

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

NEA-PSHSS-14-001

Weekly Report 40 — May 12, 2015

Michael D. Danti, Cheikhmous Ali, Tate Paulette, Kathryn Franklin, Allison Cuneo, LeeAnn Barnes Gordon, and David Elitzer

Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the Syrian Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums (DGAM) and the Association for the Protection of Syrian Archaeology (APSA) released a large number of reports on heritage damaged in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. Heritage reporting by these organizations relies heavily on news organizations and combat journalists.

Damage incidents related to combat follow previous geographic patterns from late 2014 and early 2015, with damage concentrated in the city of Aleppo and Daraa Governorate. The exact causes and dates of damage are often vague or unspecified, but overall are generally linked to recent, multiple tunnel bombings, barrel bombings, airstrikes, and heavy combat in Aleppo's Old City, particularly in the Jdeideh, Al-Jalloum, Suq al-Madina, Farifira, and Al-A'ajam Districts located northwest of the Aleppo Citadel, as well as unstable conditions in the south of Syria.

In Iraq, reported heritage incidents subsided relative to previous weeks.

Key Points

- Damage reports from various sources indicate continued severe damage in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo. (pp. 8–13, 16–30)
- The press continues to focus attention on archaeological looting, trafficking, and antiquities sales, as well as heritage destruction in the conflict zone.

Heritage Timeline

May 12, 2015

U.S. News and World Report published an article titled “**Iraq says Islamic State's destruction of historical sites is cover for sophisticated looting**” (by Paul Schemm, AP). According to the article, **Qais Hussein Rashid**, head of Iraq's State Board for Antiquities and Heritage, **claims that ISIL militants were digging for artifacts in the palace area at Nimrud and then detonated the site to hide the evidence.**

<http://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2015/05/12/iraq-says-is-demolishes-ruins-to-cover-up-looting-operations>

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.

- May 11, 2014 The **DGAM** reported on the condition of the Roman- and Islamic-era site of **Sharaa** in the al-Lajat plateau region of Daraa Governorate. [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0082](#).
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1689>
- May 10, 2015 The **DGAM** published a set of photographs acquired in cooperation with Al-Khany Media Agency, showing the condition of **built heritage within the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo** as of late April, 2015. [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0084](#).
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1688>
- The **DGAM** amended earlier reports regarding the condition of the **Museum of Popular Traditions (Beit Ajiqbash)** in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo**, stating that damage to the museum from recent tunnel bombings had in fact been minor. [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0080](#).
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1686>
 - On the Protect Syrian Archaeology Facebook page, **APSA** posted a link to a YouTube video showing the condition of the **Ibshir Pasha Mosque** in the Jdeideh quarter of the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo**, as well as footage of the occupation of the mosque by rebel fighters. [ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0081](#).
<https://youtu.be/9ljzzGL0oDs>
- May 9, 2015 *The Times of Israel* posted an article titled “**Syrian authorities seize 6,000 looted antiquities**” (by the Associated Press). According to the article, Ahmad Deeb (Director of Museums, DGAM) has claimed that **Syrian authorities have retrieved nearly 6,000 antiquities from neighboring countries**.
<http://www.timesofisrael.com/syrian-authorities-seize-6000-looted-antiquities/>
- May 8, 2015 The **U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield** (USCBS) was awarded a \$29,000 grant from the **J.M. Kaplan Fund** to better prepare lists of cultural property needing to be protected in conflict zones.
<http://uscbs.org/news/29000-grant-awarded-by-the-j-m-kaplan-fund-to-uscbs/>
- *Al-Monitor* published an article titled “**Babylon awaits tourists’ return**” (by Adnan Abu Zeed). The article describes efforts to redress damage done by Saddam Hussein’s renovations at Babylon and by the military occupation of the site, as well as recent efforts to promote tourism and draw more visitors to the site.
<http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/05/iraq-history-babil-damages-monuments-saddam-renovation.html#>

May 7, 2015

The **proceedings** of the “**Culture in Crisis**” conference (held on April 14, 2015), organized by the Yale Institute for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage (IPCH) and the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (V&A), under the auspices of UNESCO, **were made available on YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKmTewqnB9o>

May 6, 2015

Albabwa News published an article titled “**Egypt to host conference to combat Daesh destruction of antiquities.**” The article publicizes the upcoming “**Cultural Heritage under Threat**” conference, organized by the Antiquities Coalition, which will take place in Cairo on **May 13–14, 2015.**

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/egypt-host-conference-combat-daesh-destruction-antiquities-691272>

- UNESCO and the United Nations University held a meeting in Paris titled “**Mobilization For Heritage: Iraq, Syria and other conflict-stricken countries.**”
<http://en.unesco.org/events/mobilization-iraq-and-syria-unite4heritage>
- On the Protect Syrian Archaeology Facebook page, **APSA** posted several photos and a brief report about the explosion of the **Museum of Popular Tradition** in the **UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo** (Aleppo Governorate, Syria) by the Syrian army.
ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 15-0080.
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1319150944858680.1073741899.324869057620212&type=1>
- “السلطات التركية تضبط 168 قطعة آثار سورية مهربة في غازي عينتاب” was published by *TurkPress*. According to the article, **Turkish national security forces are involved in an ongoing anti-smuggling and organized-crime effort** in response to the Syrian crisis. A raid on the home of an individual named “Ahmed Mustafa” found **168 artifacts**, which date to the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman periods. “Mustafa” confessed that the objects had been smuggled from Syria to Gaziantep to be sold.
<http://www.turkpress.co/node/8185>

May 5, 2015

The **Getty Conservation Institute** (GCI) and **World Monuments Fund** (WMF) announced the launch of a new version of **Arches**, a freely available, open-source inventory and management system designed specifically for organizations involved in cultural heritage management. A beta version of Arches 3.0 is already in use by the **City of Los Angeles** and **ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives.**

<http://www.directionsmag.com/pressreleases/getty-conservation-institute-and-world-monuments-fund-launch-latest-version/442157>

<http://www.archesproject.org>

- The **Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative** (ICSSI) posted a press release titled “**Civil Society Launches a Campaign to Save the Cultural Heritage of Iraq.**” The organization calls on the Iraqi government and UNESCO to “establish an Iraqi Committee to monitor the protection of relics according to the terms of UN Security Council Resolution 2199 of 2015... establish and send out expert teams to inventory heritage sites across Iraq that have been destroyed or are at risk and to inventory artifacts that have been removed and may have been smuggled...[and] train and restore an enlarged antiquities police force and provide it with the necessary equipment and authority to enable the force to protect all endangered sites.”
<http://www.iraqicivilsociety.org/archives/4161>

- **Cindy Ho** of Saving Antiquities for Everyone (SAFE) wrote an opinion piece titled “**How Can We Think About Heritage When Life Is Lost?**” The essay, which focuses on the emergency response to the earthquake in Nepal, is also applicable to the crises in Syria and Iraq. The author argues that Nepal can be rebuilt but that helping the Nepali people rebound from the natural disaster also involves not purchasing cultural heritage looted in the aftermath.
<http://savingantiquities.org/nepal-heritage/>

May 4, 2015

The New York Times published an article titled “**Fertilizer, Also Suited for Bombs, Flows to ISIS Territory from Turkey**” (by Ben Hubbard and Karam Shoumali). The article documents the regular transport of large quantities of ammonium nitrate from the Turkish town of Akçakale across the border to the Syrian town of Tell Abyad, which is under ISIL control.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/world/europe/fertilizer-also-suited-for-bombs-flows-to-isis-territory-from-turkey.html>

May 2, 2015

Open Democracy published an article titled “**Iraq's vanishing heritage: risks and solutions**” (by Nazli Tarzi). The article provides a summary of the panel discussion “**Iraq Heritage — The Challenges and Solutions**” held on April 18, 2015, and organized by the Association of Iraqi Academics, the Iraqi Association, the Iraqi Women League, and the British Institute for the Study of Iraq.
<https://www.opendemocracy.net/arab-awakening/nazli-tarzi/iraq's-vanishing-heritage-risks-and-solutions>

May 1, 2015

The Art Newspaper published an article titled “**Louvre president shows solidarity with Iraq and Tunisia**” (by Vincent Noce). The article outlines the Louvre’s plan to send a team of experts to Baghdad to assess the needs of their counterparts in Iraq, as well as a plan to create a “red list” of artifacts from Iraq and Libya. According to Jean-Luc Martinez (President of the Louvre), the current crisis marks a turning point for encyclopedic/universal museums, which must put themselves at the service of others, returning to what he calls “diplomatic archaeology.” The Louvre, the

Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, the Field Museum in Chicago, the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in Leiden, and the British Museum are all organizing exhibitions designed to educate the public about the objects that are currently under threat in the Middle East.

<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/museums/154723/>

April 26, 2015

“إعدام التاريخ: يبقى القديم هو الجديد” (by رشيد الخيون) was published by *Al-Arab*.

<http://www.alarab.co.uk/?id=50865>

April 21, 2015

The Washington Times published an article titled “**Islamic State bans archaeology due to fears of idol worship**” (by Douglas Ernst). The article discusses indications that ISIL militants in Mosul have issued decrees banning hotel management and archaeology. According to researcher Aymenn Al-Tamimi, “[t]heir [ISIL’s] main concern with archaeology is that it would become a subject turning to idol worship, which is strictly forbidden in Islam.”

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/apr/21/islamic-state-bans-archaeology-due-fears-idol-wors/>

April 10, 2015

The *Monuments of Syria* website (by **Ross Burns**) released an updated list of “Monuments and sites reported damaged in the Syrian conflict since 2011 (as of 10 Apr 2015).”

<http://monumentsofsyria.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/Syria-damage-report-10-Apr-2015.pdf>

April 9, 2015

“تنظيم الدولة الإسلامية وتجارة الآثار المملوكة بالدماء” (by Andrea Watson) was published by *BBC Arabic*. The article discusses the ways in which ISIL militants profit from the excavation and sale of antiquities.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/arabic/artandculture/2015/04/150409_vert_cul_the_blood_antiqu_trade_by_is

Military and Political Context

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

1. Qalamoun Mountains, Rif Dimashq Governorate
 - During the reporting period, fighters from the Lebanese group Hezbollah and the Syrian government clashed with al-Qaeda affiliated al-Nusra fighters in the Qalamoun Mountain region along the Lebanese border.²

² AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/05/world/middleeast/ap-ml-lebanon.html>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/05/6-fighters-from-the-rebels-and-islamist-groups-killed-in-al-qalamoun-and-information-about-advancement-for-the-battalions-in-the-area/>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/06/us-mideast-crisis-hezbollah-idUSKBN0NR1DL20150506>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/07/us-mideast-crisis-hezbollah-idUSKBN0NS0G720150507>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/05/the-regime-troops-collapse-in-the-town-of-mida-and-the-clashes->

Other key points:

- On May 4, the New York Times published an article that documents the transport of large quantities of ammonium nitrate, a common fertilizer that can also be used to make bombs, across the Turkey-Syria border through the neighboring towns of Akçakale, Turkey, and Tel Abyad, Syria.³
- On May 5, the U.N. initiated low-level, informal consultations, which could potentially lead to future peace talks, with more than 40 Syrian groups, the Syrian government, and approximately 20 other countries in Switzerland.⁴
- On May 7, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter announced that U.S. Special Operations troops have started training approximately 90 Syrian rebel fighters in Jordan for the purpose of fighting ISIL.⁵

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

1. Baiji Oil Refinery, Salah ad Din Governorate
 - During the reporting period, Iraqi security forces, supported by more than two-dozen airstrikes as well as supply drops from U.S. aircraft, fought an intense offensive against ISIL at the strategically and symbolically important Baiji Oil Refinery.⁶
2. Khalis Prison, Diyala Governorate
 - On May 9, at least 62 inmates and a dozen Iraqi policemen were killed in a prison break in which dozens of inmates, some convicted of terrorism-related charges, reportedly escaped; ISIL claimed responsibility for the orchestration of the incident.⁷

[continue-in-jrud-al-qalamoun/](http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/08/us-mideast-crisis-hezbollah-idUSKBN0NT1CA20150508); <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/08/us-mideast-crisis-hezbollah-idUSKBN0NT1CA20150508>; AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/08/world/middleeast/ap-ml-syria.html>; <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2015/05/the-clashes-continue-in-al-qalamoun-area-in-rif-dimashq-and-around-the-town-of-hit-in-daraa/>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/10/mideast-crisi-hezbollah-idUSL5N0Y100220150510>

³ http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/05/world/europe/fertilizer-also-suited-for-bombs-flows-to-isis-territory-from-turkey.html?emc=eta1&_r=0

⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/06/us-mideast-crisis-syria-diplomacy-idUSKBN0NR17F20150506>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32586767>; AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/05/world/middleeast/ap-ml-syria.html>

⁵ http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/08/world/middleeast/us-trains-syrian-rebels-in-jordan-to-fight-isis.html?_r=0; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/08/us-syria-crisis-usa-idUSKBN0NS1SF20150508>; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-starts-military-training-for-moderate-syrian-rebels-1431024869>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-32617329>

⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/07/mideast-crisis-iraq-refinery-idUSL1N0XY30020150507>; http://www.lemonde.fr/proche-orient/article/2015/05/07/combat-violents-autour-de-la-raffinerie-de-baiji-en-irak_4629442_3218.html#xtor=AL-32280270; S. Adnan, P. Martin, and O. Dulimi, "Iraq Situation Report: May 7-8, 2015," <http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/05/iraq-situation-report-may-7-8-2015.html>

⁷ AFP, <http://news.yahoo.com/30-prisoners-killed-40-escape-iraq-jail-break-101805652.html>; <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/09/iraq-jail-riot-leaves-up-to-50-prisoners-12-police-dead-escape-terrorists>; AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/world/middleeast/dozens-die-and-40-escape-in-iraqi-prison-riot.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/09/us-iraq-prison-toll-idUSKBN0NU0G020150509>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/09/us-iraq-security-idUSKBN0NU07H20150509>; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32671524>;

3. Diyala Governorate
 - On May 8, twin suicide bombs killed at least 18 Shiite worshippers and wounded at least 41 more after Friday prayers in Balad Ruz; in a similar incident on the same day, a suicide bomb killed at least 4 Shiite worshippers and wounded at least 18 in Kanaan.⁸
4. Amiriyat al-Fallujah, Al Anbar Governorate
 - On May 8, about 1,100 Sunni recruits officially joined the Shiite-dominated Popular Mobilization militia for the fight to expel ISIL from Al Anbar Governorate.⁹
5. Baghdad Area
 - During the reporting period, more than two dozen people were killed in bomb attacks in and around Baghdad.¹⁰

Other key points:

- During the reporting period, Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government President Masoud Barzani visited Washington, D.C. During the visit, President Obama and Vice President Biden reiterated U.S. support for a united Iraq, and Barzani agreed to accept U.S. arms via the Iraqi government if that is how the U.S. chooses to deliver them; up to this point, the Kurdish Regional Government has requested to receive U.S. arms shipments directly.¹¹

<http://www.france24.com/fr/20150509-mutinerie-une-prison-irakienne-moins-30-morts-40-evades-khalis-etat-islamique-bagdad-pelerinage-chiite>

⁸ AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/08/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/08/mideast-crisis-iraq-bombs-idUSKBN0NT23120150508>; S. Adnan, P. Martin, and O. Dulimi, "Iraq Situation Report: May 7-8, 2015,"

<http://iswiraq.blogspot.com/2015/05/iraq-situation-report-may-7-8-2015.html>

⁹ AFP, <http://news.yahoo.com/iraq-launches-sunni-anti-force-anbar-193735172.html>; http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/plan-to-train-arm-tribal-fighters-against-islamic-state-raises-hope/2015/05/09/c78e73be-e12c-4085-b9d6-45219927ce1b_story.html; <http://www.dw.de/sunnis-sign-up-to-fight-islamic-state-in-iraq/a-18440378>

¹⁰ AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/10/world/middleeast/ap-ml-iraq.html>; <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/05/05/us-mideast-crisi-iraq-violence-idUSKBN0NQ29I20150505>

¹¹ AP, <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/05/05/us/politics/ap-us-obama-kurds.html>; <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/09/world/middleeast/kurdish-leader-agrees-to-accept-arms-on-us-terms-in-fight-against-isis.html>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 15-0080

Report Date: May 10, 2015

Site Name: Museum of Popular Traditions (Ajak Bash Museum; Beit Ajiqbash; SHI# 62), Aleppo

Date of Incident: May 6, 2015

Location: Jdeideh Quarter, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Located on Ibshir Pasha Street on a historically significant corner in the Jdeideh quarter, the Beit Ajiqbash was built in 1757 by a wealthy Christian merchant family of the same name. The house is famous for its courtyard, extravagantly decorated in a Mamluk-Rococo style.¹² The building was turned into a museum in 1973 and was restored beginning in the 1980s. The collection contains heritage and folk artifacts and is not to be confused with the Beit Ghazale Folk Museum, also in Aleppo.

Site Date: 1757 (Ottoman)

Source of Destruction: On May 7, 2015, the DGAM drew attention to media reports that clashes in the ancient city of Aleppo during recent days had caused severe damage to at the Ajak Bash Museum (The Museum of Popular Traditions), which is located in the historic Jdeideh quarter.¹³ Images did not provide a clear indication of the full extent of the damage. This report was confirmed by APSA, which attributed the destruction of the museum to the Syrian Army. APSA published two photographs sourced from Shaam News, which show rubble and general destruction in the Jdeideh area.¹⁴

On May 10, 2015, the DGAM updated its reporting, stating that only the southern facade of the Beit Ajiqbash had suffered “minor damage” as a result of the “explosion that happened [in the] last days” and that the building fabric itself was unharmed.¹⁵

According to the DGAM, the contents of the museum and the doors of the decorated wooden cabinets were removed to safe storage starting in 2013. However, in the early period of the war from 2011 to 2012, extensive theft of interior architectural furnishings took place; the objects stolen included the wooden doors and windows overlooking the courtyard, the courtyard fountain, and woodwork from the walls, such as panels, ornamented cornices, and built-in cabinets. An

¹² Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monument of Syria: A Guide*. London: I. B. Tauris. p. 53

¹³ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1683>

¹⁴

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1319150944858680.1073741899.324869057620212&type=1>

¹⁵ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1686>

extensive description of the stolen features can be found in the DGAM 2015 State Party Report, alongside images of damage from previous mortar shells.¹⁶

Pattern: The area of the Jdeideh quarter near the Beit Ajiqbash was hit by multiple tunnel bombs on April 26, 2015, and the last several weeks have seen intensified neighborhood-to-neighborhood combat between regime and rebel groups in Aleppo.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively gathering data on the status of built heritage in the Jdeideh quarter as it emerges, as part of a general effort to assess the under-reported impact of tunnel bombs, barrel bombs, and urban warfare within the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM

May 7, 2015: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1683>

May 10, 2015: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1686>

APSA Facebook

May 6, 2015:

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1319150944858680.1073741899.324869057620212&type=1>

Scholarly:

DGAM (Directorate-General of Antiquities and Monuments). 2015. *State Party Report: On the State of Conservation of The Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites*.

Lonely Planet:

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/syria/aleppo/sights/museums-galleries/museum-of-popular-tradition>

Burns, Ross. 2009. *The Monument of Syria: A Guide*. London: I. B. Tauris. p. 53

¹⁶ DGAM (Directorate-General of Antiquities and Monuments). 2015. *State Party Report: On the State of Conservation of The Syrian Cultural Heritage Sites*.



Museum of Popular Traditions, undated image (DGAM; posted May 7, 2015)



Museum of Popular Traditions (APSA; posted May 6, 2015)



Museum of Popular Traditions (APSA; posted May 6, 2015)

SHI 15-0081

Report Date: May 11, 2015

Site Name: Ibshir Pasha Mosque (Abshir Pasha Mosque)

Date of Incident: Unknown (ongoing)

Location: Hatab Square, Jdeideh Quarter, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: The Ibshir (sometimes Abshir) Pasha Mosque is part of the Ibshir Pasha endowment (*waqf*) complex, which occupies a full block south of Hatab square in the southeastern Jdeideh quarter. The complex was endowed by Governor Ibshir Pasha in 1653.¹⁷

Site Date: Ottoman (mid-17th century AD)

Source of Destruction: On May 10, 2015, APSA published a video (which includes footage originally filmed by OrientNews) to Youtube showing the interior of the Ibshir Pasha Mosque in the Jdeideh quarter of Aleppo.¹⁸ The news footage segment, dated May 1, 2015, shows what are presumably rebel fighters clearing broken tile and debris from the entryway of the mosque. There are large holes visible in the walls; fighters crouch at gun ports broken through an exterior wall. The gunmen seem to be in the process of clearing out the area, which is subsequently shown clean. Subsequent footage shows severe damage to the exteriors of (as yet unidentified) buildings around the Ibshir Pasha Mosque.

Footage of rebel soldiers celebrating after taking the Ibshir Pasha Mosque was published to YouTube on April 30, 2015.¹⁹

Pattern: Damage to built heritage in the Jdeideh quarter due to recent tunnel bombing and ongoing urban combat in the area.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively gathering data on the status of built heritage in the Jdeideh quarter as it emerges, as part of a general effort to assess the under-reported impact of tunnel bombs, barrel bombs, and urban warfare within the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

APSA (YouTube; May 10, 2015):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ljzzGL0oDs&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁷ Meriwether, M. 2010. *The Kin Who Count: Family and Society in Ottoman Aleppo, 1770-1840*. Austin: University of Texas Press. p. 180.

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ljzzGL0oDs&feature=youtu.be>

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yNsAS6zW1o&feature=youtu.be>

YouTube (footage of fighters taking Ibshir Pasha Mosque; April 30, 2015):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yNsAS6zW1o&feature=youtu.be>

Scholarly:

Meriwether, M. 2010. *The Kin Who Count: Family and Society in Ottoman Aleppo, 1770-1840*. Austin: University of Texas Press. p. 180.

SHI 15-0082

Report Date: May 11, 2015

Site Name: Sharaa (Sour, Sur, Suwara; ancient Saura; SHI# 2627)

Date of Incident: unknown

Location: 20km from al-Sanamini city, Lajat/Leijja region (ancient Trachonitis), Daraa Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Standing architecture at Sharaa/Saura, dating to the Roman period, when the settlement served as a military garrison. Important structures within the site include a temple of Demeter, baths, and also several monuments dating to the medieval/Islamic period.

Site Date: Roman (3rd-1st centuries BC) and medieval

Source of Destruction: On May 11, 2015, the DGAM reported that refugees have re-inhabited ancient buildings and installed electricity within the Sharaa archaeological site.²⁰ No corroborating reports or images have as yet been acquired.

Pattern: Militarization and damage to archaeological heritage in the Daraa countryside due to town-to-town combat near the Syria-Jordan border.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: Monitoring the ongoing impacts and long-term effects of combat upon the heritage landscape of Daraa Governorate remains a priority for ASOR CHI.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1689>

Scholarly:

Ball, Warwick. 2007. *Syria. A Historical and Architectural Guide*, (Northampton, MA: Interlink), p. 103.

²⁰ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1689>



Sharaa archaeological site, undated image (DGAM; posted May 11, 2015)

SHI 15-0083

Report Date: May 12, 2015

Site Name: Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque (in the Suq Zarb, SHI# 247; part of the Madrasa Shazbakhtiya complex, SHI# 130)

Date of Incident: unspecified/ongoing

Location: Suq el-Zarb, adjacent to Khan al-Wazir, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Small mosque and mortuary shrine dedicated to the Sheikh Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr. Part of the Ayyubid Madrasa Shazbakhtiya complex.

Site Date: 1193 AD (Ayyubid)

Source of Destruction: On May 10, 2015, the DGAM published a set of photographs procured in collaboration with al-Khany media agency, all showing the current condition of "religious buildings" in the old city of Aleppo as of late April 2015.²¹ These photos include images of the Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque and show severe damage to part of the building complex (e.g., roof completely destroyed). The interior of the Sheikh's shrine appears relatively intact, but an accurate assessment will require further data. The immediate cause of the destruction of the shrine/mosque has yet to be determined.

Pattern: Severe damage to built heritage in the vicinity of the Umayyad Mosque (Great Mosque) of Aleppo, especially in the area between the Umayyad Mosque and the Citadel, due to repeat tunnel bombings and ongoing aerial bombardment and urban warfare.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively searching for information about the effects of recent tunnel bombs and other destruction events within the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM (May 10, 2015): <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1688>

Scholarly:

²¹ <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1688>



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Ma'rouf Ibn Jamr Shrine and Mosque in the Suq Zarb (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)

SHI 15-0084

Report Date: May 12, 2015

Site Name: Islamic built heritage within the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, including the **Umayyad (Great) Mosque** (SHI# 192), the **Matbakh al-Ajami** (SHI#144), **Adiliye Madrasa** (SHI#153), the **al-Hayyat Mosque** (SHI#165), the **al-Sultaniya Madrasa** (SHI#131), the **Aslan Dada Mosque** (SHI#156), the **Halawiya Madrasa** (SHI#121), the **Maronite Cathedral of Mar Elias** (SHI#138), and the **al-Dabagha al-Atiqa Mosque** (SHI#160)

Date of Incident: unknown/ongoing

Location: South and southwest of the Citadel, UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Coordinates:

Site Description: Historic mosques and madrasas located within the Old City of Aleppo

Site Date: Ayyubid (Sultaniya Madrasa) through Ottoman

Source of Destruction: On May 10, 2015, the DGAM published a set of photographs procured in collaboration with al-Khany media agency, all showing the current condition of “religious buildings” in the old city of Aleppo as of late April 2015.²² These images include general views of the exteriors of a number of historical mosques. While the damage shown in these images cannot currently be attributed to any single or dated incident, the images will be of great utility in developing a timeline and understanding of impacts to heritage in the Old City of Aleppo.

Pattern: Severe, ongoing damage to built heritage in the UNESCO World Heritage Site Ancient City of Aleppo, especially in the area between the Umayyad Mosque and the Citadel, due to repeat tunnel bombings and ongoing aerial bombardment and continuing urban warfare.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI is actively engaged in monitoring the condition of cultural heritage in Aleppo; the task of documenting the impacts of recent destruction events is a particularly high priority.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

DGAM (May 10, 2015): <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1688>

Scholarly:

²² <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1688>



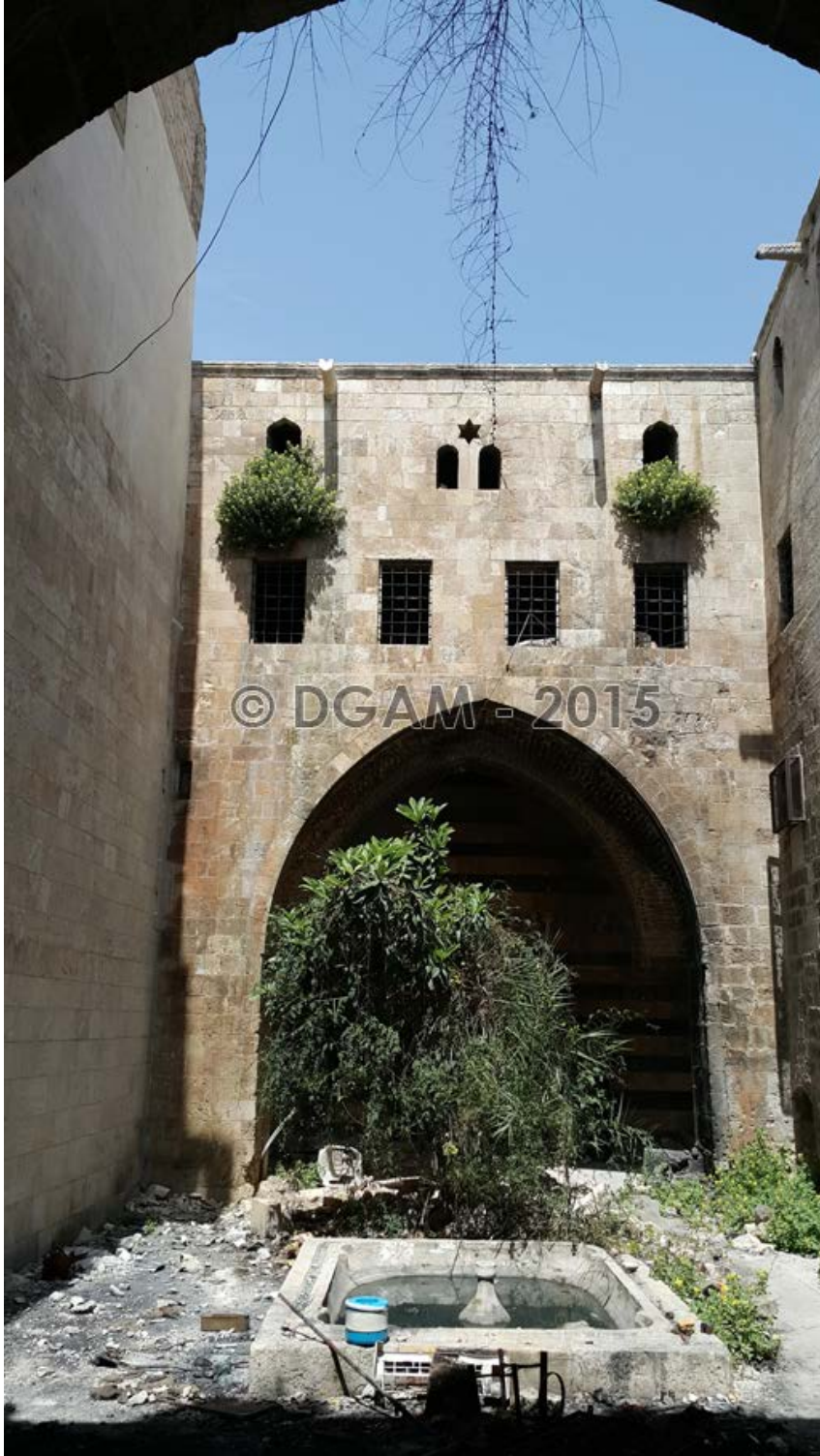
al-Adiliya Madrasa, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Sultaniya Madrasa, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



al-Hayyat Mosque, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Aslan Dada Mosque, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Aslan Dada Mosque, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



al-Halawiya Madrasa, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



al-Dabagha al-Atiqah Mosque, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



al-Dabagha al-Atiqah Mosque, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Umayyad Mosque, Aleppo, image taken from across the street to the northeast (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Umayyad Mosque, Aleppo, interior courtyard (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Maronite Cathedral of St. Elias, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Maronite Cathedral of St. Elias, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Maronite Cathedral of St. Elias, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Maronite Cathedral of St. Elias, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Matbakh al-Ajami, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)



Matbakh al-Ajami, Aleppo (DGAM; posted May 10, 2015)