Mosul.

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/03/08/world/middleeast/ap-ml-islamic-state.html>

- **Adel Shirshab** additionally stated, "We have confirmation that they bulldozed sites at **Nimrud** and **Hatra**. What we don't have is information about the size of the area which has been razed." He also called for the **coalition to use air power to protect Iraq's antiquities**. The press conference also discussed plans to submit the site of **Babylon** for nomination to the **UNESCO World Heritage List**.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/08/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hatra-idUSKBN0M400320150308>
- *The Guardian* reported that **airstrikes** by US and coalition forces near Al Huwajah destroyed six "**excavators**," while airstrikes near Haditha, Kirkuk, and Mosul struck a variety of targets, including "excavators" and vehicles.
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/08/coalition-forces-air-strikes-isis-iraq-syria>
- *The New York Times* published an article titled "**Race in Iraq and Syria to Record and Shield Art Falling to ISIS**" (by Anne Barnard). Drawing attention to recent intentional destruction activities by ISIL and the ongoing collateral damage to cultural heritage in Syria, the article outlines a variety of past and current efforts to document and protect cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria, as well as efforts to record the damage done.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/09/world/middleeast/race-in-iraq-and-syria-to-record-and-shield-art-falling-to-isis.html>
- **APSA** posted a report on the state of the **Museum of Medicine and Science** (the **Bimaristan Argun**) near the Bab Qinnasrin in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo**.
<http://www.apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/museums/1157-bab-qinnasrin-b-argun.html>
- Heritage for Peace published its newsletter **Damage to Syria's Heritage – 08 March 2015**.
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-08-march-2015/>

March 7, 2015

UNESCO and **ISESCO** released a joint statement condemning the destruction of Hatra and pledging support to the Iraqi authorities. http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/about-us/who-we-are/director-general/singleview-dg/news/destruction_of_hatra_marks_a_turning_point_in_the_cultural_cleansing_underway_in_iraq_say_heads_of_unesco_and_isesco/#.VP3Ij4HF8e7

March 6, 2015

Mother Jones published an article titled “**Meet the ‘Monuments Men’ Risking Everything to Save Syria’s Ancient Treasures From ISIS**” (by Bryan Schatz). The article highlights the work of Amr al-Azm and a network of activists working to combat the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and the associated trade in looted antiquities. <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/02/how-isis-cashes-illegal-antiquities-trade>

- **Deborah Lehr** of the **Antiquities Coalition** in Washington D.C. **posted a press release in response to the alleged destruction of Nimrud**, encouraging nations to adopt **UNSCR 2199** and calling on the International Criminal Court to open an investigation into these violations of international humanitarian law. <http://theantiquitiescoalition.org/press-releases/>
- Online sources began to circulate news that the **UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hatra** was also attacked by **ISIL**. The Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Tourism released a statement saying that ISIL had attacked the site using heavy machinery, but the extent of the damage is unknown. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0068** <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/07/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hatra-idUSKBNOM30GR20150307>
- **APSA** published a set of images reporting on the February 17 barrel-bombing of the **al-Dalati Mosque**, located in the Hamidiya neighborhood of **Old Homs**. This report serves as an update on the status of this 19th century building, which has been the target of barrel bombardment since early 2014. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0048** <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/homs/monuments/1142-homs-dalati-mosque.html>

March 5, 2015

Online sources began to circulate news that members of **ISIL have attacked** the archaeological site of **Nimrud**. According to Iraq’s Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the ISIL attackers “bulldozed” the site using heavy machinery, but the current condition of the site has not yet been confirmed. **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0067** http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/06/world/middleeast/isis-attacks-iraqi-archaeological-site-at-nimrud.html?_r=0

- Multiple news outlets reported that the **Hamou Qado Mosque**, located in the Maydan neighborhood of central **Mosul**, was demolished by ISIL. [CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0069](#).
<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/iraq-isis-destroys-19th-century-ottoman-mosque-central-mosul-1490786>
 - The **Penn Museum** posted a press release titled “Emergency Preservation Activities Completed at Syria’s **Ma’arra Mosaic Museum**.” The press release describes a recent **emergency effort to protect the mosaics** in the museum from further damage.
<http://www.penn.museum/press-releases/1182-syria-emergency-preservation.html>
- March 4, 2015
- The **Oriental Institute** of the University of Chicago released a **statement condemning the destruction of cultural heritage in Iraq**, extending sympathy to the people who are suffering in northern Iraq and Syria, and offering support to the archaeological and heritage community of Iraq.
<https://oi.uchicago.edu/about/statement-cultural-destruction-iraq>
- The **DGAM** reported that the local community at **Tell Ammar in Idlib governorate** prevented armed gangs from leveling the tell with heavy machinery in order to search for antiquities.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1609>
- March 3, 2015
- Al Monitor* published an opinion piece titled “**Iraqi archaeological sites are still at risk**” (by Shukur Khilkhal). The article analyzes the implications of ISIL violence directed toward archaeological heritage in Mosul and Ninewa province. Referencing statements by UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, the article argues that the recent acts in Mosul not only represent a cultural disaster but demonstrate a security risk, as Iraq is clearly unable to safeguard its extensive cultural resources.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/03/iraq-mosul-museum-destruction-archaeological-sites-threat-is.html>
- *Al Hayat* published an article reviewing the state of cultural heritage in Syria. The article includes commentary from **ASOR CHI Co-Investigator Cheikhmous Ali** regarding the long-term effects not only of bombardment but also of militarization and plunder on Syria’s heritage landscape. Ali also emphasizes that, while the media has focused on the commercial smuggling activities of ISIL, these must be considered as part of an overwhelming and generalized issue of looting, destruction, and cultural warfare.
<http://alhayat.com/Articles/7786223/>
 - *Akhbaar* reported that the **Mosque of Sheikh Muhammad al-Abariqi**, located in the Bab al-Jadid neighborhood of central **Mosul**, was demolished by ISIL. [CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0066](#).
<http://akhbaar.org/home/2015/3/186174.html>

- **APSA** posted images of damage to the **Haron Dada Mosque** in the Qadi Askar neighborhood of eastern **Old Aleppo**. This damage was the result of **tunnel bombs** detonated in the Old City of Aleppo in June 2014. [CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0047](#).
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1151-aleppo-haron-dada.html>
- The **DGAM** announced an extensive **digitization project** driven by the goal of preserving the institutional archive, which is at risk during the current conflict and will be essential for post-war rehabilitation. Organized by the Directorate of Monuments and Documentation, the project has digitized approximately 1,000 files, covering a range of content and dating from the 1930s onward. In a broader sense, the Digital Program Staff at the DGAM has now digitized approximately 50,000 documents and 2,500 maps.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1607>
- *Gates of Nineveh* posted a blog entry titled “**Assessing the Damage at the Mosul Museum, Part 2: The Sculptures from Hatra**” (by Christopher Jones). The post provides an introduction to the site of Hatra and then a detailed examination of the sculptures from Hatra, now kept in the Mosul Museum, that were shown being destroyed in a video released recently by ISIL.
<https://gatesofnineveh.wordpress.com/2015/03/03/assessing-the-damage-at-the-mosul-museum-part-2-the-sculptures-from-hatra/>
- *Voice of America* posted a video titled “**Destruction of Iraq Artifacts Shocks Archaeologists**,” featuring interviews with **McGuire Gibson** (Professor of Mesopotamian Archaeology, University of Chicago) and **Laura Tedesco** (Cultural Heritage Program Manager, US State Department).
<http://m.voanews.com/a/2666965.html>

March 1, 2015

On behalf of **Jabbar Jaafar** and **Abdulmir al-Hamdani**, **SAFE** announced a **march in Washington, DC**, to pressure decision-makers to take action against the campaign by ISIL to destroy cultural heritage in Iraq. The march will take place Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 12:00 noon in front of the White House.
<http://www.savingantiquities.org/whitehouse-march-stop-isis/>

Military and Political Context

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

1. Al-Hasakah Province
 - During the reporting period, Kurdish YPG and local militias, supported by coalition airstrikes, continued their offensive against ISIL, taking control of the towns of Tel

Hamis and Tel Baraka northeast of al-Hasakah City and areas around Tel Tamr to the northwest of the city.²

2. Northwest Idlib Province
 - On March 5, al-Nusra Front announced that Abu Humam al-Shami, who was its top military commander, and three other leaders had been killed in a Syrian army attack.³
3. Aleppo
 - On March 4, a tunnel bomb and ground assault on the Syrian Air Force's Intelligence headquarters in Aleppo resulted in the death of at least 20 security force members and 14 rebels, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights; al-Nusra Front and the Muhajireen and Ansar army claimed responsibility for the attack.⁴
4. Kobani Area
 - During the reporting period, over a half dozen coalition airstrikes struck ISIL positions near Kobani.⁵

Other key points:

- Al-Nusra Front is reportedly considering breaking its ties with al-Qaeda, which would allow for more foreign funding and support, especially from Qatar.⁶

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

1. Tikrit Area
 - During the reporting period, Dijla Operations Command forces, a subset of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF), and forces from the Omayya al-Jbara Battalion, a Sunni militia, took control of villages east of Tikrit.⁷
 - During the reporting period, several other clashes around Tikrit have reportedly killed many more ISIL fighters than Iraq-government aligned forces as the government-aligned forces make their way closer to the city in an attempt to capture it.⁸
2. Samarra Area
 - On March 2, according to a Shiite Popular Mobilization militia spokesman, Popular Mobilization forces and Iraqi security forces took control of the towns of Jalam,

² J. Cafarella. "Syria Situation Report: February 24 - March 2, 2015,"

<http://iswsyria.blogspot.com/2015/03/syria-situation-report-february-24.html>

³ <http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/03/06/world/middleeast/06reuters-mideast-crisis-syria-nusra.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/06/us-mideast-crisis-syria-nusra-idUSKBNOM128N20150306>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31757502>

⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/05/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKBNOM01XB20150305>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31730249>

⁵ http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/04/us-mideast-crisis-nusra-insight-idUSKBNOM00GE20150304>

⁷ S. Adnan, J. McFate, and the ISW Iraq Team. "Tikrit Situation Report: March 4, 2015,"

<http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/tikrit-situation-report-march-4-2015.html>

⁸ S. Adnan, J. McFate, and the ISW Iraq Team. "Tikrit Situation Report: March 4, 2015,"

<http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/tikrit-situation-report-march-4-2015.html>; S. Adnan and the ISW Iraq Team. "Iraq Situation Report: March 2, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/iraq-situation-report-march-2-2015.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/04/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-front-insight-idUSKBNOM01MV20150304>

Rissasi, and Banat al-Hasan, as well as the Shwarub Bridge, northeast of Samarra, all of which had been under ISIL control.⁹

3. Dour (between Tikrit and Samarra)
 - On March 4, Popular Mobilization forces freed 16 Iraqi Police members who had been kidnapped by ISIL and killed 10 of the alleged kidnappers.¹⁰
 - During the reporting period, Iraqi Army and Iraqi Federal Police forces, with the support of the Popular Mobilization, have fought ISIL in the town.¹¹
4. Fallujah Area
 - During the reporting period, over a half dozen coalition airstrikes struck ISIL positions near Fallujah.¹²

Other key points:

- On March 10, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said that a U.S. Central Command official's statement – in a February news conference – that Iraq's offensive to retake Mosul would start in April or May was incorrect and that U.S. officials have said that the offensive could happen in the fall.¹³
- During the reporting period, the main theater of military operations in Iraq was the Iraqi government's offensive to take Tikrit from ISIL. Although ISIL has kept government-allied forces from reaching the city itself, reports suggest that ISIL is suffering significantly more casualties than government-allied forces. The American-led coalition is not involved in this operation. In place of the U.S. and the coalition, Iran is the main international player. Iranian General Qasem Soleimani of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds force is reportedly helping to lead the operation; Iranian troops are reportedly actively involved in combat (although Tehran had previously claimed that Iranian troops were only advisors);¹⁴ and the Shiite militias involved are largely backed by Iran.¹⁵

Key Heritage Recommendations and Actions

- ASOR CHI strongly condemns the recent ISIL destructions of heritage places in Iraq and Syria.

⁹ S. Adnan, J. McFate, and the ISW Iraq Team. "Tikrit Situation Report: March 4, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/tikrit-situation-report-march-4-2015.html>

¹⁰ S. Adnan, J. McFate, and the ISW Iraq Team. "Tikrit Situation Report: March 4, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/tikrit-situation-report-march-4-2015.html>

¹¹ S. Adnan, J. McFate, and the ISW Iraq Team. "Tikrit Situation Report: March 4, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/03/tikrit-situation-report-march-4-2015.html>

¹² http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2014/0814_iraq/Airstrikes6.html

¹³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/04/us-usa-iraq-mosul-idUSKBN0M002220150304>

¹⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31689433>

¹⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/05/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-idUSKBN0M10Z420150305>;
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31727470>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 15-0047

Report Date: March 3, 2015

Site Name: Haron Dada Mosque

Date of Incident: June 5, 2014

Location: Qadi Askar neighborhood, east of the Citadel, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Haron Dada Mosque is listed by Gaube and Wirth (1984) as Moschee Harun Dadah (571 in the catalog) and is noted as having been restored in 1453. The images published by APSA show remains that appear to be Mamluk in date (destroyed, standing remains exposed in cross-section) and the remains of an almost completely destroyed dome. The (later) minaret still stands.

Site Date: Mamluk – Ottoman

Source of Destruction: On March 3, 2015, APSA published photos and video footage showing the condition of the Haron Dada Mosque. Six of the images published by APSA were originally posted to social media by Eyes on Heritage on June 13, 2014. It is likely that the damage to the mosque was caused by the regime aerial bombardments that were ongoing in Aleppo at that time. The main structure of the mosque has completely collapsed. The mosque was probably hit by a Syrian Air Force barrel bomb strike on June 5, 2014. A *Reuters* news bulletin published by trust.org reports on the June 5 bombing and shows workers cleaning up rubble with the destroyed Haron Dada Mosque in the background.¹⁶

Pattern: Sustained and ongoing (at the current time) aerial bombardment using barrel bombs in Qadi Askar and other neighborhoods of Aleppo.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Ongoing warfare and especially the sustained use of tunnel and barrel bombs by rebel and regime forces within the city of Aleppo continues to threaten the built heritage of the city. ASOR CHI is in the process of compiling locational data and imagery to track the condition of the urban heritage landscape in the Old City center and historic neighborhoods of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA Website: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1151-aleppo-haron-dada.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.trust.org/item/20140605112332-lgre3?view=print>

Heritage for Peace: <http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-17-june-2014/>

Eyes on Heritage:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.674254736001337.1073741912.349165898510224&type=1>

Scholarly:

Gaube, H. and E. Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo: historische und geographische Beiträge zur baulichen Gestaltung, zur sozialen Organisation und zur wirtschaftlichen Dynamik einer vorderasiatischen Fernhandelsmetropole*. Beihefte zum Tubinger Atlas des Vorderen Orients: Reihe B(Geisteswissenschaften) Nr. 58. Wiesbaden: Reichert. p. 404



Haron Dada Mosque, Qadi Askar neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA; first published by Eyes on Heritage, June 13, 2014)



Haron Dada Mosque, Qadi Askar neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA; first published by Eyes on Heritage, June 13, 2014)



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Haron Dada Mosque, Qadi Askar neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Haron Dada Mosque, Qadi Askar neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)

SHI 15-0048

Report Date: March 6, 2015

Site Name: al-Dalati Mosque (Hamidiya Mosque)

Date of Incident: Ongoing destruction 2012–present

Location: Old Homs, just north of the Suq al-Atik

Coordinates:

Site Description: APSA reports that the al-Dalati mosque, also known as the Hamidiya Mosque (after Sultan Abdul Hamid), was built in 1881 by Haj Hussein Dalati. The Dalati family is one of the older families in Homs today.

Site Date: 1881

Source of Destruction: On March 5, 2015, APSA published images showing the condition of the al-Dalati Mosque, dated February 17, 2015. The images show evidence of direct hits to the front of the building and damage to the minaret. Also included is a historical photo for comparison. The DGAM reported on the destruction of historic buildings in the ancient city of Homs on May 22, 2014. This report included coverage of damage to “the Dalati Mosque or Sultan Abdul Hamid Mosque ... considered one of the most significant Islamic and historic landmarks in al-Hamidiya street.”¹⁷ According to the DGAM report, in aerial bombardments prior to May 22, 2014, “the minaret of the mosque was destroyed, its southern and southeastern façades were [damaged] and a large number of windows and wooden doors were shattered. In addition, the shops belonging to the mosque were destroyed, the southern part of the mosque was demolished and a large portion of the roof collapsed.” The DGAM report included a number of images. Comparing the APSA and DGAM imagery, it appears that a second barrel bombardment in February destroyed the front of the mosque, severely damaged the minaret, and impacted much of Hamidiya street as well.

Pattern: The Assad regime has been attacking Homs, and the Hamidiya neighborhood in particular, with barrel bombs since at least late 2012.¹⁸ The current Shayk Mahmoud al-Dalati, who was part of the Sunni scholarly community in Homs that openly condemned the Assad regime in 2011,¹⁹ was a leader of the revolution based in Homs until a forced exile in 2012.²⁰ The Dalati Mosque and Hamidiya neighborhood more generally were likely the focus of regime barrel bombings targeting rebel strongholds through 2012–2013.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively acquiring data and imagery to assist in the management of damaged and threatened urban heritage in Syria.

¹⁷ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1284>

¹⁸ <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/syria/9514698/Syrian-regime-forces-filmed-dropping-barrel-bomb-on-Homs.html>

¹⁹ <https://freehalab.wordpress.com/2012/08/16/statements-from-the-scholars-of-homs/>

²⁰ <https://freehalab.wordpress.com/2012/12/17/shaykh-mahmoud-al-dalati-has-joined-the-battle/>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA Webstite: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/homs/monuments/1142-homs-dalati-mosque.html>

DGAM Website:

<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1284>

Scholarly:



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs, historical image (FreeHalab.wordpress.com)



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (DGAM, May 2014)



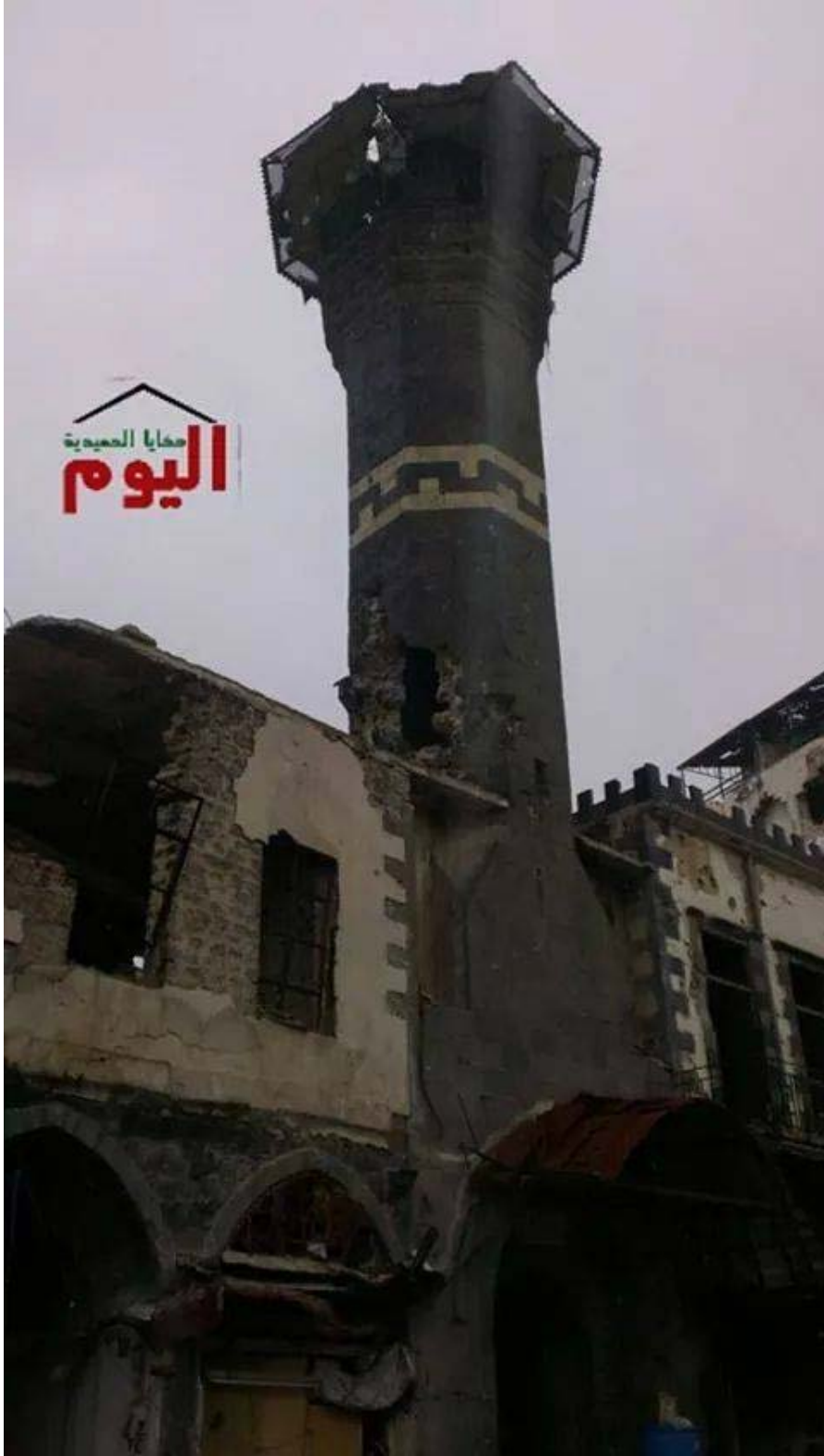
al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (DGAM, May 2014)



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (DGAM, May 2014)



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (DGAM, May 2014)



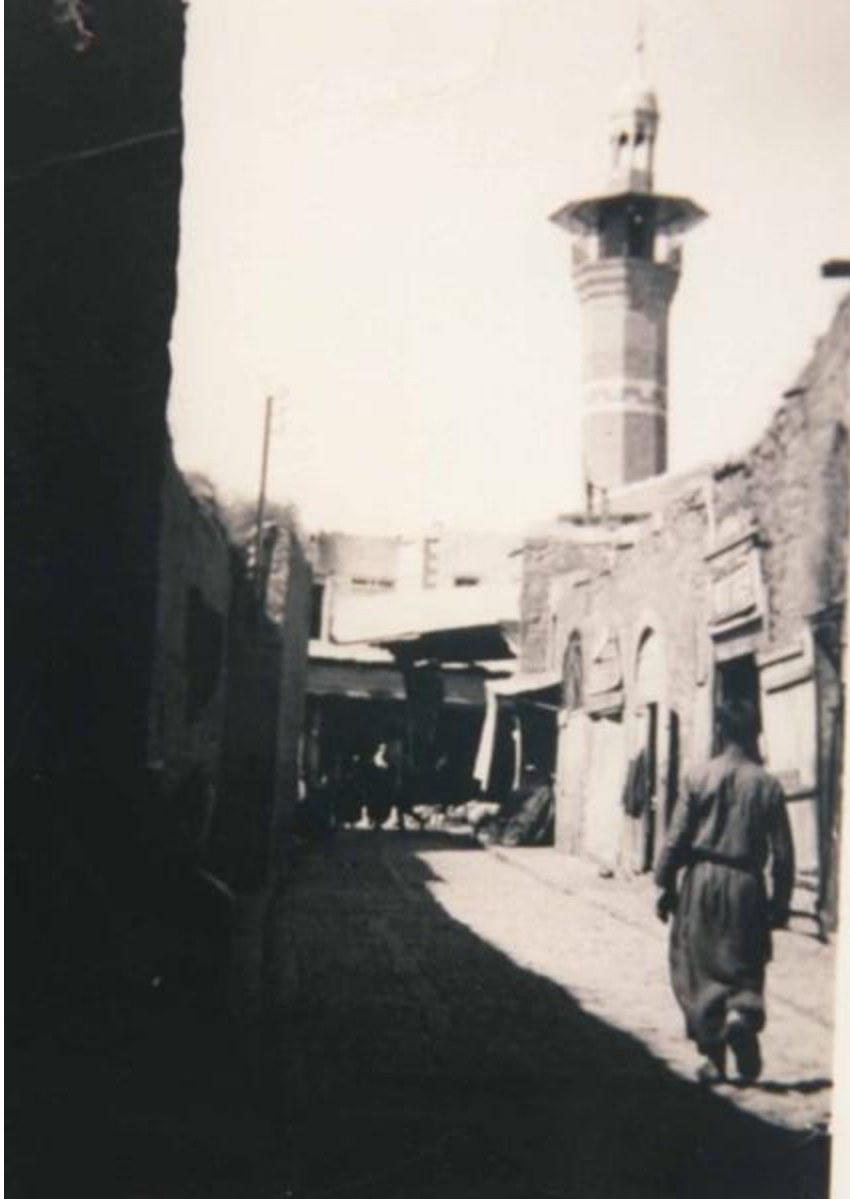
al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (APSA, February 2015)



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al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (APSA, February 2015)



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (APSA, February 2015)



al-Dalati Mosque, Homs (APSA, February 2015)

SHI 15-0049

Report Date: March 9, 2015

Site Name: Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili (SHI # 137)

Date of Incident: Ongoing

Location: Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, southwest of the Citadel, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo

Coordinates:

Site Description: The hospital or Bimaristan (Persian *bīmār* = “sick”) Al-Arghun is located halfway between the Umayyad Mosque of Aleppo and the Bab Qinnasrin. The building was originally the residence of an emir, and was converted into a charitable mental hospital in 1354 by Arghun al-Sagir al-Kamili, the governor of Aleppo.²¹ The building features a monumental entrance and a courtyard with a fountain, as well as a series of wards with inner courts and cells for patients/residents. Now converted into a museum, the Bimaristan Arghun is a monument to the medieval Islamic tradition of humane care for the mentally ill and the centrality of this charitable practice within state programs.

Site Date: Early 14th century (Mamluk)

Source of Destruction: On March 8, 2015, APSA published images showing the current condition of the Bimaristan Arghun. From the images, it appears that extensive scaffolding has been erected within the courtyard, lateral iwans, and domes and that broken stones from the courtyard and roof have been collected. The building seems to be suffering from general neglect and probably from occupation. For instance, stones from the floor have been removed, and the courtyard fountain has been reworked to provide water through a tap. Garbage is being burned on one side of the courtyard.

APSA originally posted footage on October 12, 2012, showing damage to the roof, courtyard, and fountain of the Bimaristan from bombardment.²²

Pattern: Long-term damage to built heritage in the Old City of Aleppo resulting from prolonged urban warfare and infrastructural deterioration.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Continued attention to the condition and maintenance of built heritage in the Old City of Aleppo.

²¹ Gorini, R. 2002. Attention and care to the madness during the Islamic middle age in Syria: the example of the Bimaristan al-Arghun. From Princely Palace to Bimaristan. *Journal for the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine* (2). 40-42.

²² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Krpdgg65XKw>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/museums/1157-bab-qinnasrin-b-argun.html>

Archaeolife: <http://archaeolife.blogspot.com/2012/10/destruction-of-bimaristan-arghun-of.html>

Scholarly:



Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



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Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Bimaristan Arghun al-Kamili, Bab Qinnasrin neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 15-0034 Update

Report Date: February 26, 2015

Site Name: Mosul Museum

Date of Incident: Unspecified

Location: Mosul, al-Jamhuriya street

Coordinates:

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

Site Date: 1952

Source of Destruction: An ISIL propaganda video shows men throwing statues on the ground and destroying them with sledgehammers and electric drills.²³ Although many of the destroyed objects in the museum were reproductions, some original statues were destroyed. Apparently, most of the destroyed originals were from Hatra, while most of the destroyed reproductions were from Assyrian sites.²⁴ The museum also saw heavy looting in 2003.

Destroyed Assyrian objects:²⁵

- 1 Lamassu (human-headed winged bull) - *original*
- Artifacts from Nineveh - *original*
- 1 Statue of Assyrian king Sargon - *reproduction*
- Wall mounted casts - *reproductions*

Destroyed objects from Hatra:²⁶

- Headless statue of standing male, probably a soldier, wearing a long-sleeved tunic, trousers with U-shaped folds and cloak, with sword at left side (identified by inscription as Makai ben Nashri)²⁷
- Headless statue of female, with long flowing garment²⁸
- Architectural ornament: human mask, nose and forehead damaged, mounted high on the wall²⁹

²³ Full video (Arabic, no subtitles): <https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=208995065937849>; English subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4-ljQpnTUM>

²⁴ <https://twitter.com/cwjones89/status/571072106961764353>

²⁵ Sam Hardy, <https://conflictantiquities.wordpress.com/2015/02/26/iraq-mosul-museum-nergal-gate-nineveh-destruction/>

²⁶ Work of Richard Zettler (University of Pennsylvania), who compared the ISIL video with photographs of the galleries that were taken in 2008–2010 by Susan Bolt (University of Arizona) and with other sources.

²⁷ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (74) = Fuad Safar and Muhammad Ali Mustafa, *Hatra: The City of the Sun God* (Baghdad, 1974), fig. 24.

²⁸ UNESCO MP Jan2010 240 (60).

²⁹ UNESCO MP Jan2010 240 (48, 60).

- Statue of standing male holding a frond in the left hand and a piece of fruit (?) in right hand³⁰
- Statue of Atlu, king, right hand raised, palm outward, with left hand on long sword³¹
- Statue depicting a man, perhaps a priest or high priest, holding a statuette of a decorated eagle. The man is bearded and has an unusual coiffure with a topknot. He wears an elaborately ornamented tunic, with himation.³²
- Statue of a headless male, probably a priest, wearing a knee-length tunic with long sleeves and himation, both elaborately ornamented, the himation with an H-shaped application on the front. He holds a disc-shaped object in his left hand, with right hand touching the top of it.³³
- Statue of standing bearded nobleman with right hand raised, left at side³⁴
- Headless statue of Heracles leaning on a club and holding a lion pelt³⁵ - reproduction³⁶
- Statue of unidentified seated deity³⁷
- Statue of standing king, heavily restored (top of head and right arm missing), holding statuette of a deity³⁸
- Framed relief-carving of a female reclining on a bed³⁹
- Unfinished (?) relief of a male⁴⁰
- Relief with upper torso of a male with hands at head⁴¹
- Architectural ornament: sculpture of eagle with out-stretched wing, largely restored, but what is original and what is restoration are clear in the photographs. The eagle is an architectural decoration at Hatra.⁴²

Pattern: Intentional destruction of museum artifacts for propaganda purposes.

³⁰ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (54) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, pp. 210-211 (fig. 198) [cf. Shinji Fukai, *The Artifacts of Hatra and Parthian Art, East and West* 11 (1960): 143-144 (Mosul Museum [MM] 5)].

³¹ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (57) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, pp. 208-209 (fig. 197) [cf. Shinji Fukai, *The Artifacts of Hatra and Parthian Art, East and West* 11 (1960): 142-143 (MM 8)].

³² MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (43, 51); see Wathiq al-Salihi, "The Statue of the Chief Priest from Hatra," *Bulletin of the Asian Institute* 5 (1991): 35-40.

³³ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (37) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, p. 75 (fig. 19).

³⁴ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (38, 59) [right] = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, p. 212 (fig. 199) [cf. Shinji Fukai, *The Artifacts of Hatra and Parthian Art, East and West* 11 (1960): 144-145 (MM 14)].

³⁵ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (65).

³⁶ Christopher Jones cites Lamia al-Gailani as confirming that this Hercules is a cast of a sculpture in the Iraq Museum, Baghdad – probably shown on left in photograph taken in July 2011 – cf.

<http://eca.state.gov/cultural-heritage-center/gallery/iraq-cultural-heritage-initiatives> – is this the Heracles in Wathiq I. al-Salihi, "The Excavations of Shrine XIII at Hatra," *Mesopotamia* 25 (1990): 27-36, fig. 23?

³⁷ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (21) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, pp. 206-207 (fig. 250).

³⁸ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (22, 35) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, p. 23 (fig. 4).

³⁹ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (76); UNESCO MP Jan 2010 240 (49).

⁴⁰ MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (77); UNESCO MP Jan 2010 240 (50) = Safar and Mustafa, *Hatra*, p. 116 (fig. 92) [cf. Susan B. Downey, "A Stele from Hatra," *Sumer* 30 (1974): 179-182 (figs. 1-2)].

⁴¹ Relief with upper torso of a male with hands at head [right] – MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (77) = Wathiq Isma'il al-Salihi, "Hatra – Excavations in the Southern Gate – A Preliminary Report," *Sumer* 36 (1980): 179 (fig. 36).

⁴² MCM Qais Rashid Visit DS May08 (84) and MCM Stuart Gibson Assess 07 April 09 (47).

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

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

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

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

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

Scholarly:

Fuad Safar and Muhammad Ali Mustafa, *Hatra: The City of the Sun God* (Baghdad, 1974)

Images:

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/>

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



























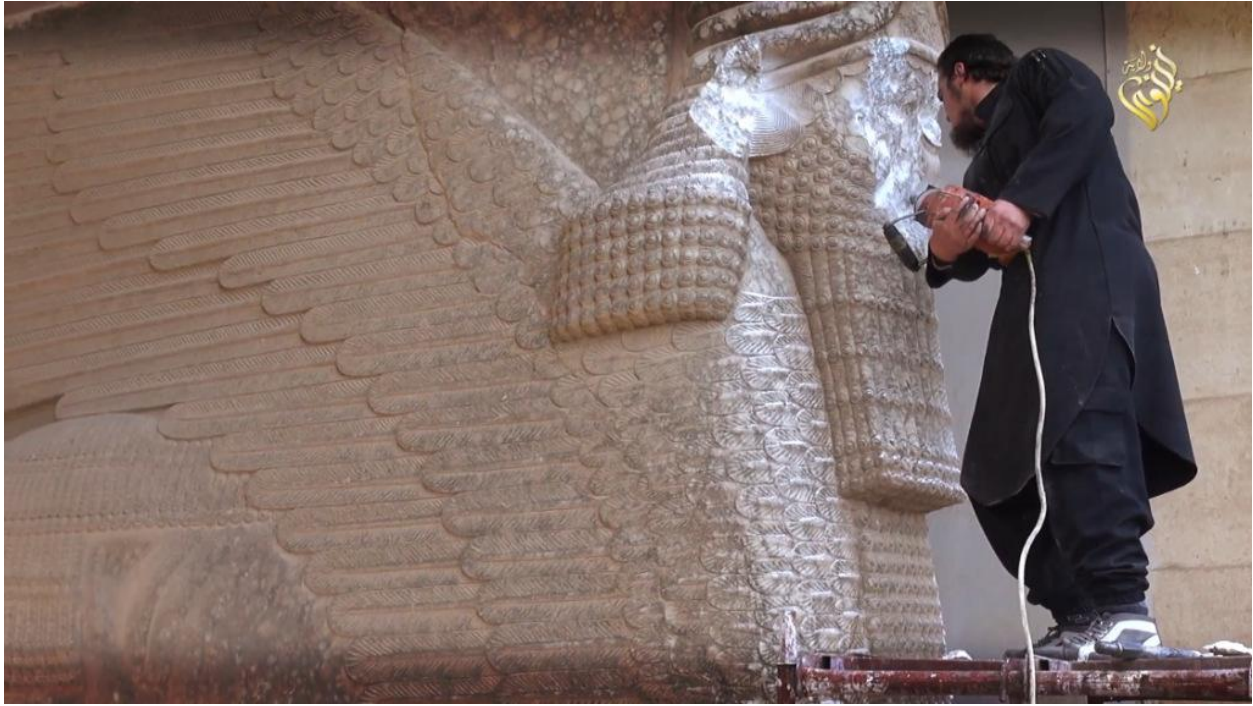












IHI 15-066

Report Date: March 4, 2015

Site Name: Mosque of Sheikh Muhammad al-Abariqi

Date of Incident: March 3, 2015

Location: Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Ottoman-era mosque located in the Bab al-Jadid neighborhood in central Mosul

Site Date: 19th century CE

Source of Destruction: ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: Alleged ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places significant to Shia or Sufi populations as well as other religious and ethnic minorities. Reports indicate that ISIL demolished the building with jackhammers.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:

1. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.
2. Only limited evidence for the destruction has been posted at the time of this report. ASOR CHI will search for additional photos or videos that corroborate the alleged damage. Should the report be proven true, ASOR CHI will determine the extent of the damage with recent photographs of the site.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Akhbaar: <http://akhbaar.org/home/2015/3/186174.html>

Scholarly:



Undated photo of Mosque of Muhammad al-Abariqi before demolition (Akhbaar)



Undated photo of alleged destruction to Mosque of Muhammad al-Abariqi (Facebook)

IHI 15-0067

Report Date: March 6, 2015

Site Name: Nimrud (ancient Kalhu)

Date of Incident: March 5, 2015

Location: approximately 30 km southeast of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Assyrian settlement at Nimrud (also known as Kalhu, Calah, Kalakh) was established by Shalmaneser I (1274/1254 BCE) during the Middle Assyrian Empire. It was later named the capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire by Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BCE), superseding Assur. Rulers Ashurnasirpal II, Shalmaneser III, and Tiglath-Pileser III all built royal palaces at Nimrud, and Shalmaneser III built the Great Ziggurat. The site is known for its extensive palace reliefs and colossal figurative sculptures. The city remained the capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire until 706 BCE when Sargon II (722-705 BCE) moved the capital to Khorsabad (also known as Dur-Sharrukin). It continued as a major urban center until the end of the Neo-Assyrian Empire sometime between 616 and 605 BCE.

According to the CDLI Wiki:

The site of Nimrud is located on the Tigris River southeast of Mosul in the north of modern day Iraq. Today the city lies some kilometers east of the Tigris, but in antiquity the river flowed along the northwest side of the acropolis. The site was occupied intermittently from the 6th millennium BC to at least the Hellenistic period, but the most significant period of occupation occurred during the Late Assyrian period, when Ashurnasirpal II (883-859 BC) built Nimrud as the capital of his empire. The city remained the chief royal residence and administrative capital of the Assyrian empire until the reign of Sargon II (721-705 BC), though Esarhaddon (680-669 BC) later rebuilt much of the citadel.⁴⁴

According to Karen Radner:

Until the reign of Assurnasirpal II, the religious and ideological centre of Assyria, the city of Assur, served also as the king's main residence. Assurnasirpal, however, relocated the entire royal court, moving hundreds of people under the supervision of his palace superintendent Nergal-apil-kumuya to Kalhu after this ancient city had been completely transformed. The old settlement mound, having grown to a substantial height in the course of its five thousand year long occupation, was turned into a citadel that housed only the royal palace and several temples of the most important deities of Assyria, such as Ninurta and Ištar - but not a shrine for Aššur, whose only sanctuary remained in the city of Assur. The citadel was protected by its own fortification walls but occupied only a small part in the south-western corner of the larger city: with a size of about 360 hectares, Assurnasirpal's Kalhu covered twice the area of Assur and was surrounded by a 7.5 km long fortification wall.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ Nimrud (Kalhu). CDLI Wiki. http://cdli.ox.ac.uk/wiki/doku.php?id=nimrud_kalhu

⁴⁵ Karen Radner. 2012. Kalhu, Tiglath-pileser's royal residence city. *Assyrian empire builders*. University College London. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sargon/essentials/cities/kalhu/>

Austen Henry Layard first excavated the site in 1845–1847 and 1849–1851. Later investigations were led by Hormuzd Rassam (1853–54, 1877–1879), W. K. Loftus (1854–55), George Smith (1873), the British School of Archaeology in Iraq (Max Mallowan, 1949; David Oates, 1958–1962; Julian Orchard, 1963), Janusz Meuzynski (1974–76), Paolo Fiorina and the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino (1987–89), John Curtis (1989), and the Directorate of Antiquities of the Republic of Iraq (1956, 1959–60, 1969–78, and 1982–92).

Site Date: 6th–1st millennia BC; capital of the Assyrian empire during the Neo-Assyrian period (9th–8th centuries BC).

Source of Destruction: Alleged ISIL deliberate destruction. On January 25, 2015, photos were posted on Facebook showing what appears to be damage to the museum at Nimrud dating to October 11, 2014.⁴⁶ On February 27, 2015, the AFP reported that Nimrud was at risk for destruction in light of recent events at the Mosul Museum (IHI15-0034) and the site of Nineveh (IHI15-0033).⁴⁷ On March 5, 2015, the Iraqi Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities released a statement confirming that Nimrud was indeed attacked.⁴⁸ Citing this statement, numerous online sources have since claimed that the site was “bulldozed” by ISIL using “heavy vehicles.” No further details about the extent of the damage or photo/video documentation have been provided. A source has, however, reported to ASOR CHI that ISIL began by demolishing the winged bulls at the palace. There have also been suggestions that ISIL looted the site before proceeding with the destruction.

Pattern: Intentional destruction of archaeological sites and objects by ISIL. The attack on Nimrud falls immediately on the heels of the release of a video showing the destruction of objects in the Mosul Museum and at the site of Nineveh.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Reports have not been confirmed at the time of this report. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

AFP: <http://news.yahoo.com/bulldozed-ancient-assyrian-city-nimrud-iraq-govt-203312292.html>

AP: <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/9b6f845bf29047b0a2602bb711c4dd27/iraq-says-islamic-state-militants-bulldozed-ancient-site>

Al-Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/03/isil-fighters-bulldoze-ancient-assyrian-palace-iraq-150305195222805.html>

Al Hurra: <http://www.alhurra.com/content/isis-bulldozed-ancient-nimrud/267416.html#ixzz3TbCvTtuL>

⁴⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=pcb.954775044534878;https://www.facebook.com/groups/858813217464395/permalink/954746321204417/>

⁴⁷ <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2015/Feb-27/288983-fears-mount-for-iraq-heritage-after-isis-museum-rampage.ashx>

⁴⁸ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1548105098777154&id=1492622900992041

Al Arabiya:<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/03/06/ISIS-bulldozed-ancient-Assyrian-city-of-Nimrud-Iraq-govt.html>

Reuters:<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/08/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hatra-idUSKBN0M400320150308>

NY Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/06/world/middleeast/isis-attacks-iraqi-archaeological-site-at-nimrud.html>

BBC News: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31760656>

The Guardian: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/06/isis-destroys-ancient-assyrian-site-of-nimrud>

UNESCO statement: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_director_general_condemns_destruction_of_nimrud_in_iraq/back/9597/#.VPmJS_nF-So

Arab League statement (via Al-Arabiya): <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2015/02/27/Arab-League-ISIS-destruction-of-Iraqi-heritage-odious-crime-.html>

Scholarly:

Mallowan, Max E.L. (1966) *Nimrud and its Remains*. London: Collins.

Oates, Joan and David Oates (2004) *Nimrud: An Assyrian Imperial City Revealed*. London : The British School of Archaeology in Iraq.

Nimrud Project:<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/index.html>

For a detailed bibliography with links to many online resources:
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/catalogues/onlineresources/index.html>

Radner, Karen. 2012. Kalhu, Tiglath-pileser's royal residence city. *Assyrian empire builders*. University College London. <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/sargon/essentials/cities/kalhu/>



The mound of Nimrud on February 26, 2015 (Digital Globe).



Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



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Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2009 (Photo by M.G. Caslen via S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2009 (Photo by M. Prophit provided by S.E. Botts)



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Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2008 (Photo by S.E. Botts)



Nimrud in 2009 (Photo by M. Proffit provided by S.E. Botts)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



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Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)



Alleged damage to Nimrud Museum collection dating to October 2014 (Facebook)

IHI 15-0068

Report Date: March 6, 2015

Site Name: Hatra

Date of Incident: March 7, 2015

Location: 68 miles southwest of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: The city of Hatra — a large fortified urban center — was built by the Seleucid Empire in the third or second centuries BCE and was later conquered by the Parthians. During the first and second centuries CE it rose to prominence as a religious center and as a major trading city along the Silk Road. Roman Emperors Trajan and Septimius Severus unsuccessfully attempted to capture the city in 116 CE and 198 CE, respectively. Hatra eventually formed an alliance with the Romans in 230 CE during the reign of Emperor Gordian III, but the city was conquered in 241 CE and destroyed by Ardashir I (226-42 CE), founder of the Sassanid dynasty.

The surviving remains of Hatra date between the first century BCE and the second century CE. The city is approximately 2 km in diameter, and was protected by two large fortification walls separated by a wide ditch with four fortified gates. The city center is marked by a temple complex dedicated to several Greco-Roman, Mesopotamian, Canaanite, Aramean, and Arabian deities, with monumental architectural remains blending Hellenistic, Roman, and Middle Eastern traditions. The archaeological site was successfully inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985.

Site Date: 3rd/2nd century BCE – 241 CE

Source of Destruction: Alleged ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: On February 27, 2015, the AFP reported that Hatra was at risk in light of recent events at the Mosul Museum (IHI15-0034) and the site of Nineveh (IHI15-0033).⁴⁹ On March 7, 2015, the Iraqi Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities released a statement confirming that Hatra was indeed attacked.⁵⁰ No further details about the extent of the damage or photo/video documentation were provided.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Reports have not been confirmed at the time of this report. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation.

⁴⁹<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2015/Feb-27/288983-fears-mount-for-iraq-heritage-after-isis-museum-rampage.ashx>

⁵⁰https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1549002925354038&id=1492622900992041

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/07/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hatra-idUSKBN0M30GR20150307>

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<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/08/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-hatra-idUSKBN0M400320150308>

NY Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/08/world/middleeast/jihadists-may-have-wrecked-an-ancient-iraqi-site.html>

AP: http://hosted2.ap.org/APDEFAULT/3d281c11a96b4ad082fe88aa0db04305/Article_2015-03-07-ML--Islamic%20State/id-a9a6097512974cada318c9cc8fe5fee6

UNESCO statement: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/about-us/who-we-are/director-general/singleview-dg/news/destruction_of_hatra_marks_a_turning_point_in_the_cultural_cleansing_underway_in_iraq_say_heads_of_unesco_and_isesco/#.VPtDabOG_qP

Scholarly:

UNESCO World Heritage Listing: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/277>



The ruins of Hatra on December 25, 2013 (Digital Globe).



Hatra in 2009 (Photo by M.G. Caslen provided by S.E. Botts)



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Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M.Prophit provided by S.E. Botts)



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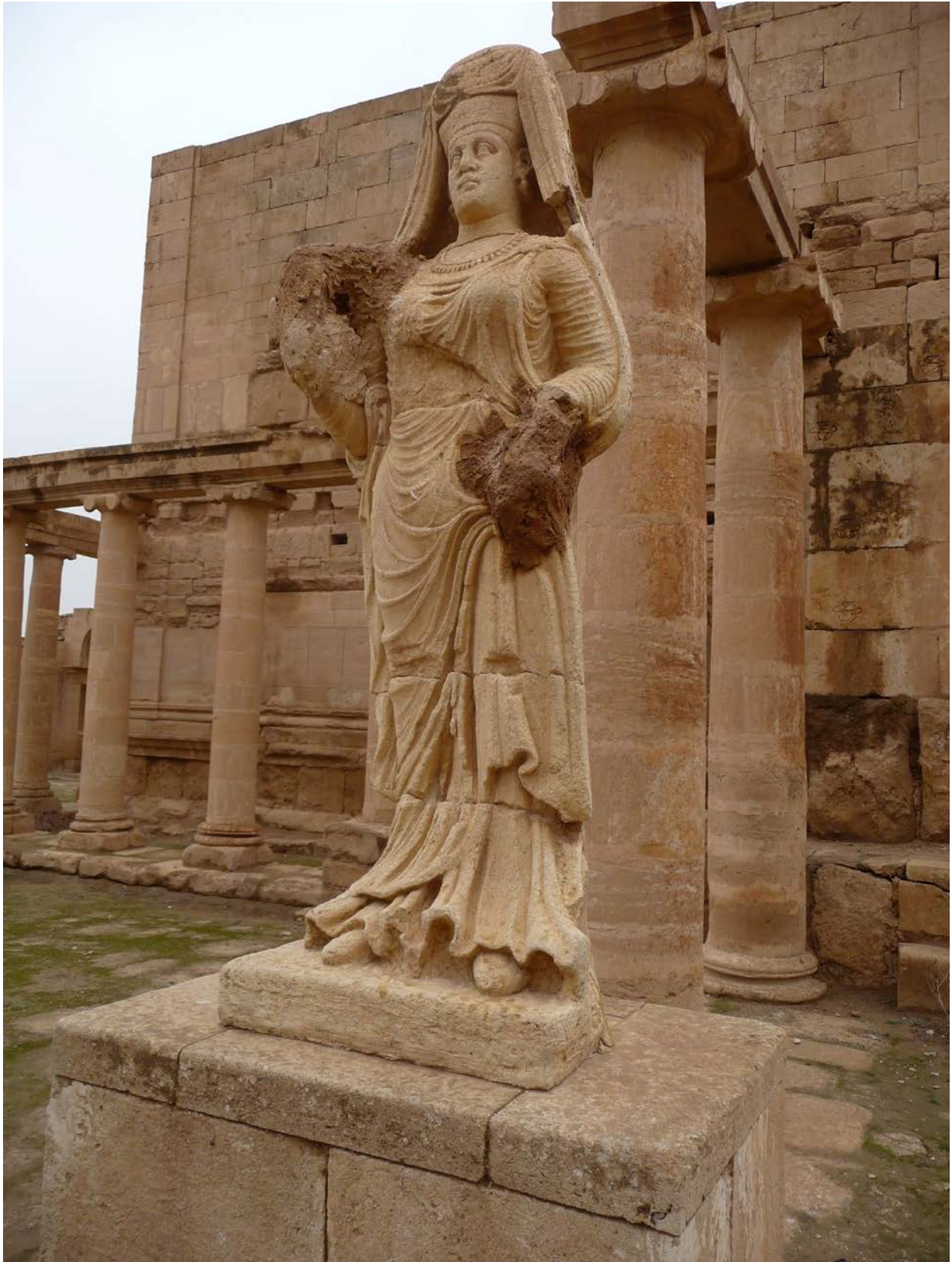
Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Prophit provided by S.E. Botts)



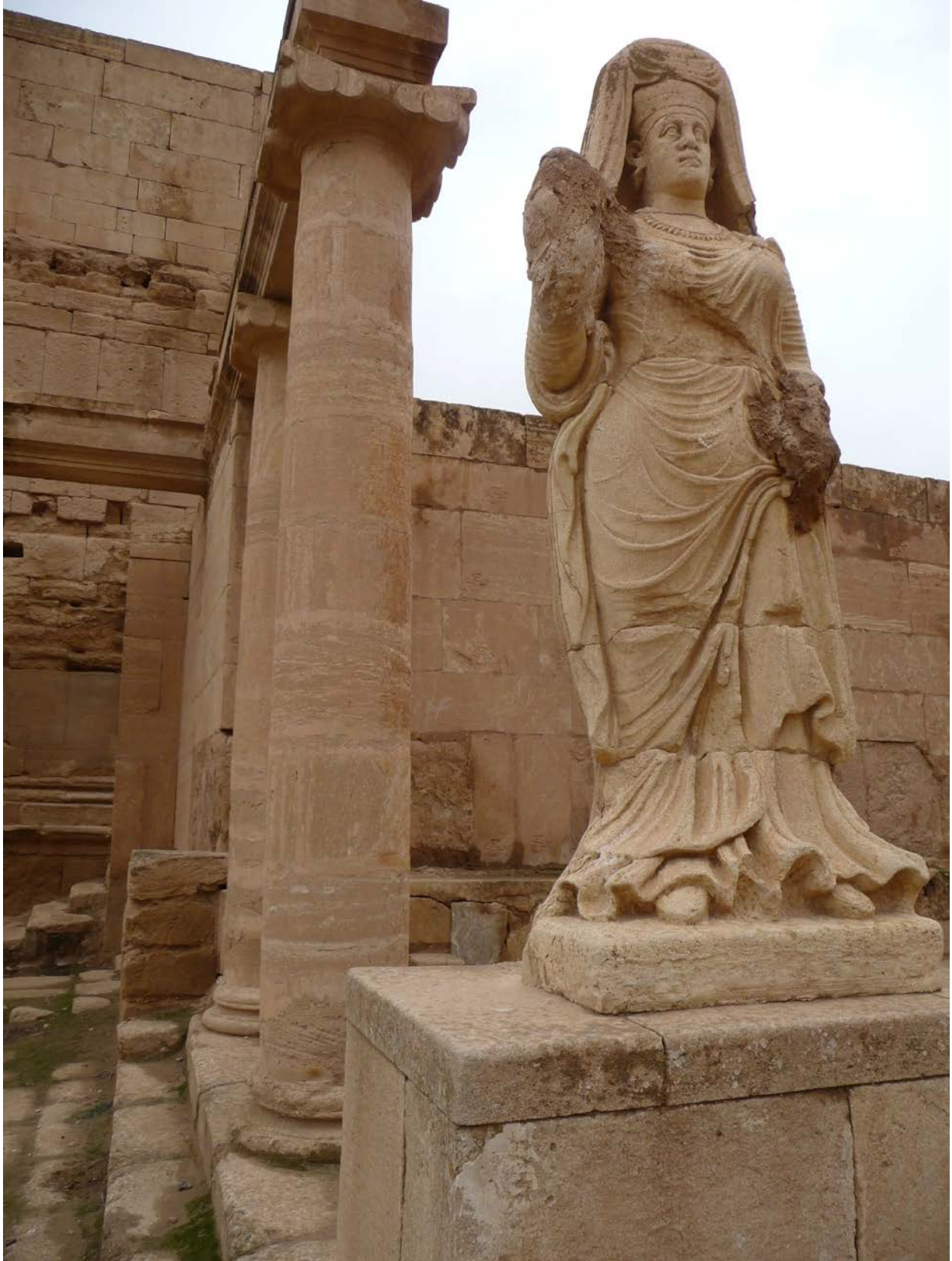
Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Prophit provided by S.E. Botts)



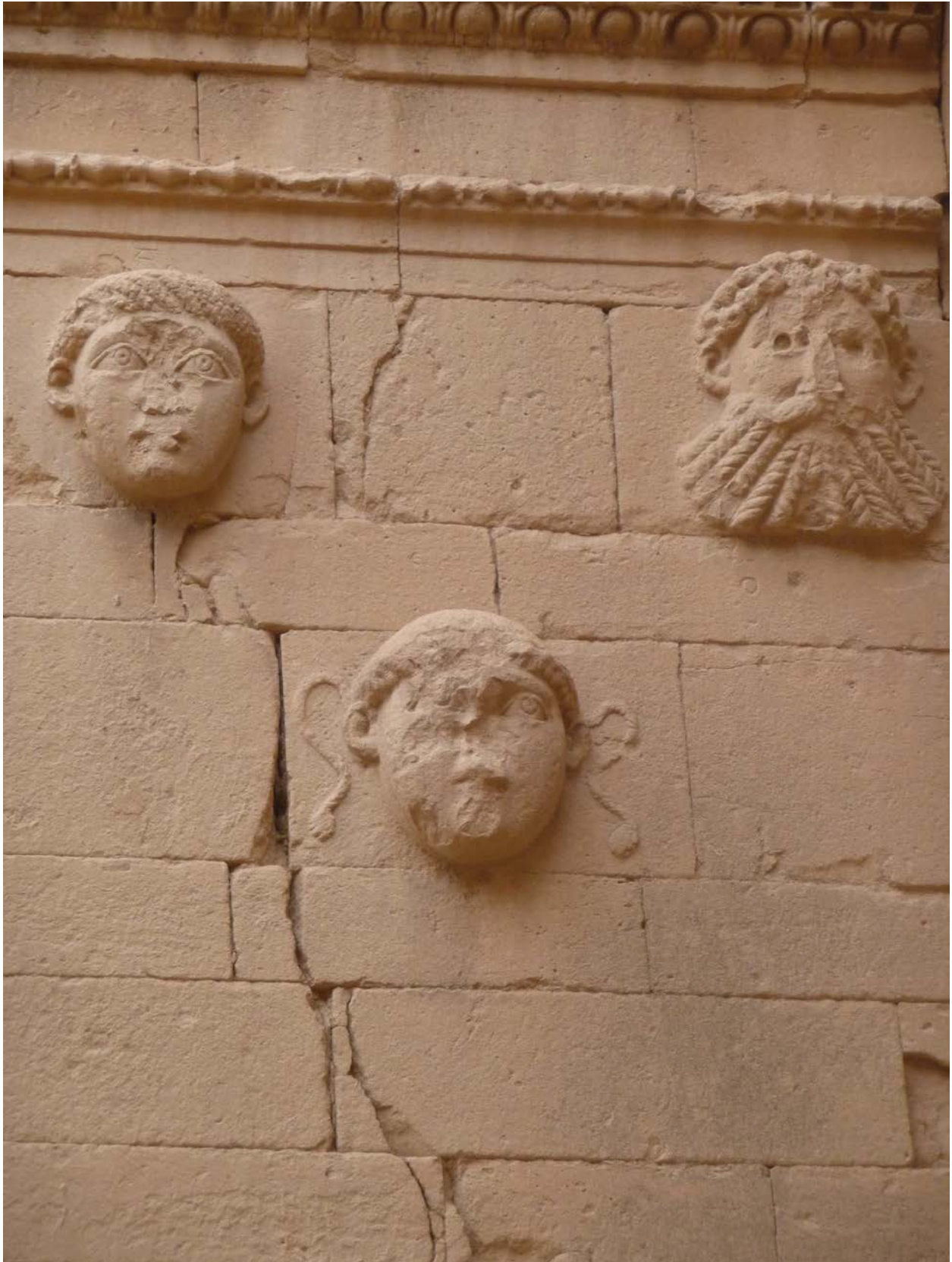
Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Proffit provided by S.E. Botts)



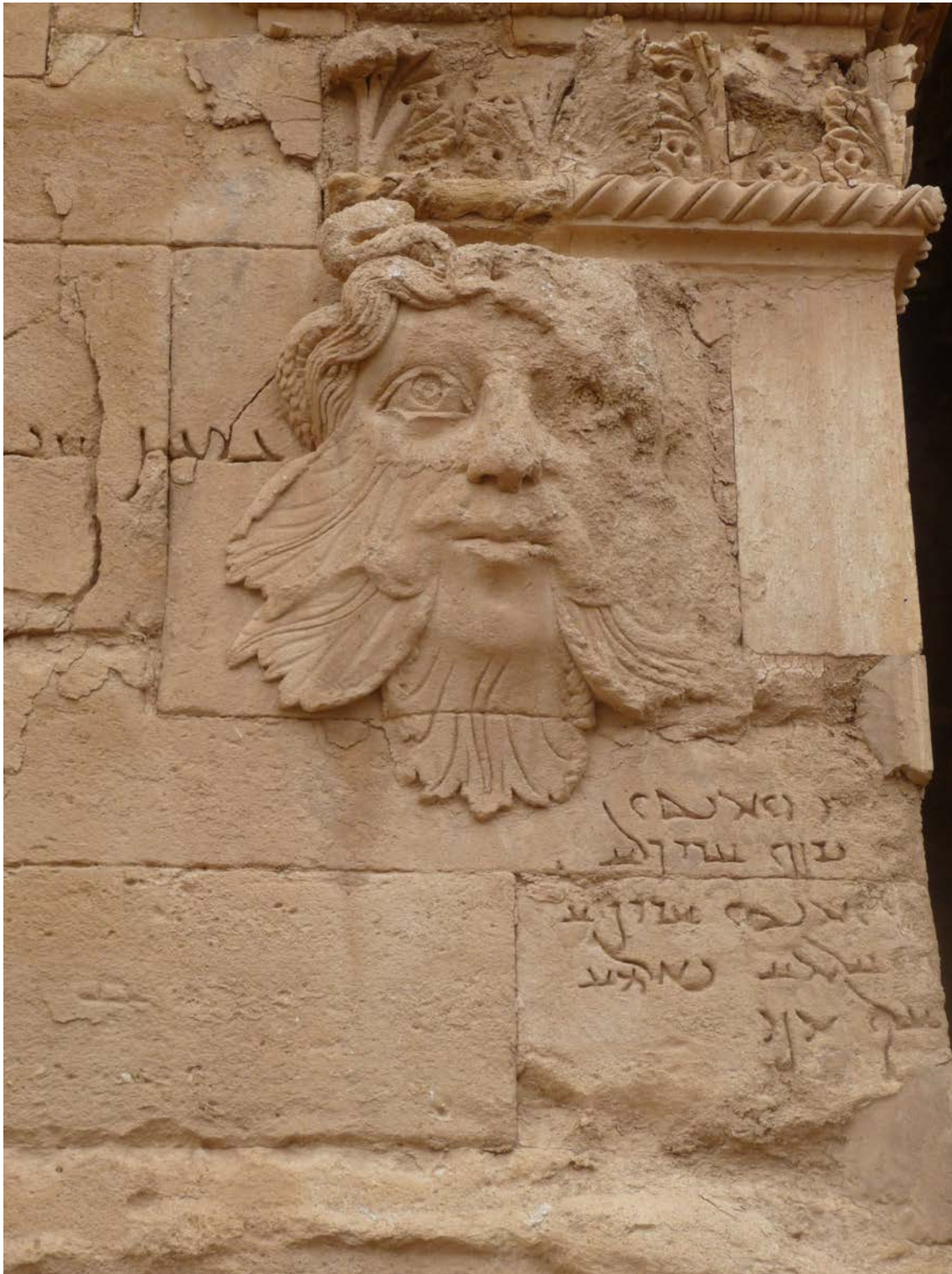
Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Proffit provided by S.E. Botts)



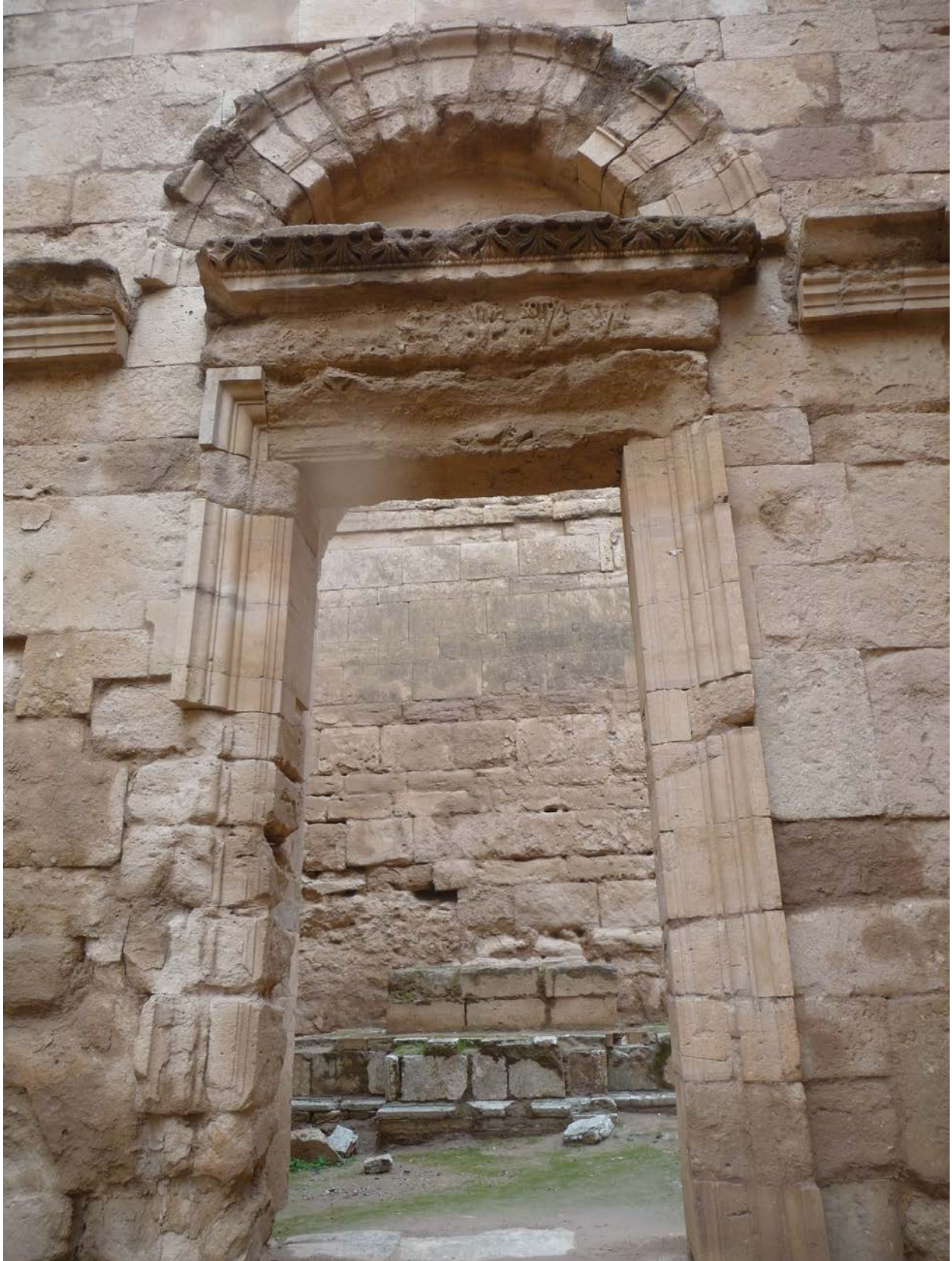
Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Proffit provided by S.E. Botts)



Hatra in 2010 (Photo by M. Proffit provided by S.E. Botts)



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IHI 15-0069

Report Date: March 6, 2015

Site Name: Hamou Qado Mosque (also known as the Abdullah Chalabi bin Muhammad bin Abdul Kadir Mosque)

Date of Incident: March 5, 2015

Location: Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq

Coordinates:

Site Description: Ottoman-era mosque located in the Maydan neighborhood in central Mosul near the main market (*suq*).

Site Date: 1881 CE

Source of Destruction: Alleged ISIL deliberate destruction.

Pattern: ISIL deliberate destructions of religious places significant to Shia or Sufi populations as well as other religious and ethnic minorities. Reports indicate that ISIL demolished the building with jackhammers.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:

1. ASOR CHI is continuing to monitor the condition of ethnic minority as well as Shi'a and other sectarian heritage in Syria and Iraq.
2. Photos or video of the destruction have not been posted at the time of this report. ASOR CHI will search for evidence that corroborates the alleged damage. Should the reports be proven true, CHI will determine the extent of the damage with recent photographs of the site.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

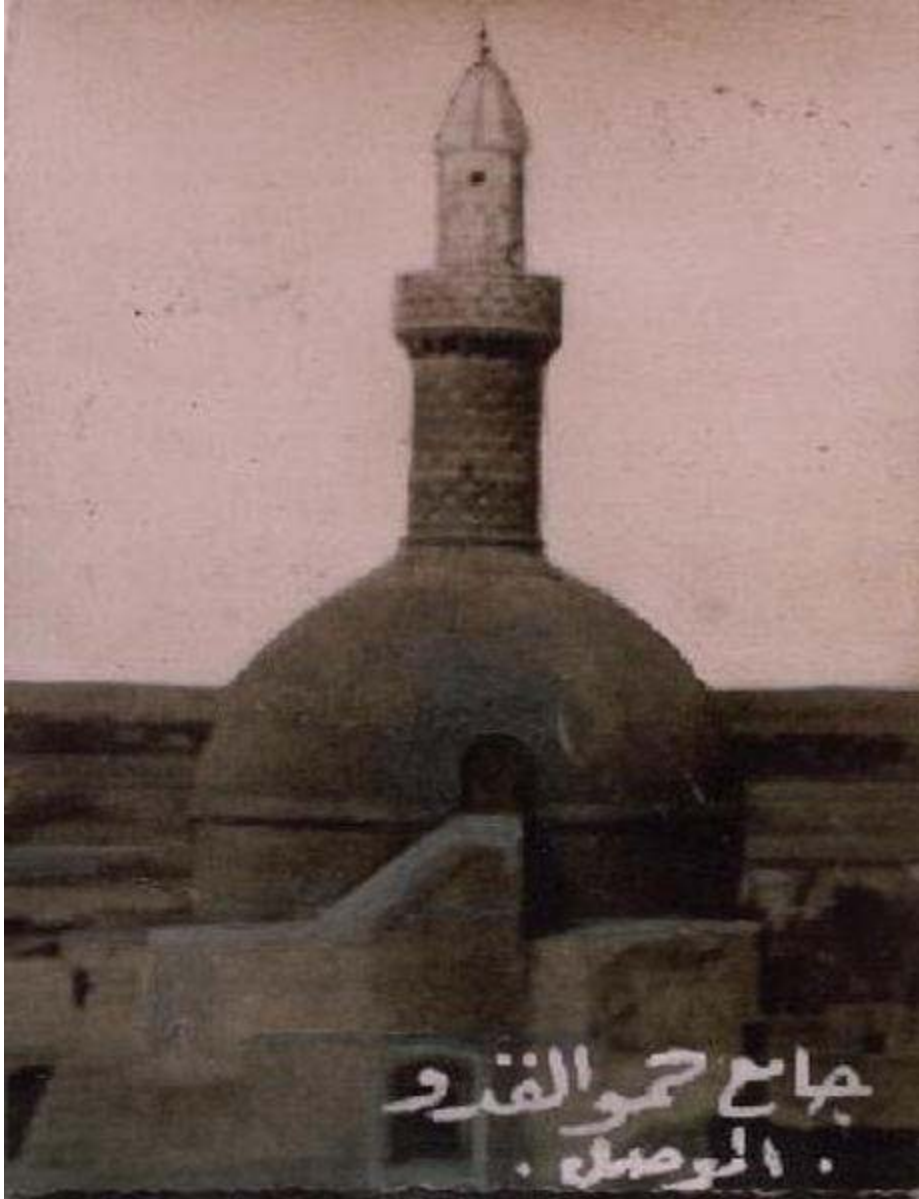
Rudaw: <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/060320151>

Baghdad Times: <http://www.baghdad-times.net/2015/03/06/نہینوی فی مسجد اقدم ہینس ف داعش الع فی بنی>

IB Times:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/iraq-isis-destroys-19th-century-ottoman-mosque-central-mosul-1490786>

Scholarly:



Undated image of the Hamo Mosque (Twitter)

IHI 15-0070**Report Date:** March 8, 2015**Site Name:** Khorsabad (ancient Dur-Sharrukin)**Date of Incident:** unconfirmed**Location:** 9 miles northeast of Mosul, Ninawa governorate, Iraq**Coordinates:**

Site Description: In 717 BCE, Sargon II (722–705 BCE) ordered that a new capital for the Neo-Assyrian Empire be built where the Tigris River joins with the Greater Zab river. The court was moved from Nimrud (ancient Kalhu) (IHI15-0067) to Dur-Sharrukin in 706 BCE, though the city was still undergoing construction. Sargon II was killed in battle soon after, and his successor, Sennacherib (705–681 BCE), abandoned the city and moved the capital to Nineveh (IHI15-0033).

The site was fortified by a 24-foot wide wall with seven gates, each decorated with a colossal stone lamassu sculpture. The center of the city was dominated by the royal palace – decorated with colossal stone sculptures and reliefs – and numerous temples, as well as a ziggurat.

Paul-Émile Botta first excavated the site in 1842–1844, followed by Victor Place in 1852–1855, the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago in 1928–1935, and Fuad Safar of the Iraqi Department of Antiquities in 1957.

Site Date: 706–605 BCE**Source of Destruction:** Alleged ISIL deliberate destruction and illicit excavation.

Pattern: On March 8 and 9, 2015, Adel Shirshab (Minister of Tourism and Antiquities in Iraq) said in a press conference that the government was investigating reports of looting and destruction at the site of Khorsabad.⁵¹ No additional information was provided.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Reports have not been confirmed at the time of this report. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation.

Sources:Online Reporting:

NY Times:

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/03/08/world/middleeast/ap-ml-islamic>

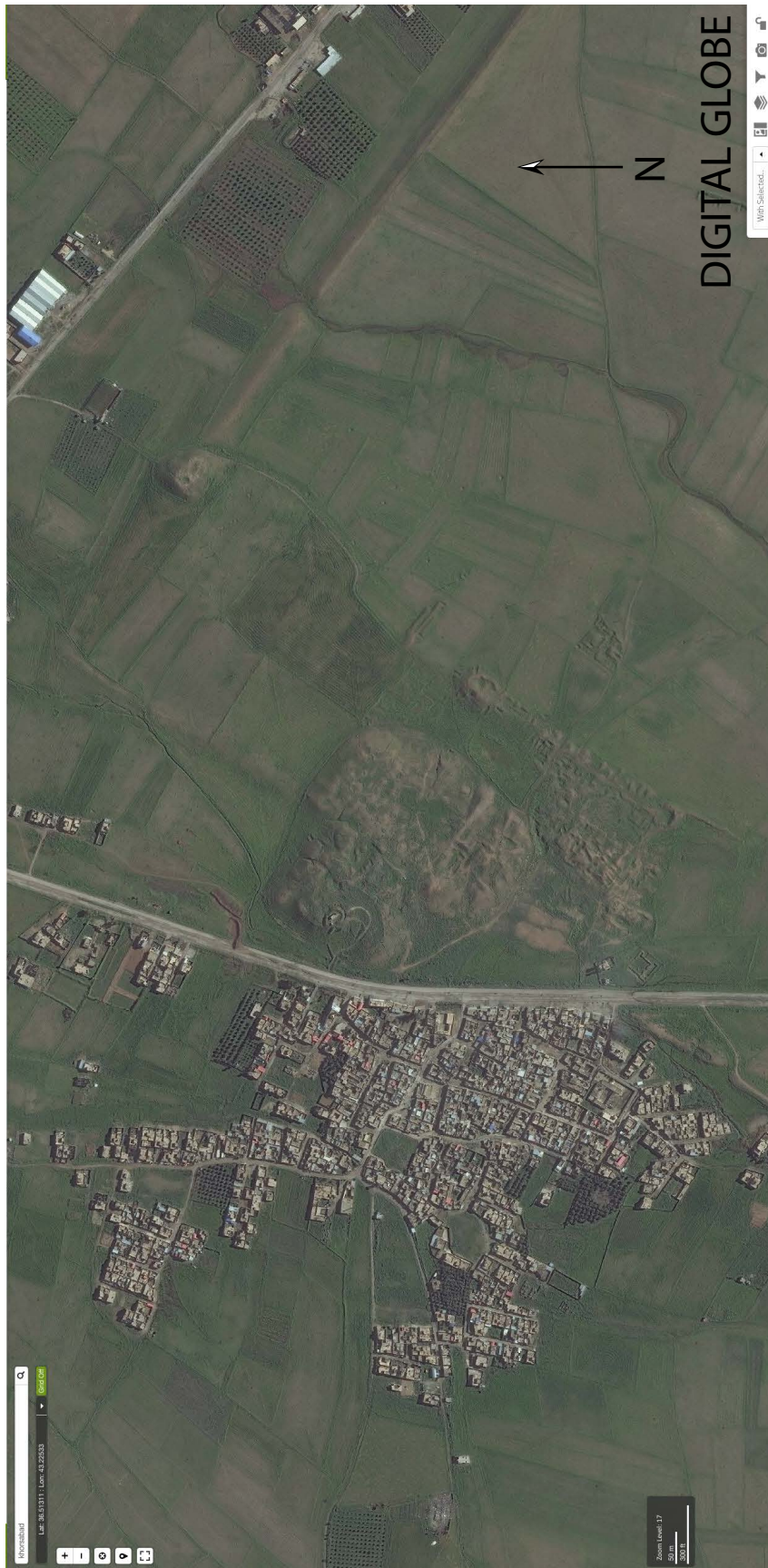
⁵¹ https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1549425868645077&id=1492622900992041;
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1549849945269336&id=1492622900992041

Scholarly:

Botta, Paul Emile and Eugene Flandin (1946-1950) *Monument de Ninive*, in 5 volumes. Paris: Imprimerie nationale.

Oriental Institute Khorsabad Excavations: <http://oi.uchicago.edu/research/projects/excavations-khorsabad>

Safar, Fuad (1957) "The Temple of Sibitti at Khorsabad", *Sumer* **13**: 219-21.



The mound of Khorsabad/ancient Dur Sharrukin on January 31, 2015 (Digital Globe).