

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

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Executive Summary

During the reporting period, combat damage to cultural heritage, already at heightened levels in recent months, appeared to escalate with increases in airstrikes and artillery barrages impacting urban areas. In-country sources reported on a number of damage incidents affecting houses of worship in both Syria and Iraq. In many cases, it is difficult to assess the historical significance of these structures, but the humanitarian impacts are manifest and such attacks will likely heighten ethnosectarian tensions and impede conflict resolution efforts. In Syria, houses of worship and other cultural infrastructure was damaged or destroyed in Aleppo city, Idlib city, and Rif Dimashq Governorate with increases in airstrikes across Syria, particularly over Aleppo and Idlib. Russia has pledged to back SARG’s renewed offensive to reclaim Aleppo, and we anticipate elevated levels of destruction to cultural assets throughout Syria’s M5 highway corridor as well as in Raqqa and Deir ez-Zor in coming months. In Iraq, in-country reports indicate several mosques were damaged by airstrikes and sectarian violence. Iraqi security forces have reached the southern outskirts of Fallujah, while Shia Popular Mobilization Front forces moved in from the north. Ethno-sectarian tensions may result in frequent heritage incidents.

In Syria’s Homs Governorate, recent DigitalGlobe satellite imagery dated May 25, 2016 shows the continuing expansion of the Russian/SARG military base within Palmyra’s Northern Necropolis. Changes since May 10, 2016 include new parking areas atop subterranean tombs (*hypogea*), additional tanks visible on the site, and new gun emplacements between the necropolis and the ancient fortification wall.

A key question with regard to the cultural heritage crisis concerns the potential impacts of heightened military activity, collateral damage from terrorist attacks, and intentional/performative destructions of heritage during the month of Ramadan. In a planned act of propaganda of the deed, ISIL released new video footage (likely on the first or second day of Ramadan) showing the destruction of three of Nineveh’s gates — previously reported on by CHI — as well as the recent and previously unreported deliberate destruction of parts of the famous Nabu Temple. With ISIL’s operational capabilities increasingly limited, cultural sites located in steadily shrinking ISIL core areas (viz. Mosul, Raqqa, Manbij) will likely suffer intensified losses from performative deliberate

¹ This report is based on research conducted by the “Cultural Preservation Initiative: Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq.” Weekly reports reflect reporting from a variety of sources and may contain unverified material. As such, they should be treated as preliminary and subject to change.

destructions given reduced target availability and a heightened imperative for strategic acts of retributory violence as the organization suffers additional setbacks.

Key Points

- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery and new photographs demonstrate the continued expansion of the Russian military base within the Northern Necropolis at Palmyra, Homs Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0065 UPDATE**).
- New video footage reveals extensive damage to al-Kabir Mosque in Daraya, Rif Dimashq Governorate. Alleged SARG shelling damaged al-Huda Mosque in Khan al-Sheih, Rif Dimashq Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0072**).
- A car bombing and alleged SARG airstrikes damaged six mosques in the city of Idlib, Idlib Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0073**).
- Alleged SARG airstrikes damaged four mosques in Sukhna, Homs Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0074**).
- Ongoing alleged SARG and Russian airstrikes damaged Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque and Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque in Anadan, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0075**).
- Alleged SARG airstrikes damaged Saad bin Mouath Mosque in Ma'arat al-Numan, Idlib Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0076**).
- Alleged US-led coalition airstrikes caused undetermined damage to al-Halisat Mosque in Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0077**).
- Alleged SARG airstrikes caused extensive damage to al-Kabir Mosque in Ma'arat Misreen, Idlib Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0078**).
- Alleged SARG airstrikes severely damaged Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque in Theiban, Deir ez-Zor Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0079**).
- Alleged Russian airstrikes damaged al-Farouq Mosque in Daret Izzah, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0080**).
- Alleged SARG airstrikes damaged Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque in Hayan, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0081**).
- An alleged SARG barrel bombing damaged Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque in Hreitan, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0082**).
- Alleged SARG and Russian airstrikes damaged Jaafar bin Abi Taleb Mosque and Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque in Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0083**).
- Alleged Opposition shelling damaged the Armenian Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Joy Armenian School in Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0084**).
- DigitalGlobe satellite imagery confirms reported damage to al-Farouq Mosque in Kubaysa, Anbar Governorate by suspected US-led coalition airstrikes in March 2016 (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0008 UPDATE**).
- New video footage released by ISIL shows destruction and damage to the Adad, Mashki, and Nergal Gates at Nineveh, Ninawa Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0010 UPDATE**).
- The Shia Popular Mobilization Front allegedly destroyed al-Kabir Mosque and Ibrahim al-Hassoun Mosque in Karmah, Anbar Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0015**).
- Probable US-led coalition airstrikes damaged al-Mudallal Mosque in Fallujah, Anbar Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0016**).

- New video footage released by ISIL shows the destruction of part of the Temple of Nabu at Nimrud, Ninawa Governorate (**ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0017**).

Heritage Timeline

- June 8, 2016
- The **EUNIC** will hold a panel on June 8, 2016 in Washington, D.C. titled “**Safeguarding Our Cultural Heritage: The Challenges of International Cooperation in a Global World.**” Panelists will discuss the current challenges faced in protecting our shared cultural heritage.
<http://washington-dc.eunic-online.eu/?q=content/safeguarding-our-cultural-heritage-challenges-international-cooperation-global-world>
- June 6, 2016
- SNHR published a post titled “**Suspected Russian forces targeted Al Farouq Mosque in Darat Azza city in Aleppo governorate in June 5.**” An airstrike damaged a mosque in Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0080.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/06/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-al-farouq-mosque-darat-azza-city-aleppo-governorate-june-5/>
- **ISESCO** published an article titled “الإيسيسكو تهبب بالمجتمع الدولي لإنقاذ مدينة حلب عاصمة الثقافة الإنسانية (ISESCO calls upon the international community to save the city of Aleppo, the capital of human culture).” The Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization issued an urgent appeal to the international community for immediate action to save Aleppo.
<http://www.unesco.org/ma/ar/2016/06/06/-الإيسيسكو-تهبب-بالمجتمع-الدولي-لإنقاذ/>
 - The **DGAM** published an article titled “**The expert meeting on the safeguarding of Syria heritage concluded in Berlin.**” Representatives from the DGAM attended the recent meeting in Berlin organized by UNESCO to discuss the creation of a comprehensive inventory of cultural heritage damage in Syria, identify emergency safeguard measures, and mitigate the risks to sites.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1993>
- June 5, 2016
- SNHR published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Al Aqraei Mosque in Idlib city in June 5.**” An airstrike severely damaged a mosque in Idlib. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0073.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/05/government-forces-targetd-al-aqraei-mosque-idlib-city-june-5/>

June 4, 2016

UNESCO published an article titled “**Syrian and international experts agree on emergency measures to safeguard Syria’s heritage.**” 230 Syrian and international experts gathered for a two-day meeting in Berlin to assess damage to cultural heritage sites in Syria, develop methodologies, and define priority emergency safeguarding measures for the country’s heritage.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1505>

June 3, 2016

SNHR published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Abu Bakr Al Sadeiq Mosque in Thebian town in Deir Ez-Zour governorate in June 2.**” A mosque was severely damaged in an airstrike. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0079.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/03/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-thebian-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-2/>

- *Deutsche Welle* published an article titled “**UNESCO's Francesco Bandarin: 'Palmyra is in no danger of Disneyfication'**” (by Elizabeth Grenier). UNESCO's Assistant Director-General Francesco Bandarin is interviewed. He rejects historian Annie Sartre-Fauriat’s assertion that current restoration plans could ruin the authenticity of Palmyra.
<http://www.dw.com/en/unescos-francesco-bandarin-palmyra-is-in-no-danger-of-disneyfication/a-19304099>
- *News Deeply* published an article titled “**Under Fire From All Sides: Syria’s Assyrians**” (by Mardean Isaac). The author argues that unless concrete measures are taken to support the steadily shrinking Assyrian community in Hasakah governorate, one of the region’s most ancient communities may soon be gone.
<https://www.newsdeeply.com/syria/oped/2016/06/03/under-fire-from-all-sides-syrias-assyrians>
- *The Huffington Post* published an article titled “**What We Owe the People of Syria**” (by Irina Bokova). According to the Director-General of UNESCO Irina Bokova, “UNESCO rejects rushed or unilateral restoration projects, and calls for prudence, responsibility and respect for priorities in a country where conflict is raging.”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/irina-bokova/what-we-owe-the-people-of-b_10274060.html

- *The Guardian* published an article titled “**Irina Bokova: The woman standing between Isis and world heritage.**” The work of UNESCO to stop the destruction of cultural heritage in Syria and Iraq is discussed.
<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2016/jun/03/irina-bokova-un-unesco-world-heritage-palmyra-isis>
- June 2, 2016

Deutsche Welle published an article titled “**Hermann Parzinger on Palmyra: ‘Only UNESCO and Syria should take the lead’**” (by Gero Schliess). Hermann Parzinger, president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, one of the main German organizations involved in supporting preservation efforts in Syria, argues that the reconstruction of Palmyra should be a collaborative effort but should only be led by Syria and UNESCO.
<http://www.dw.com/en/hermann-parzinger-on-palmyra-only-unesco-and-syria-should-take-the-lead/a-19299767>
- UNESCO published an article titled “**Director General opens Berlin expert meeting on the safeguarding of Syria’s heritage.**” The expert meeting for the safeguarding of Syrian heritage will last until 4 June.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1503>
- UNESCO published an article titled “**Experts Meet at UN on Unprecedented Destruction and Trafficking of Cultural Property.**” Global experts on destruction and illegal trafficking of cultural heritage met on May 27, 2016 at the UN Headquarters for a meeting co-organized by UNESCO with the Permanent Missions of Jordan and Italy, INTERPOL, and the UNODC.
<https://en.unesco.org/news/experts-meet-unprecedented-destruction-and-trafficking-cultural-property>
- *Al Sumaria* published a video report titled “**بالفيديو رأس الملك سنطروق يعود من لبنان الى العراق (King Sanatruq heads back to Iraq from Lebanon).**” The head of a statue of King Sanatruq, stolen from the Iraqi National Museum 13 years ago, was returned to Iraq.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElppMO2IDRO>

- The National* published an article titled “**Art crime expert Dr Donna Yates makes her research available free online in bid to help beat the thieves**” (by Martin Hannan). Yates hopes that the reports she has gathered regarding art crime and trafficking in antiques worldwide will show the scale of the black market industry. Readers can access Yates’ information through the website <http://news.culturecrime.org>.
<http://www.thenational.scot/news/art-crime-expert-dr-donna-yates-makes-her-research-available-free-online-in-bid-to-help-beat-the-thieves.18299>
 - The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**The stones cry out: on Medieval art in war-torn Syria**” (by Jane Jakeman). Museum With No Frontiers will publish a book titled “The Ayyubid Era: Art and Architecture in Medieval Syria” discussing Ayyubid-era monuments in Syria, many of which have been damaged or destroyed.
<http://theartnewspaper.com/comment/reviews/books/the-stones-cry-out-on-medieval-art-in-war-torn-syria/>
 - SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Al Kabir Mosque in Ma’aret Msreen city in Idlib governorate in June 1.**” A mosque in Ma’arat Misreen was severely damaged in an airstrike. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0078.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/02/government-forces-targeted-al-kabir-mosque-maaret-msreen-city-idlib-governorate-june-1/>
- June 1, 2016
- The Smithsonian** will hold a conference titled “**National Conference on Cultural Property Protection**” on June 1-3, 2016.
<https://natconf.si.edu/schedule/>
- Museums Journal* published an article titled “**BM trains Iraqi heritage experts**” (by Rob Sharp). The British Museum is training six Iraqi heritage professionals using government funding for supporting heritage in conflict zones. Over its duration, the £3m project will train 50 Iraqi heritage professionals in a range of techniques that will help them work in severely damaged or disrupted areas.
<http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news-analysis/01062016-bm-trains-iraqi-heritage-experts>

- *The Guardian* published an article titled “**Syrian troops looting ancient city Palmyra, says archaeologist.**” Hermann Parzinger, president of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, said off-duty Syrian regime soldiers were conducting illegal excavations and had looted at Palmyra.
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jun/01/syrian-troops-looting-ancient-city-palmyra-says-archaeologist>
- *Deutsche Welle* published an article titled “**Ancient city of Palmyra should not just become another ‘Disneyland’**” (by Sabine Oelze). Historian Annie Sartre-Fauriat argues that Russia is further damaging Palmyra and that UNESCO is not doing enough to prevent this.
<http://www.dw.com/en/ancient-city-of-palmyra-should-not-just-become-another-disneyland/a-19297632>
- UNESCO published an article titled “**From Kabul to Rome: International experts discuss challenges for heritage and sustainability.**” An international conference titled “**Cultural Heritage and Development Initiatives: a Challenge or a Contribution to Sustainability?**” was held in Rome from May 25-27. Organized by the UNESCO Office in Kabul together with Afghanistan and the World Bank and in cooperation with Italy, it focused on the relationship between archaeology, landscape protection, and development initiatives.
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1502>
- *National Geographic* published an article titled “**How Tomb Raiders Are Stealing Our History**” (by Tom Mueller). The illegal antiquities trade is examined, with particular emphasis on the complicity of auction houses and other sellers of ancient art.
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2016/06/looting-ancient-blood-antiquities/?platform=hootsuite>
- **United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner** published a press release and calls for contributions to a consultation titled “**Intentional destruction of cultural heritage as a violation of human rights.**” The submission deadline is June 10, 2016.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/CulturalRights/Pages/IntentionalDestructionOfCulturalHeritage.aspx>

- **AAAS S&T Policy Fellows' Science Diplomacy Affinity Group** will hold a conference titled “**The Role of Science Diplomacy in International Crises: Syria as a Case Study**” on June 1, 2016. Speakers include ASOR CHI’s Andrew Vaughn.

<http://aaaspolicyfellowships.org/event/role-science-diplomacy-international-crises>

May 31, 2016

Raw Story published an article titled “**How much money is ISIS actually making from looted art?**” (by Fiona Rose-Greenland). A University of Chicago research team — known as MANTIS (Modeling the Antiquities Trade in Iraq and Syria) — has worked to outline the framework of ISIL’s antiquities trade as well as accurately estimate how much cash ISIL and other insurgent groups are making from the endeavor.

<https://www.rawstory.com/2016/05/how-much-money-is-isis-actually-making-from-looted-art/>

- *The Art Newspaper* published an article titled “**Isil rampage: a threat to cultural heritage that belongs to all**” (by James Cuno). James Cuno, the president of the Getty Trust, argues the world must find ways to intervene and protect antiquities when nation-states cannot do so. To protect cultural heritage already improperly removed from Syria and Iraq, the international community should encourage the creation of “safe havens” outside Syria and Iraq as temporary custodians for the safekeeping of endangered cultural property.

<http://theartnewspaper.com/comment/comment/isil-rampage-a-threat-to-cultural-heritage-that-belongs-to-all/>

- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Hamza Bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque in Anadan city in Aleppo governorate in May 31.**” A mosque in Anadan was severely damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0075.**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-31/>

- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Saad Bin Mouath Mosque in Ma’aret Al Numan city in Idlib governorate in May 31.**” A mosque in Ma’arat al-Numan was severely damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0076.**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-saad-bin-mouath-mosque-maaret-al-numan-city-idlib-governorate-may-31/>

- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Suspected Russian forces targeted Amer Abu Obaida Ibn Al Jarah Mosque in Anadan city in Aleppo governorate in May 30.**” A mosque in Anadan was severely damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0075.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-amer-abu-obaida-ibn-al-jarah-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-30/>
 - **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Abu Bakr Al Sedeiq Mosque in Hraitan city in Aleppo governorate in May 30.**” A mosque in Hreitan and ar-Rawda Mosque in Idlib were damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0082 and 16-0073.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sedeiq-mosque-hraitan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-30/>
 - **Heritage for Peace** published its biweekly damage newsletter “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-31-may-2016/>
- May 30, 2016
- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Jaafar Bin Abi Taleb Mosque in Al Haydariyeh neighborhood in Aleppo city in May 29.**” A mosque in Aleppo was damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0083.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/30/government-forces-targeted-jaafar-bin-abi-taleb-mosque-al-haydariyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-may-29/>
 - The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq** published an article titled “**Foreign Minister Opens Gallery of Iraqi Antiquities.**” Dr. Ibrahim Al-Jaafari opened a gallery of Iraqi antiquities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarter building and gave a speech denouncing terrorism and the looting of antiquities.
<http://www.mofa.gov.iq/en/news.php?articleid=834>
- May 29, 2016
- **SNHR** published a post titled “**Government forces targeted Hamza Bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque in Hayan town in Aleppo governorate in May 28.**” A mosque in Hayan was damaged. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0081.**
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/29/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-hayan-town-aleppo-governorate-may-28/>

May 28, 2016

Newsweek published an article titled “**Targeting cultural antiquities destroys heritage, UNESCO says.**” Irina Bokova, director general of UNESCO, argues that the destruction of antiquities is a form of cultural cleansing.

<http://www.newsweek.com/targeting-cultural-antiquities-destroys-heritage-464604>

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SNHR published a post titled “**Government warplanes targeted a mosque in Al Sukhna city in Homs governorate in May 27.**” An airstrike damaged Bani Allou Mosque in Sukhna. **ASOR CHI Incident Reports SHI 16-0074.**

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/28/government-warplanes-targeted-mosque-al-sukhna-city-homs-governorate-may-27/>

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Anadolu Agency published an article titled “**Iraq: Shia militia accused of blowing up Anbar mosques**” (by Sulaiman al-Qubeisi). A tribal chief in al-Karma, Anbar Governorate accused members of the al-Hashd al-Shaabi Shia militia of destroying two mosques and looting homes in the city after defeating ISIL.

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-shia-militia-accused-of-blowing-up-anbar-mosques-/580184>

May 27, 2016

UNESCO published an announcement titled “**Third Expert Meeting on "Protecting Cultural Heritage - an Imperative for Humanity."** The Permanent Delegations to the UN of Jordan and Italy, together with INTERPOL, UNESCO, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) held a third and final Expert Meeting of the series on “Protecting Cultural Heritage – an Imperative for Humanity.” Michael Danti presented ASOR CHI research.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/illicit-trafficking-of-cultural-property/meetings/un-may-meeting/>

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Reuters published a video report titled “**Car bombs rip through Syria’s Idlib.**” Social media video purports to show the aftermath of a car bombing at Shuiab Mosque in Idlib, with reports of casualties. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0073.**

<http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/05/27/car-bombs-rip-through-syrias-idlib?videoId=368679406>

- Co.Exist* published an article titled “**Mapping How Terrorists Are Destroying the World’s Cultural Sites**” (by Charlie Sorrel). The Antiquities Coalition has convened activists under the Culture Under Threat Task Force, which has two strategies: to push the US military to target strikes that protect cultural sites, as well as adding sites to "no strike lists," and to limit the international sale of stolen artifacts.
<http://www.fastcoexist.com/3060249/mapping-how-terrorists-are-destroying-the-worlds-cultural-sites>
 - The Guardian* published an article titled “**Erasing Isis: how 3D technology now lets us copy and rebuild entire cities**” (by Paul Clammer). This article discusses recent initiatives, including those of Rekrei, Project Mosul, and the Institute of Digital Archaeology to document and recreate destroyed or damaged monuments using 3D technology.
<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/27/isis-palmyra-3d-technology-copy-rebuild-city-venice-biennale>
- May 26, 2016
- Channel News Asia* published an article titled “**France helps Syrian archaeologists fill in the cracks.**” Maamoun Abdulkarim has invited international experts, including a French team, to spend a year training Syrian architects and archaeologists in restoration techniques.
<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/lifestyle/france-helps-syrian-archa/2817086.html>
- Foreign Affairs* published an article titled “**The Violins of Palmyra**” (by David Schoenbaum). This article discusses the concert recently held by Russia in the theater of Palmyra and the international reactions to the event.
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/syria/2016-05-26/violins-palmyra>
 - DGAM** published an article titled “**Concepts on Reconstruction and Restoration of the Damaged Built Heritage Training Course.**” The DGAM held a 5-day training course called “Concepts on Reconstruction and Restoration of the Damaged Built Heritage” in Homs for 14 participants from different cities in Syria.
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1991>

May 25, 2016

UK National Committee of the Blue Shield published an article titled “**Blue Shield Statement on the 2016 Queen’s Speech.**” An announcement made in the Queen’s Speech on May 18, 2016 that Her Majesty’s Government intends to table legislation that will result in the UK being able to accede to the 1954 Hague Convention, the two Protocols of 1954 and 1999, and other measures to protect cultural property.
<http://ukblueshield.org.uk/blue-shield-statement-on-the-2016-queens-speech/>

- *Le Monde* published an article titled “**Non à la restauration hâtive de Palmyre (No to the early restoration of Palmyra)**” (by Irina Bokova). The Director-General of UNESCO discusses cultural heritage damage in Syria and the work of Syrian and international cultural heritage organizations, and urges the rejection of hasty restoration measures at sites like Palmyra.
http://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2016/05/25/non-a-la-restauration-hative-de-palmyre_4926011_3232.html

May 24, 2016

Share America published an article titled “**The US has a new weapon to stop black market trafficking in Syrian antiquities**” (by Christopher Connell). This article discusses the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, which gives the US president expanded authority to restrict imports of archaeological or ethnological artifacts from Syria.
<https://share.america.gov/u-s-stopping-black-market-trafficking-in-syria/>

Military and Political Context

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

1. Aleppo Governorate:
 - During the reporting period local sources reported ongoing SARG and Russian airstrikes across Aleppo Governorate including in the cities of Aleppo, Anadan, Azzaz, Hreitan, Manbij, and al-Sahur.²
 - On May 27, ISIL militants captured several villages near the town of Azzaz.³
 - On May 28-29, ISIL militants clashed with Syrian opposition forces in the town of Mar’a.⁴

² <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2016/Jun-03/355089-10-civilians-dead-as-government-strikes-hit-bus-near-syrias-aleppo-civil-defence.ashx> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-may-13-june.html> ; <http://www.turkishweekly.net/2016/06/07/news/regime-aircraft-kill-five-in-nw-syria-local-sources/>

³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKCN0YI12E> ; <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-advance-in-syria-hospital-evacuated-as-100000-threatened-by-militants-advance-on-azaz-a7052176.html> ; <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/27/medics-civilians-flee-northern-aleppo-surprise-isis-attack-syria>

- On May 29-30, Syrian activists reported over 100 SARG and Russian airstrikes on opposition-held areas of the city of Aleppo. The civil defense group known as the White Helmets, reported that more than 700 bombs had fallen in and around the city, including “barrel bombs and cluster bombs.” The final casualty count remains unknown.⁵
 - On June 2, US officials told Reuters that “thousands” of US-backed fighters in Syria had begun an offensive to recapture the ISIL-held strategic area known as the ‘Manbij pocket.’⁶
 - On June 5, as many as 50 SARG and Russian airstrikes struck opposition-held areas in and around the city of Aleppo, killing at least 53 people.⁷
 - On June 6, Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov committed Russian air support to SARG forces around the city of Aleppo.⁸
2. Raqqa Governorate:
- On May 25-26, clashes between SDF fighters and ISIL militants were reported in the towns of Ayn Issa, Mar’a, and in areas south of Tel Abyad, north of the ISIL-stronghold city of Raqqa.⁹
 - On May 27, activists reported that the US-led coalition had conducted at least 150 airstrikes on the city of Raqqa since May 24, 2016. Activists in Raqqa reported the presence of new ISIL checkpoints as well as the amassing of ISIL militants in areas north of the city.¹⁰
 - On May 30, Syrian Democratic Forces began an offensive against the ISIL-held town of Tabqa.¹¹
 - On June 3, SARG forces, backed by Russian airstrikes, began a new offensive and advanced toward Raqqa Governorate from the eastern border with Hama Governorate.¹²
 - On June 5, SARG forces, backed by heavy Russian airstrikes, crossed the boundary between Hama and Raqqa Governorate, entering Raqqa Governorate for the first time since 2014.¹³

⁴ <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2016/May-28/354174-isis-rebel-clashes-rock-northeast-syria-town.ashx>

⁵ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-war-casualties-mount-air-strikes-aleppo-160530080722465.html>

⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-offensive-idUSKCN0YN377> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-offensive-idUSKCN0YN377> ; <http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/791067/fights-to-retake-fallujah-manbij-city-from-isil-begin>

⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKCN0YR0DI> ; <http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-triples-its-airstrikes-in-syria/3363391.html>

⁸ <https://www.yahoo.com/news/russia-actively-back-syria-army-around-aleppo-172733162.html>

⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-raqqa-idUSKCN0YG1P1>

¹⁰ <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2016/May-27/354009-us-backed-forces-battle-isis-near-syria-stronghold-iraqi-city.ashx>

¹¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-is-idUSKCN0YL00X>

¹² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-army-idUSKCN0YP0U2>

¹³ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/isis-capital-syrian-army-crosses-raqqa-province-160604092420833.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36452094> ; <https://www.yahoo.com/news/army-presses-advance-jihadists-syrias-biggest-dam-091817027.html>

3. Idlib Governorate:

- During the reporting period, local sources reported ongoing SARG and Russian airstrikes across Idlib Governorate including in the cities of Binnish, Idlib, Ma'arat Misreen, Ma'arat Numan, and Saraqib.¹⁴
- On May 30, at least 10 airstrikes struck civilian infrastructure sites in the opposition-held city of Idlib, killing at least 50 people. At least one airstrike destroyed the National Hospital. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) blamed the airstrikes on Russian forces, although Russia later denied any involvement in the airstrikes.¹⁵

4. Homs Governorate:

- During the reporting period, local sources reported ongoing SARG and Russian airstrikes across Homs Governorate including in the cities of Sukhna and Palmyra.¹⁶

5. Latakia Governorate:

- On June 2, a suicide bomber detonated his device outside of al-Khulafa Rashideen Mosque in the city of Latakia as worshippers were leaving afternoon prayer service. No group has taken responsibility for the attack.¹⁷

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Ayn Isa, Deir ez-Zor, Manbij, Mar'a, Palmyra, Raqqa, Shaddadi, and Washiyah.¹⁸
- On May 30, the chief negotiator of the High Negotiations Committee, Mohammed Alloush, resigned from his position citing the lack of progress on Syrian peace talks.¹⁹
- On June 6, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad affirmed his intent to recapture all territory in Syria in a “full-scale resumption of the war” during a speech to parliament.²⁰

¹⁴ <http://www.alaan.tv/news/world-news/155598/dozens-dead-wounded-strikes-cluster-bombs-city-idlib> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKCN0YR0DI> ; <http://www.voanews.com/content/russia-triples-its-airstrikes-in-syria/3363391.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/russian-airstrikes-in-syria-may-13-june.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36416265> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-russia-raids-idlib-kill-civilians-160531082734910.html> ; <http://syriadirect.org/news/'every-single-target-was-a-civilian-one'-airstrikes-take-aim-at-idlib-city/> ; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-national-hospital-idlib-city-may-30/> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/06/civilians-flee-bombardment-syria-rebel-held-idlib-160601044657018.html>

¹⁶ http://www.orient-news.net/en/news_show/114233/0/A-campaign-of-aerial-bombardment-targeted-the-city-of-Idlib ; <http://en.eldorar.com/node/2456>

¹⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36437110> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-latakia-idUSKCN0Y01TV>

¹⁸ See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [782194](#), [783812](#), [784093](#), [784543](#), [784350](#), [785527](#), [790201](#), [791233](#), [791414](#), [793358](#), [794118](#) ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-navy-idUSKCN0YS2DU>

¹⁹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36410564>

²⁰ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/assad-pledges-more-bloodshed-in-syria-says-the-peace-process-has-failed/2016/06/07/efcd0e96-2cb6-11e6-b9d5-3c3063f8332c_story.html

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

1. Al Anbar Governorate:
 - On May 27, Operation Inherent Resolve Spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren reported that Iraqi Security Forces had cleared the town of Karma, 10 miles northeast of the city of Fallujah. According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the area was handed over to Iraqi security forces by the Shia Popular Mobilization Front (PMF). Colonel Warren also reported that US-led coalition airstrikes had killed the “commander of ISIL forces in Fallujah,” Maher al-Bilawi.²¹
 - On May 29, ISIL militants staged an attack on the town of Hit, attacking three neighborhoods and clashing with Iraqi security forces before ultimately being pushed out.²²
 - On May 30, Iraqi security forces reached the southern outskirts of the city of Fallujah and captured a police station in the city’s district of Naimiya.²³
 - On May 31, ISIL militants carried out a counterattack against Iraqi security forces in the southern outskirts of the city of Fallujah, in which 75 of the reported 100 militants were killed.²⁴
 - On June 1, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced that Iraqi security forces were delaying their upcoming assault on the city of Fallujah out of mounting concern for the safety of civilians still trapped in the city.²⁵
 - On June 4, Badr Organization leader Hadi al-Amiri stated that members of the PMF would “storm Fallujah” after giving civilians in the area 10 days to leave the city.²⁶
 - On June 5, members of the PMF and Iraqi security forces captured the town of Saqlawiya. In the following days accusations arose against the PMF for torturing and possibly executing hundreds of Sunni civilian men in the town.²⁷
2. Ninawa Governorate:

²¹ <http://www.defense.gov/News-Article-View/Article/784007/fallujahs-liberation-from-isil-control-progressing-official-says> ; <http://www.defense.gov/News/News-Transcripts/Transcript-View/Article/784055/departments-of-defense-press-briefing-by-colonel-warren-via-teleconference-from> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-may-24-june-1-2016.html>

²² <http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2016/May-29/354228-iraqi-forces-complete-buildup-around-isis-held-fallujah.ashx>

²³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YL1B0> ; <https://www.yahoo.com/news/iraqi-forces-enter-held-fallujah-commanders-052320667.html>

²⁴ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36417199> ; <http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/31/middleeast/iraq-operation-falluja/> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YM00W>

²⁵ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YM00W> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YN4JM>

²⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-june-1-7-2016.html>

²⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36458954> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-june-1-7-2016.html> ; <http://aranews.net/2016/06/iraqi-shia-militia-accused-executing-300-civilians-north-fallujah/> ; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/hundreds-feared-tortured-in-advance-on-falluja/>

- On May 29, Kurdish Peshmerga forces “launched an offensive” to retake areas east of the ISIL-held city of Mosul, recapturing three villages within ten hours of the start of the operation.²⁸
 - On May 30, Kurdish Peshmerga forces captured six villages from ISIL militants north of Mosul.²⁹
 - On June 6, the “37th Brigade of the 9th Iraqi Army Division” arrived at a military base in Makhmour, south of Mosul, in order to participate in upcoming operations to reclaim the city.³⁰
3. Baghdad Governorate:
- On May 30, two bombing attacks struck the Shia-majority neighborhoods of Shaab and Sadr City in Baghdad, killing 15 people and wounding dozens more. A third car bomb carried out by a suicide bomber occurred in the Sunni-majority district of Tarbiya, killing eight people and wounding 21.³¹
 - On June 4, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest near an army checkpoint in the town of Tarmiya, north of Baghdad, killing six people and wounding 15.³²
4. Karbala Governorate:
- On June 7, an ISIL suicide bomber “detonated a vehicle packed with explosives” in the city of Karbala, killing at least ten people and wounding 26. Local media reported that the explosion struck near the home of the governor of Karbala, located a few kilometers from the Imam Hussein Shrine.³³

Other Key Points:

- During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Albu Hayat, Baghdad, Bashir, Beiji, Fallujah, Habbaniyah, Haditha, Hit, Huwayjah, Kisik, Mosul, Qayyarah, Ramadi, Rawah, Sinjar, Sultan Abdullah, and Tal Afar.³⁴

²⁸ <https://www.yahoo.com/news/iraq-kurds-launch-offensive-east-mosul-001236351.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-may-24-june-1-2016.html>

²⁹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YL1B0> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-may-24-june-1-2016.html>

³⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-june-1-7-2016.html>

³¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-falluja-idUSKCN0YL1B0>

³² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-security-idUSKCN0YQ0D0>

³³ <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/iraq-bombing-several-killed-by-suicide-car-bomb-in-holy-shia-city-of-karbala-a7069116.html> ; <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-june-1-7-2016.html>

³⁴ See: “US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq”. *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: [782194](#), [783812](#), [784093](#), [784543](#), [784350](#), [785527](#), [790201](#), [791233](#), [791414](#), [793358](#), [794118](#) ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-navy-idUSKCN0YS2DU>

Syrian Network For Human Rights Videos

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

1. Muhtaseb Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Bab al-Hadid, Aleppo Governorate on June 25, 2014.³⁵
2. Al-Baladi (Town) Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG airstrikes in Armanaz, Idlib Governorate on June 21, 2014.³⁶
3. Al-Uthman Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Bab al-Nasr, Aleppo Governorate on June 18, 2014.³⁷
4. Al-Baladi (Town) Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Bashlamoun, Idlib Governorate on June 17, 2014.³⁸
5. Al-Shaheda Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG artillery shelling in al-Houla, Homs Governorate on June 17, 2014.³⁹
6. Hamza Ibn Abi Talib Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG airstrikes in al-Ghanto, Homs Governorate on June 14, 2014.⁴⁰
7. Al-Hadaya Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG shelling in Rankous, Rif Dimashq Governorate on June 12, 2014.⁴¹
8. Al-Omri Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG missiles in al-Malihah, Rif Dimashq Governorate on June 4, 2014.⁴²
9. Al-Hadadeen Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Bab al-Hadid, Aleppo Governorate on June 3, 2016.⁴³
10. Al-Sbhan Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Alkalasa, Aleppo Governorate on June 3, 2016.⁴⁴
11. Saad Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG airstrikes in al-Malihah, Rif Dimashq Governorate on June 2, 2016.⁴⁵
12. Unnamed mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG military activity in Sheikh Sayed, Daraa Governorate on July 17, 2014.⁴⁶

³⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLRNAPsaX5c>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPNWldDxaI0>

³⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxTV2PrJv0o>

³⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1klE9-uWnk>

³⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgMPJWNcHlo>

⁴⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMXwe77agFY>

⁴¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed1T-vcJP9M>

⁴² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHJb6cZcDpE> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIPwtBEVgx0>

⁴³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIMR0LecWms>

⁴⁴

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4oi19qPMkA> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eice9Bw9WNg>

⁴⁵

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGD81Q4oRNo> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5b6Kj1DBeH4>

13. Al-Abbas Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs on in Miskan Hanano, Aleppo Governorate on July 14, 2014.⁴⁷
14. Ali Ibn Talib Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG airstrikes in Tel Rifaat, Aleppo Governorate on July 8, 2014.⁴⁸
15. Al-Fatah Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG airstrikes in Al Malihah, Rif Dimashq Governorate on July 4, 2014.⁴⁹
16. Sirmaniya Village Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG artillery bombardment in Sirmaniya, Latakia or Hama Governorate on July 4, 2014.⁵⁰
17. Uthman Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Miskan Hanano, Aleppo Governorate on May 15, 2014.⁵¹
18. Taqwa Mosque, allegedly damaged by a car bombing in Nimr, Daraa Governorate on August 15, 2014.⁵²
19. Banqusa Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Bab al-Hadid, Aleppo Governorate on August 6, 2014.⁵³
20. Village Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG shelling in Tertaah, Latakia Governorate on August 26, 2014.⁵⁴
21. Al-Hamza al-Abbas Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG shelling in Al-Balad, Daraa Governorate.⁵⁵
22. Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in al-Qatarji, Aleppo Governorate on August 9, 2014.⁵⁶
23. Ali Bin Abi Talib Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Morek, Hama Governorate on August 21, 2014.⁵⁷
24. City Mosque, allegedly damaged by SARG barrel bombs in Halfaya, Hama Governorate on August 7, 2014.⁵⁸

⁴⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0HACDCrKHo>

⁴⁷

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoD8hwkuzpw> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuuYDTbEx84>

⁴⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOvznE1NeDs>

⁴⁹

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhH0zupouuU> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mihCcrCovZ0>

⁵⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2txzAWLrtiY>

⁵¹

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16kqEpHo1Nk> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znsWEovG-fA>

⁵² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPCMWM8qXNs> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLXy5BDDr1w>

⁵³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMDzcf3ZBqM>

⁵⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EEoC09-SX0>

⁵⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FA6s_n3YA1o

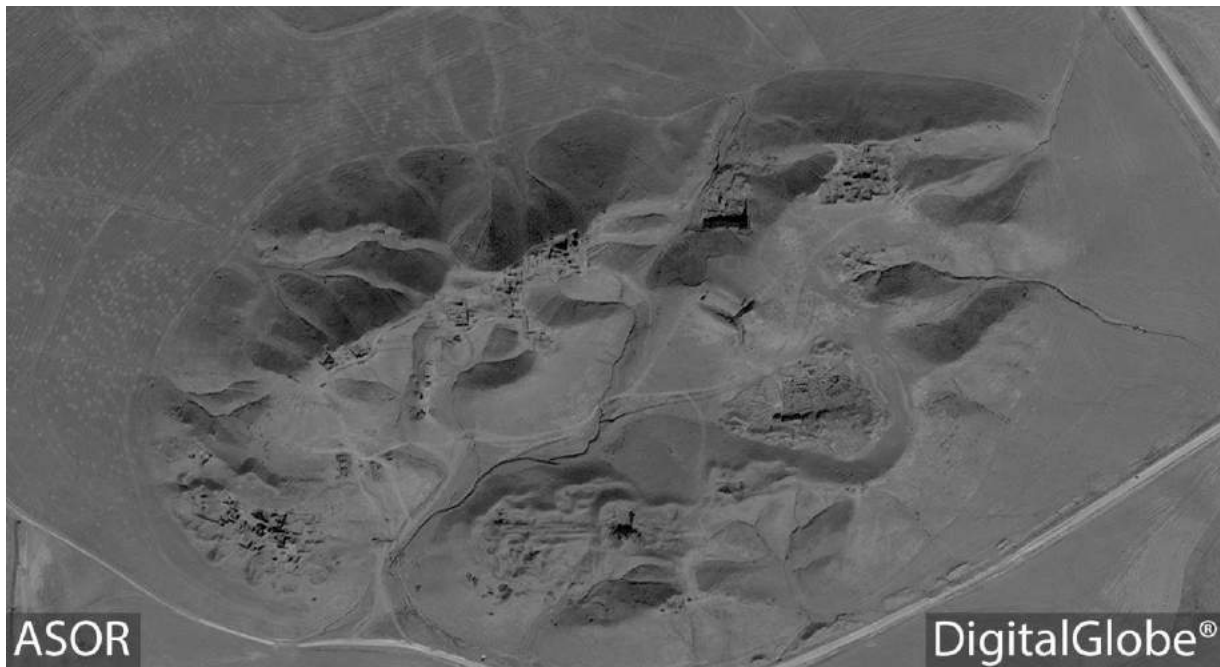
⁵⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VQI9HW6FKY>

⁵⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKzad3tnL4s>

⁵⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jE1-1B2SqA8>

Satellite Imagery and Geospatial Analysis

Between March 11, 2014 and May 29, 2016, an approximately 565-meter segment of the northern slope of Tell Brak was exposed, likely using heavy machinery. This was probably done to prepare the area for further looting via tunnels cut into the side of the tell. DigitalGlobe imagery from May 29, 2016 shows small spoil heaps visible along the course of the cut. These may be from the initial soil removal, or could possibly indicate that looters have already begun to tunnel horizontally into the mound. If looting via tunneling had not already begun as of May 29 (the date of the most recent imagery), then it is likely planned for the future. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation at Tell Brak as new imagery becomes available.



The site of Tell Brak (DigitalGlobe; March 11, 2014)



The site of Tell Brak with areas excavated on the north and northeast areas. Spoil heaps are highlighted with red arrows. (DigitalGlobe; May 29, 2016)

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 16-0065 UPDATE

Report Date: May 25, 2016

Site Name: Palmyra - Northern Necropolis (مقبرة الشمالية)

Date of Incident: April 2016 - Ongoing

Location: Palmyra, Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Northern Necropolis is located directly north of the main group of ruins at Palmyra, and abuts the modern town on the necropolis' north and east side. This necropolis has not been extensively excavated. Though it has around the same number of tower tombs as the Valley of the Tombs (as well as many hypogea and several funerary temples), these are spread over a wide area and badly maintained. The Northern Necropolis once included tombs as far south as the Temple of Baal-Shamin, but the construction of Diocletian's Wall (a fortification built around Palmyra dating to ca. 303 CE) cut the area in half and broke with the Roman custom that necropoli must be outside a city's walls. Some of the extant tombs were even incorporated into the wall itself. The eastern part of the Northern Necropolis is especially difficult to study because it was the site of a village built in the 1930s by residents evicted from the Temple of Bel.⁵⁹ UNESCO determined that the Northern Necropolis and other features outside the fortification walls should be included in the site's protected zone when Palmyra was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980.⁶⁰

Site Date: 1st-century BCE to 3rd-century CE

Incident Summary: Continued expansion of military presence at Palmyra's Northern Necropolis.

Incident Source and Description: New photographs published on Twitter by Palmyra Coordination Committee indicate the presence of military personnel, tents, and military vehicles within the archaeological area at Palmyra.⁶¹

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from May 25, 2016 shows an expanded military presence within the Northern Necropolis at Palmyra. There are additional vehicle parking areas located east of Qalaat Shirkuh over a large number of hypogea (underground tombs). More than 15 tanks can be clearly identified parked within the necropolis. Many of the tanks are parked south of the paved base and road. A few tents are also located within this area. Another group of tanks is parked north of road between the Northern Necropolis and the ancient fortification wall around Palmyra. 15 additional gun emplacements can also be seen lined along the southern edge of the paved road between the Necropolis and the ancient

⁵⁹ Gawlikowski 1970: 162-5; Piacentini 2005: 246

⁶⁰ World Heritage Committee; 4th session (1980): 4

⁶¹ <https://twitter.com/PalmyraRev1/status/736026070340751362>

fortification wall. These gun emplacements are tripod shaped. They are located close to multiple tower tombs, many of which are still visible on the surface.

Pattern: Military activity: occupation/militarization, vehicles/heavy weaponry.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI continues to maintain that the military base is located within the UNESCO site boundaries, and that the poor condition of the Northern Necropolis makes it especially vulnerable to severe damage and irreversible loss. ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the situation in Palmyra.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Palmyra Coordination Committee:

<https://twitter.com/PalmyraRev1/status/736026070340751362>

Scholarly:

Gawlikowski, M. (1970). *Monuments Funéraires de Palmyra*. Warsaw: PWN - Editions Scientifiques de Pologne.

Piacentini, D. (2005) "The Palmyrene Attitudes Towards Death." *ARAM* 17.

World Heritage Committee; 4th session (1980) *Report of the rapporteur on the fourth session of the World Heritage Committee*.

<http://whc.unesco.org/archive/1980/cc-80-conf016-10e.pdf>



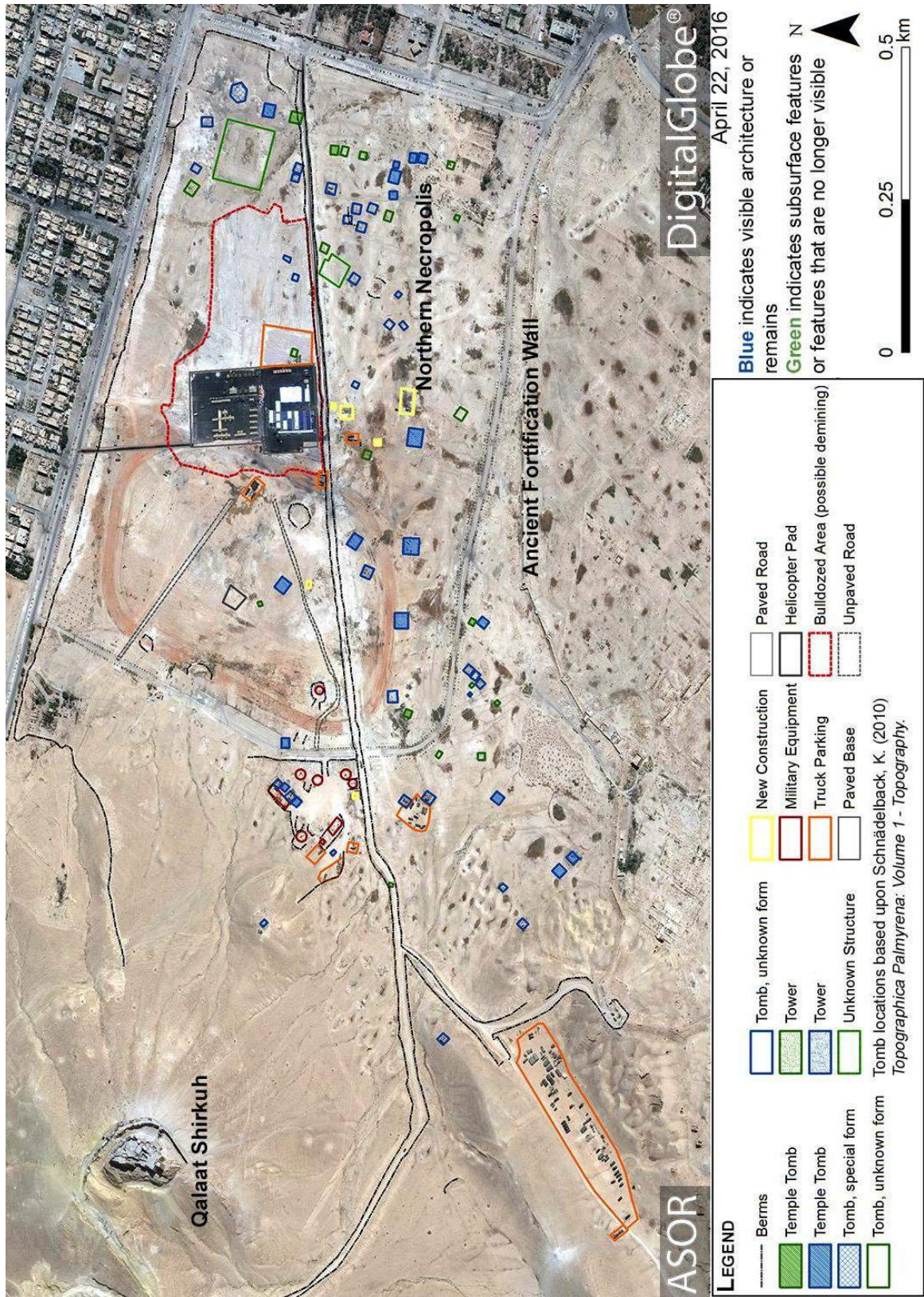
Military personnel, tents, and military vehicles at Palmyra (Palmyra Coordination Committee; May 27, 2016)



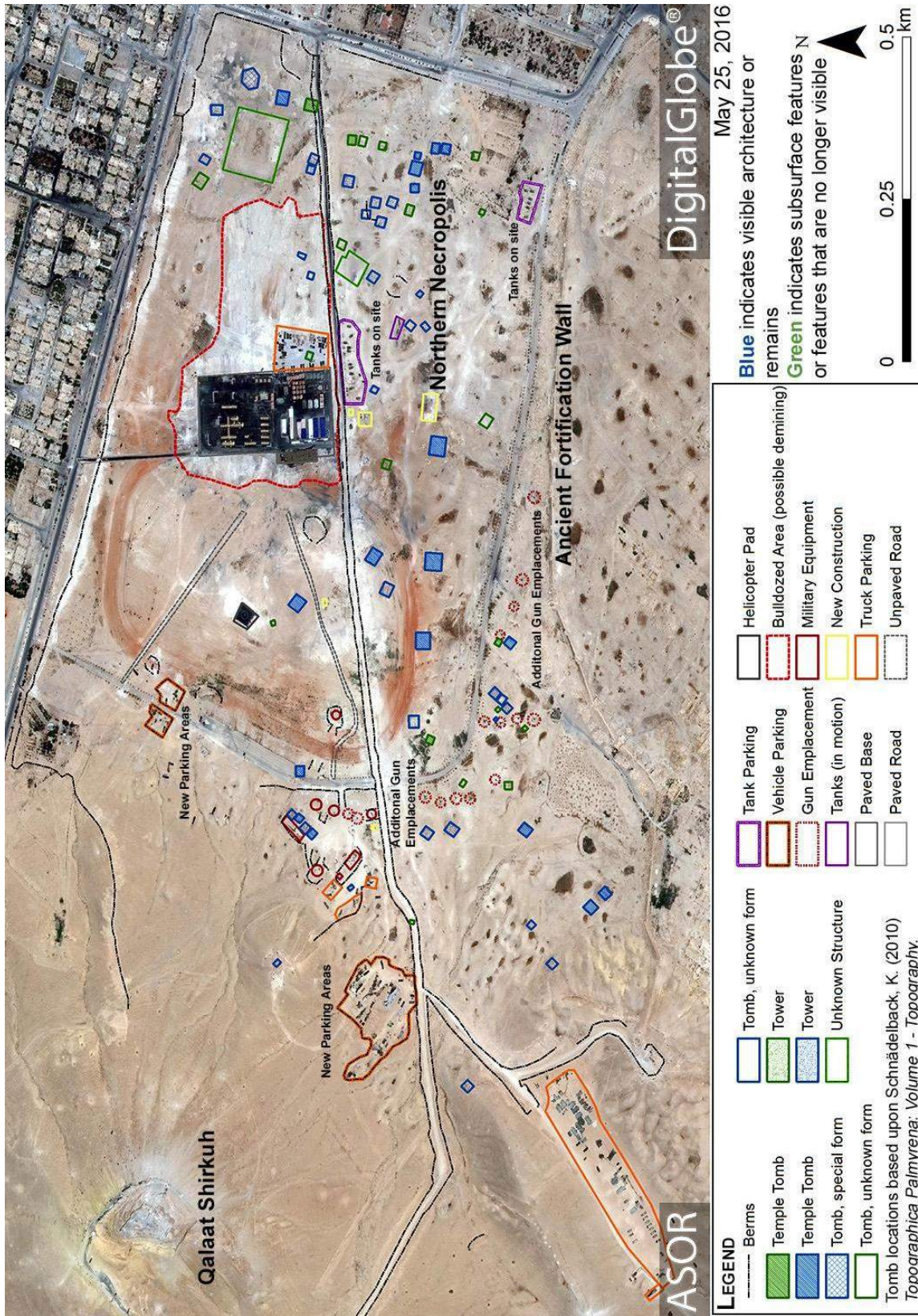
Military personnel in Palmyra (Palmyra Coordination Committee; May 27, 2016)



The presence of military tanks near Palmyra (Palmyra Coordination Committee; May 27, 2016)



Northern Necropolis with vehicle parking, military equipment, and the base located close to tower tombs (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; April 22, 2016).



Northern Necropolis with additional parking areas, visible tanks on site, and new gun emplacements near tower tombs (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; May 25, 2016).

SHI 16-0072

Report Date: May 25, 2016; May 27, 2016

Site Name: al-Kabir Mosque (الجامع الكبير); al-Huda Mosque (مسجد الهدى)

Date of Incident: May 24, 2016; May 26, 2016

Location: Al Kabir Mosque: Daraya, Rif Dimashq Governorate; al-Huda Mosque: Khan al-Sheih, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Recent photos show mosques with historic features and extensive modern elements.

Site Date: Unknown — modern and historic

Incident Summary: New video footage shows extent of damage to mosques; alleged SARG artillery shelling damages mosques.

Incident Source and Description: On May 24, 2016 Qasioun News Agency released a video that shows the extent of the damage to al-Kabir Mosque in the town of Daraya.⁶² The damage to the mosque is extensive — little remains of the building itself and the minaret has been severely damaged. The video did not report the cause of the damage, but Daraya has been subject to ongoing aerial bombardment. On May 30, 2014 the Local Council in Daraya uploaded a video showing severe damage to al-Kabir Mosque, likely caused by an airstrike.⁶³ A large crater is present in front of the mosque.

On May 27, 2016 the local Syrian civil defense group known as the White Helmets in Rif Dimashq Governorate uploaded four photographs on the group's Facebook page showing damage to al-Huda Mosque. The White Helmets reported that artillery bombardment had struck the mosque but did not assign the blame for the strikes to any group. However, the Britain-based Action Group for Palestinians of Syria (AGPS) reported that the artillery was fired by the Syrian army.⁶⁴ According to AGPS, the Syrian army directly fired on the mosque, resulting in material damage but no casualties. The group claimed the mosque held no militants or weapons, and was a place of worship for refugees in Khan al-Sheih Camp. The news agency Shahba Press also reported that the mosque was damaged by SARG shelling.⁶⁵

Al-Huda Mosque has been damaged on several occasions by artillery fire and barrel bomb explosives (see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0045** in **Weekly Report 87-88**).

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

⁶² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBKzMY1xvtU>

⁶³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5wmxZT6rXw>

⁶⁴ <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/en/post/3342/the-regular-army-targets-a-mosque-at-khan-al-shieh-camp-and-continues-to-target-the-only-road-left-for-civilians> ; <http://actionpal.org.uk/ar/post/4975>

⁶⁵ <https://twitter.com/ShahbaPress/status/735804213138186240>

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

AGPS (Arabic): <http://actionpal.org.uk/ar/post/4975>

AGPS (English): <http://www.actionpal.org.uk/en/post/3342/the-regular-army-targets-a-mosque-at-khan-al-shieh-camp-and-continues-to-target-the-only-road-left-for-civilians>

Local Council Daraya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b5wmxZT6rXw>

Qasioun News Agency: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBKzMY1xvtU>

Shahba Press Agency: <https://twitter.com/ShahbaPress/status/735804213138186240>

The White Helmets, Rif Dimashq:

<https://www.facebook.com/SyriancivildefenseinDamascusCountryside1/posts/1258825057476134>



Video still of the damaged minaret of al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of the damaged minaret of al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of damage to al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of the remains of the mihrab inside al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still showing broken windows above the remains of the mihrab at al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior, including a staircase, of al-Kabir Mosque (Qasioun News Agency; May 24, 2016)



Video still of a large crater, possibly caused by an airstrike at al-Kabir Mosque (Local Council Daraya; May 30, 2014)



Video still of al-Kabir Mosque as it appeared in May 2014 (Local Council Daraya; May 30, 2014)



Video still of al-Kabir Mosque showing the base of the minaret and what remained of the surrounding structure as it appeared in May 2014 (Local Council Daraya; May 30, 2014)



Exterior damage to al-Huda Mosque (AGPS; May 27, 2016)



Exterior damage to al-Huda Mosque, including a medium-sized hole in one wall of the mosque (The White Helmets, Rif Dimashq; May 27, 2016)



Members of the White Helmets clean up debris outside of al-Huda Mosque (The White Helmets, Rif Dimashq; May 27, 2016)



Members of the White Helmets clean up debris outside of al-Huda Mosque (The White Helmets, Rif Dimashq; May 27, 2016)



Members of the White Helmets clean up debris outside of al-Huda Mosque (The White Helmets, Rif Dimashq; May 27, 2016)

SHI 16-0073

Report Date: May 27- June 5, 2016

Site Name: Souq al-Hal Mosque (مسجد سوق الهال)

- Shoaib Mosque (مسجد شعيب)
- ar-Rawda Mosque (مسجد الروضة)
- Abrar Mosque (جامع الأبرار)
- al-Aqraei Mosque (مسجد الأقرعي)
- Sa'ad Mosque (جامع سعد)

Date of Incident: May 9, 2016; May 27, 2016; May 30, 2016; May 31, 2016

Location: Idlib, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosques in Idlib.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A car bombing and alleged SARG airstrikes damage six mosques in the city of Idlib.

Incident Source and Description: On May 9, 2016 Ammar al-Nasser posted a video on YouTube of the damage to Souq al-Hal Mosque in Idlib that resulted from a recent airstrike.⁶⁶ Three airstrikes that day hit Souq al-Hal, the Mehrab Roundabout, and a parking garage, killing three people and wounding dozens of others. Images from the interior of the mosque show a great deal of debris on the mosque floor, including broken glass and pieces of plaster.

On May 27, 2016 various news outlets reported that a car bombing had occurred outside of Shoaib Mosque in Idlib.⁶⁷ Some reports stated the bombing occurred as worshippers were leaving the mosque after Friday prayers. The extent of the damage to the mosque is unknown, but video footage appears to show that most of the damage was limited to the car that detonated, causing only light damage to the exterior of the mosque. According to an interview with a volunteer civil defense team, at least five people were killed and ten more injured.⁶⁸

On May 30, 2016 Halab Today reported that airstrikes had caused unspecified damage to Abrar Mosque and Sa'ad Mosque in Idlib.⁶⁹ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

On May 31, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG airstrikes "fired missiles" near ar-Rawda Mosque in Idlib, causing damage to the building.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ef1_ppHFAQ

⁶⁷ <http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/05/27/car-bombs-rip-through-syrias-idlib?videoId=368679406> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wP95Cmu530> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S33W07tAWXs>

⁶⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S33W07tAWXs>

⁶⁹ <https://twitter.com/HalabTodayTV/status/737374038381735938>

No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication. On May 30-31, 2016 alleged Russian airstrikes struck several “civilian infrastructure” sites, including medical facilities, killing at least 23 civilians.⁷¹

On June 5, 2016 SNHR reported that SARG warplanes “fired missiles” near al-Aqraei Mosque, causing a fire in the mosque, damaging its fence, and “rendering it inoperable.”⁷² No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Aan: <http://www.alaan.tv/news/world-news/155598/dozens-dead-wounded-strikes-cluster-bombs-city-idlib>

Al Jazeera: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-russia-raids-idlib-kill-civilians-160531082734910.html>

Ammar al-Nasser: (Souq mosque)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Ef1_ppHFAQ

BBC: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36416265>

Halab Today: <https://twitter.com/HalabTodayTV/status/737374038381735938>

ON tv: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wP95Cmu530>

Orient News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S33W07tAWXs>

Reuters Video: <http://www.reuters.com/video/2016/05/27/car-bombs-rip-through-syrias-idlib?videoid=368679406>

Shaam Network: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTnuHqRU_gc

SMART News Agency: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXTeo5S_HI4

⁷⁰ <https://twitter.com/snhr/status/737652550221070336>

⁷¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-36416265> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/syria-civil-war-russia-raids-idlib-kill-civilians-160531082734910.html>

⁷² <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/05/government-forces-targetd-al-aqraei-mosque-idlib-city-june-5/>

SNHR: <https://twitter.com/snhr/status/737652550221070336>
<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/05/government-forces-targetd-al-aqraei-mosque-idlib-city-june-5/>

Syria Direct: <http://syriadirect.org/news/'every-single-target-was-a-civilian-one'-airstrikes-take-aim-at-idlib-city/>



Video still of damage to the interior of Souq al-Hal Mosque (Ammar al-Nasser; May 9, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of Souq al-Hal Mosque (Ammar al-Nasser; May 9, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of Souq al-Hal Mosque (Ammar al-Nasser; May 9, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of Souq al-Hal Mosque (Ammar al-Nasser; May 9, 2016)



Video still of the exploded car outside of Shoab Mosque (Orient News; May 27, 2016)



Video still of cleanup at the exit of Shoab Mosque after the car bombing (Shaam Network; May 27, 2016)



Video still of cleanup outside of Shoab Mosque after the car bombing (Shaam Network; May 27, 2016)

SHI 16-0074

Report Date: May 20, 2016; May 28, 2016; May 29, 2016

Site Name: Uthman bin Affan Mosque (مسجد عثمان بن عفان; al-Souq Mosque, جامع السوق)

- Muaz Ibn Jabal Mosque (مسجد معاذ بن جبل)
- Bani Allou Mosque (مسجد بني علو; Al Wadi Mosque; بمسج الوادي)
- Bani Afi Mosque (مسجد بني عفي)

Date of Incident: May 20, 2016; May 27, 2016; May 28, 2016; May 29, 2016

Location: Sukhna, Homs Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosques in Sukhna.

Site Date: Uthman bin Affan Mosque: reported to be the oldest mosque in the city.

Bani Afi Mosque: reported to be a 'newly built' mosque.

Muaz Ibn Jabal Mosque, Bani Allou Mosque: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes damaged mosques in Sukhna.

Incident Source and Description: On May 20, 2016 Sukhna al-Hadath released a set of photographs detailing the damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque.⁷³ The exact date of damage is unknown, but the group reports that this is the second time in ten days a mosque in the town was hit. It is likely that Uthman bin Affan Mosque had been hit a few days prior or on the day that the video footage was released. Part of the mosque has collapsed and the interior is filled with debris.

On May 28, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a SARG airstrike struck near Bani Allou Mosque in Sukhna, causing partial damage to the building and "rendering it inoperable."⁷⁴ The group also uploaded several photographs showing damage to the mosque.⁷⁵ Plaster has fallen away from the facade of the mosque and its surrounding wall has been damaged. The interior is filled with debris.

On May 28, 2016 Sukhna Al Hadath reported that Russian airstrikes had struck and damaged Bani Afi Mosque in overnight airstrikes.⁷⁶ The extent of the damage remains unknown. No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

On May 29, 2016 Sukhna Al Hadath reported that SARG airstrikes struck Maaz Bin Jabal Mosque as well as several homes in the area.⁷⁷ The extent of the damage to the mosque remains unknown. No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

⁷³ <https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/537830749733061>

⁷⁴ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/28/government-warplanes-targeted-mosque-al-sukhna-city-homs-governorate-may-27/>

⁷⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/541079669408169>

⁷⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/541079669408169>

⁷⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/541426179373518>

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/28/government-warplanes-targeted-mosque-al-sukhna-city-homs-governorate-may-27/>

Sukhna Al Hadath:

May 20, 2016:

<https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/537830749733061>

May 27, 2016:

<https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/540602566122546>

May 28, 2016:

<https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/541079669408169>

May 29, 2016:

<https://www.facebook.com/eshaatyasoukhny/posts/541426179373518>

SPC: <https://syriancpc.com/تدمير-أكثر-من-خمسة-عشر-مسجداً-في-شهر-أبنا/>



Exterior damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna Al Hadath; May 20, 2016)



Exterior damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna Al Hadath; May 20, 2016)



Interior damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 20, 2016)



Interior damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 20, 2016)



Surrounding damage at Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 20, 2016)



Surrounding damage to Uthman bin Affan Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 20, 2016)



A photograph of what is likely Bani Allou Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 27, 2016)



A photograph of what is likely Bani Allou Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 29, 2016)



A photograph of what is likely Bani Allou Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 29, 2016)



A photograph of what is likely damage to the interior of Bani Allou Mosque (Sukhna al-Hadath; May 28, 2016)

SHI 16-0075

Report Date: May 29, 2016

Site Name: Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (مسجد عامر أبو عبيدة ابن الجراح);
Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque (مسجد حمزة بن عبد المطلب)

Date of Incident: May 31, 2016

Location: Anadan, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosques in Anadan.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Ongoing alleged SARG and Russian airstrikes damage two mosques in Anadan.

Incident Source and Description: On May 31, 2016 Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that suspected Russian forces “fired missiles” on Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque in Anadan, causing damage and rendering the mosque inoperable.⁷⁸ Video footage released on May 30, 2016 by the Anadan Media Center shows extensive damage to the mosque, in what the presenter describes as an example of the damage to mosques caused by Russian airstrikes.⁷⁹

On May 31, 2016 SNHR also reported that SARG missiles struck Hamza bin Abdul al-Muttaleb Mosque in Anadan, causing severe damage and rendering the mosque inoperable.⁸⁰ Video footage released by Anadan Media Center shows extensive damage to the dome of the mosque, as well as extensive interior damage.⁸¹ See **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 16-0019** in **Weekly Report 79-80** for previous damage to this mosque.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque and Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

⁷⁸ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-amer-abu-obaida-ibn-al-jarah-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-30/>

⁷⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22ubZPCs53k>

⁸⁰ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-31/>

⁸¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hWRjjCc6pY>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Anadan Media Center (مركز عندان الإعلامي):

May 31, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hWRjjCc6pY> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP5SevTpsnU>

June 2, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m45GWiRSvNI>

June 3, 2016: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COMJ_p8AxGw

SNHR:

May 31, 2016: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-amer-abu-obaida-ibn-al-jarah-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-30/> ; <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-anadan-city-aleppo-governorate-may-31/>

Shahba Press: <https://twitter.com/ShahbaPress/status/736480466136621057>



Damage to exterior of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (SNHR; May 30, 2016)



Damage to entrance of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30, 2016)



Video still of damage to exterior of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; June 3, 2016e)



A large hole or crater in the floor of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30, 2016)



Video still of damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30 2016)



Video still of damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30, 2016)



Video still of damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30 2016)



Video still of damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30 2016)



The missing dome of Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 30, 2016)



Video still of surrounding damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; June 5 2016)



Video still of surrounding damage to Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque (Anadan Media Center; June 5 2016)



Damage to dome and exterior of Hamza bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque (SNHR; May 31, 2016)



Video still of damage to the dome of Hamza bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 31, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of Hamza bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque (Anadan Media center; May 31, 2016)



Video still of damage to the interior of Hamza bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 31, 2016)



Video still of damage to the dome of Hamza bin Abdul Muttaleb Mosque (Anadan Media Center; May 31, 2016)



Amer Abu Obaida Ibn al-Jarah Mosque prior to damage. (DigitalGlobe; May 20, 2016)



Visible damage to the dome of the mosque (DigitalGlobe; June 2, 2016)



Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; May 22, 2016)



No visible damage to the mosque due to location of hole in the dome (DigitalGlobe; June 2, 2016)

SHI 16-0076

Report Date: May 31, 2016

Site Name: Saad bin Mouath Mosque (مسجد سعد بن معاذ)

Date of Incident: May 31, 2016

Location: Ma'arat al-Numan, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes damage mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 31, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG airstrikes damaged Saad bin Mouath Mosque in the city of Ma'arat Al Numan.⁸² No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-saad-bin-mouath-mosque-maaret-al-numan-city-idlib-governorate-may-31/>

⁸² <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/31/government-forces-targeted-saad-bin-mouath-mosque-maaret-al-numan-city-idlib-governorate-may-31/>

SHI 16-0077

Report Date: June 1, 2016

Site Name: al-Halisat Mosque (جامع الحليسات)

Date of Incident: June 1, 2016

Location: al-Mishlab Neighborhood (حي المشلب), Raqqa, Raqqa Governorate

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged US-led coalition airstrikes cause undetermined damage to a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 1, 2016 the activist group Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS) reported that US-led coalition airstrikes struck al-Halisat Mosque in al-Mishlab neighborhood in Raqqa, causing undetermined damage.⁸³ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Local Coordination Committee for Syria:

<https://www.facebook.com/LCCSy/posts/1404742816219517>

RBSS (Arabic): <http://www.raqqa-sl.com/?p=3069>

RBSS (English): <http://www.raqqa-sl.com/en/?p=1820>

SOHR: <http://www.syriahr.com/en/2016/06/01/46684>

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/02/massacre-due-government-forces-shelling-al-mashlab-neighborhood-al-raqqa-city-june-1/>

⁸³ <http://www.raqqa-sl.com/?p=3069>

SHI 16-0078

Report Date: June 2, 2016

Site Name: al-Kabir Mosque (جامع الكبير)

Date of Incident: June 1, 2016

Location: Ma'arat Misreen, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Great Mosque of Ma'arat Misreen is thought by some to be the third oldest mosque in Syria, after the Umayyad mosques of Aleppo and Damascus. It was built on the site of a Byzantine church.⁸⁴

Site Date: Umayyad-era?

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes cause extensive damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 2, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG forces launched an airstrike on al-Kabir Mosque in Ma'arat al-Misreen, "damaging it severely and rendering it inoperable."⁸⁵ Idlib Civil Defense posted a video on Youtube showing civil defense members attempting to extinguish a fire in the mosque following the airstrike.⁸⁶ Ammar Ahmadou posted a video to Youtube with drone footage of the damaged mosque. Much of the interior courtyard of the mosque is damaged and filled with debris. The damage appears centered around the east wall of the interior courtyard, with large amounts of debris and clear evidence of fire damage. A temporary structure covered in metal sheeting that was located in courtyard to provide shade was destroyed.⁸⁷

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Alaan: <http://www.alaan.tv/news/world-news/28665/syria-maarrat-misrin-tail-city>

Ammar Ahmadou: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiwF-jUXrvw>

⁸⁴ <http://syriadirect.org/news/syria%E2%80%99s-third-oldest-mosque-damaged-by-airstrike-%E2%80%98a-violation-of-historical-sites%E2%80%99/>

⁸⁵ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/02/government-forces-targeted-al-kabir-mosque-maaret-msreen-city-idlib-governorate-june-1/>

⁸⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eTyr78aemA>

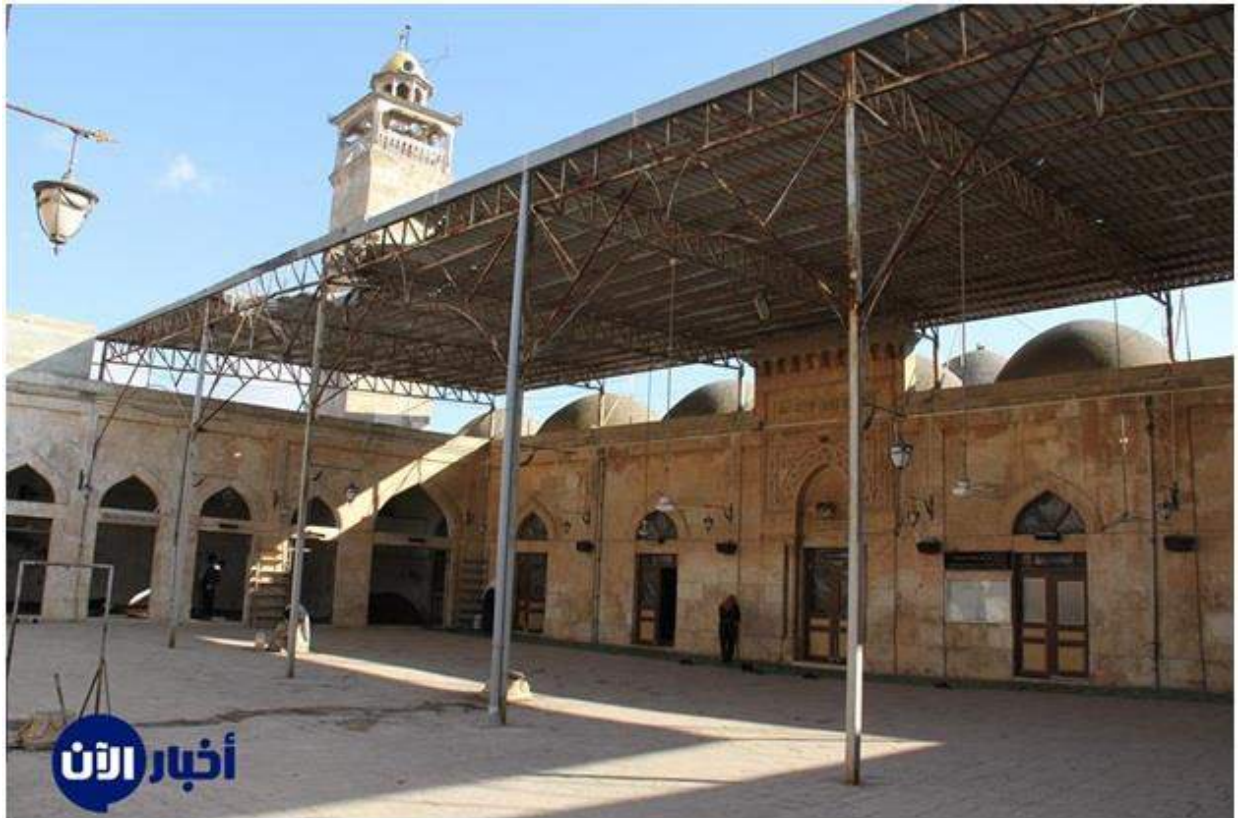
⁸⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiwF-jUXrvw>

Idlib Civil Defense: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eTyr78aemA>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/02/government-forces-targeted-al-kabir-mosque-maaret-msreen-city-idlib-governorate-june-1/>

Syria Direct: <http://syriadirect.org/news/syria%E2%80%99s-third-oldest-mosque-damaged-by-airstrike-%E2%80%98a-violation-of-historical-sites%E2%80%99/>



Pre-damage photograph of al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Alaan; February 20, 2014)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Fire damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)



Damage to al-Kabir Mosque interior courtyard (Ammar Ahmadou; June 2, 2016)

SHI 16-0079

Report Date: June 3, 2016

Site Name: Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque (مسجد أبو بكر الصديق)

Date of Incident: June 2, 2016

Location: Theiban (ذيبان), Deir ez Zor Governorate

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes severely damage mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 3, 2016 Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG airstrikes struck Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque in Theiban Town, causing severe damage and rendering the mosque inoperable.⁸⁸

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/03/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-thebian-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-2/>

⁸⁸ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/03/government-forces-targeted-abu-bakr-al-sadeiq-mosque-thebian-town-deir-ez-zour-governorate-june-2/>



Damage to Abu Bakr al-Sadeiq Mosque (SNHR; June 3, 2016)

SHI 16-0080

Report Date: June 6, 2016

Site Name: al-Farouq Mosque (مسجد الفاروق)

Date of Incident: June 5, 2016

Location: Daret Izzah, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: 2004 CE

Incident Summary: An alleged Russian airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On June 6, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a Russian airstrike damaged al-Farouq Mosque in Aleppo Governorate.⁸⁹ Daretezza Media Center posted a video of the immediate aftermath of the airstrike, showing damage to the mosque and the surrounding area.⁹⁰ At least one missile appears to have struck near the eastern side of the mosque, causing serious damage to the building's facade and exterior courtyard, and blowing out several windows. Footage of the interior of the mosque shows debris within the mosque.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/06/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-al-farouq-mosque-darat-azza-city-aleppo-governorate-june-5/>

Daretezza Media Center: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeVgBKSg-sM>

⁸⁹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/06/06/suspected-russian-forces-targeted-al-farouq-mosque-darat-azza-city-aleppo-governorate-june-5/>

⁹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zeVgBKSg-sM>



Video still showing damage to eastern side of al-Farouq Mosque (Daretezza Media Center; June 5, 2016)



Video still showing damage to eastern side of al-Farouq Mosque (Daretezza Media Center; June 5, 2016)



Video still showing damage to eastern side of al-Farouq Mosque and surrounding area (Daretezza Media Center; June 5, 2016)



Video still showing debris in interior of al-Farouq Mosque (Daretezza Media Center; June 5, 2016)

SHI 16-0081

Report Date: May 29, 2016

Site Name: Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque (مسجد حمزة بن عبد المطلب)

Date of Incident: May 28, 2016

Location: Hayan, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged SARG airstrikes damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 29, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG airstrikes struck near Hamza bin Abd al-Muttaleb Mosque in Hayan, causing damage to the mosque.⁹¹ Hayan Media Office published a video of the airstrike and subsequent damage to the mosque on May 28, 2016.⁹²

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/29/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-hayan-town-aleppo-governorate-may-28/>

Hayan Media Office:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKnQdpZ5NRo>

⁹¹ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/29/government-forces-targeted-hamza-bin-abdul-muttaleb-mosque-hayan-town-aleppo-governorate-may-28/>

⁹² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKnQdpZ5NRo>



Video still of immediate aftermath of airstrike next to Hamza bin Abd al-Mutalleb Mosque (Hayan Media Office; May 28, 2016)



Video still of impact site of airstrike next to Hamza bin Abd al-Mutalleb Mosque (Hayan Media Office; May 28, 2016)

SHI 16-0082

Report Date: May 31, 2016

Site Name: Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque (مسجد أبو بكر الصديق)

Date of Incident: May 30, 2016

Location: Hreitan, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: An alleged SARG barrel bombing damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On May 31, 2016 Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG barrel bombs struck Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque in Hreitan, causing damage to the building.⁹³ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication. Video released by Anadan Media Center on the same day shows the ongoing bombardment of the city.⁹⁴ On June 1, 2016 the Information Center of Hreitan released a video showing damage to the town.⁹⁵ A man speaking in the video states that the 'small area' that he is in has four mosques, all of which have been damaged. The video shows footage of such damage, including the damage to al-Bara bin Malek Mosque, as well as to other unidentified mosques.⁹⁶

Abu Bakr al-Sedeiq Mosque has been damaged on at least one prior occasion since the start of the conflict. In June 2012 the Revolution Youth Center of Hreitan released a video showing the mosque with a hole through its dome, stating that SARG forces "did not even spare the mosques."⁹⁷ Another video released on Youtube shows extensive damage to the mosque around the same time in June 2012.⁹⁸ It appears that some repair and/or cleanup work was carried out at the mosque between June 2012 and September 2014. Video footage shot during this interval released by both the Revolution Youth Center of Hreitan and the Information Center of Hreitan shows people eating inside of the mosque as well as the presence of international observers inside the mosque.⁹⁹

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

⁹³ <https://twitter.com/snhr/status/737647417827459073>

⁹⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP5SevTpsnU>

⁹⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGNEIFU7uNY>

⁹⁶ For further information on damage to al-Bara bin Malek Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report 16-0071** in **Weekly Report 93-94**

⁹⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szEoSQ6ZeSY>

⁹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUFec9ZDlpo>

⁹⁹

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc07tNwagnl> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdOZtnpsi>
[us](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdOZtnpsi)

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Anadan Media Center (مركز عندان الإعلامي):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=22ubZPCs53k>

Information Center Hraytan:

September 20, 2014: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdOZtnpsius>

June 1, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGNEIFU7uNY>

Revolution Youth Center of Hraytan:

June 12, 2012: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szEoSQ6ZeSY>

August 7, 2013: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcO7tNwagnI>

SNHR: <https://twitter.com/snhr/status/737647417827459073>

SHI 16-0083

Report Date: May 30, 2016

Site Name: Jaafar bin Abi Taleb Mosque (مسجد جعفر بن أبي طالب); Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque (مسجد صهيب بن سنان)

Date of Incident: May 30, 2016

Location: Jaafar bin Abi Taleb Mosque: Haydariyeh Neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria ; Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque: al-Layramoun District, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosques in the city of Aleppo.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Reported SARG barrel bombs and Russian airstrikes damage mosques in Aleppo.

Incident Source and Description: On May 30, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG helicopters “dropped barrel bombs near Jaafar bin Abi Taleb Mosque” in al-Haydariyeh neighborhood in Aleppo. The strike caused damage to the mosque and its fence.¹⁰⁰ No photographs of the damage were available at the time of publication.

On June 7, 2016 Syrian activist Khaled al Homsy reported that alleged Russian airstrikes struck and damaged Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque in al-Layramoun neighborhood in Aleppo.¹⁰¹ Photographs show extensive damage to the mosque, with the collapse of at least two of its domes.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of Jaafar bin Abi Taleb Mosque and Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

Sources:

Khaled Al Homsy: <https://twitter.com/PalmyraPioneer/status/740347254263930880>

¹⁰⁰ <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/30/government-forces-targeted-jaafar-bin-abi-taleb-mosque-al-haydariyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-may-29/>

¹⁰¹ <https://twitter.com/PalmyraPioneer/status/740347254263930880>

SNHR:

<http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/05/30/government-forces-targeted-jaafar-bin-abi-taleb-mosque-al-haydariyeh-neighborhood-aleppo-city-may-29/>

Syria Watch: <http://syriawatch.intoxvs.info/1845864339.html>



Extensive damage to Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque, including the destruction of at least two of the domes (Khaled Al Homsî; June 7, 2016)



Damage to Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque, showing extensive damage to the building, domes, and minarets (Khaled Al Homsy; June 7, 2016)



Damage to Sahib bin Sinan al-Roumi Mosque (Khaled Al Homsy; June 7, 2016)

SHI 16-0084

Report Date: June 3, 2016

Site Name: Armenian Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity (كنيسة الثالوث الأقدس; Zvartnots Church; al-Farah Church); Our Lady of Joy Armenian School (Madrasat al-Farah; Zvartnots Armenian School)

Date of Incident: June 2, 2016

Location: Midan Neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate

Site Description: The Church of the Holy Trinity is an Armenian Catholic Church consecrated in 1965 CE on the 50th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide and restored in 1990. It was built in the style of the Zvartnots Cathedral, a 7th-century CE circular church in Vagharshapat, Armenia. Adjacent to the Church of the Holy Trinity is Our Lady of Joy Armenian School, also called Madrasat al-Farah or Zvartnots College. The school is run by the Armenian Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and contains a small chapel for the Armenian Sisters' congregation.¹⁰²

Site Date: 1965 CE

Incident Summary: Alleged Opposition shelling damaged a church and school.

Incident Source and Description: On June 3, 2016 Asbarez Armenian Newspaper reported Zvartnots Church and the adjacent school were seriously damaged as a result of June 2, 2016 shelling of the Midan neighborhood by opposition forces.¹⁰³ Armenpress reported that almost all of the classrooms in the school have been at least partially destroyed.¹⁰⁴ The extent of the damage to the exterior of the church is unclear, but photographs of the church's interior published by Kantsasar on Facebook show broken windows, doors, and pews, and debris littering the ground.¹⁰⁵ A shell appears to have landed in the church's front courtyard, rather than on the church itself. Photographs of the Zvartnots School indicate it sustained much greater damage. At least one level has a large hole in its floor, perhaps where a shell or debris from shelling landed. Chunks of plaster have fallen away from windows and doors, and at least one classroom is filled with debris.¹⁰⁶

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Armenian Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and Our Lady of Joy Armenian School, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

¹⁰² http://www.armeniancatholic.org/inside.php?lang=en&page_id=312

¹⁰³ <http://asbarez.com/151298/armenians-killed-in-aleppo-shelling-attacks/>

¹⁰⁴ <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/849678/%E2%80%9Czvartnots%E2%80%9D-college-heavily-damaged-in-aleppo-shelling.html>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/kantsasar/posts/867588500009844>

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/kantsasar/posts/866879986747362>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Armenian Catholic Church:

http://www.armeniancatholic.org/inside.php?lang=en&page_id=312

Armenpress:

<https://armenpress.am/eng/news/849678/%E2%80%9Czvarntots%E2%80%9D-college-heavily-damaged-in-aleppo-shelling.html>

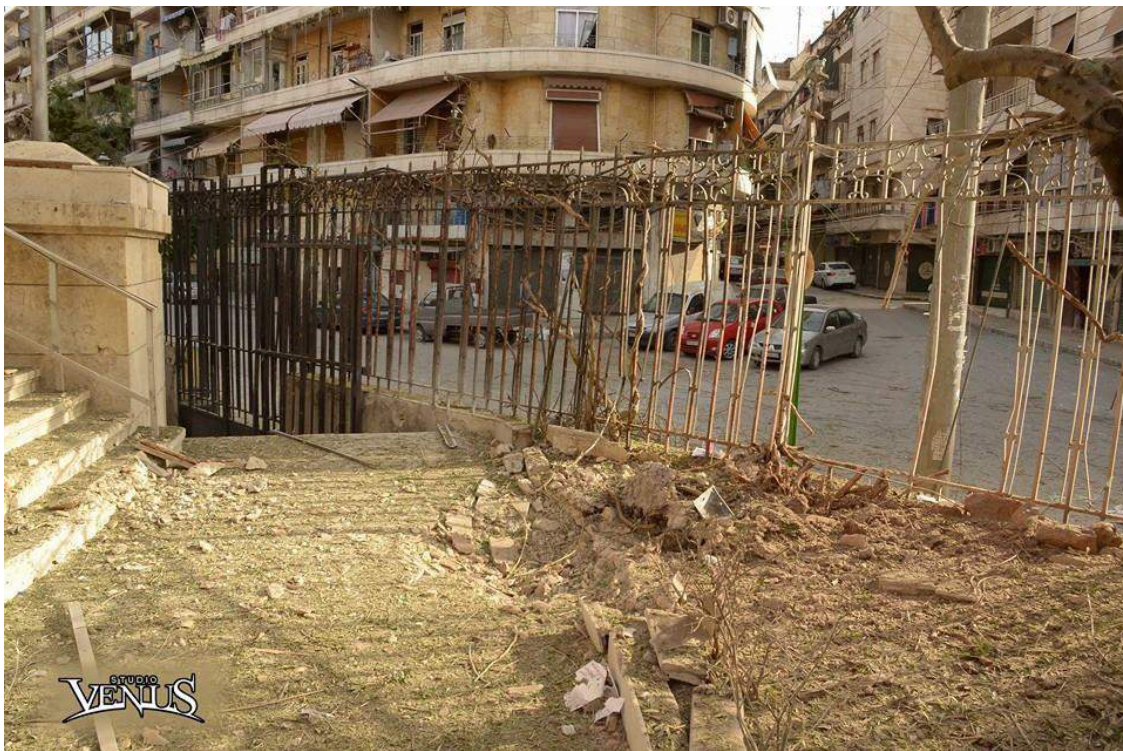
Asbarez:

<http://asbarez.com/151298/armenians-killed-in-aleppo-shelling-attacks/>

Kansasar:

June 3, 2016: <https://www.facebook.com/kansasar/posts/866879986747362>

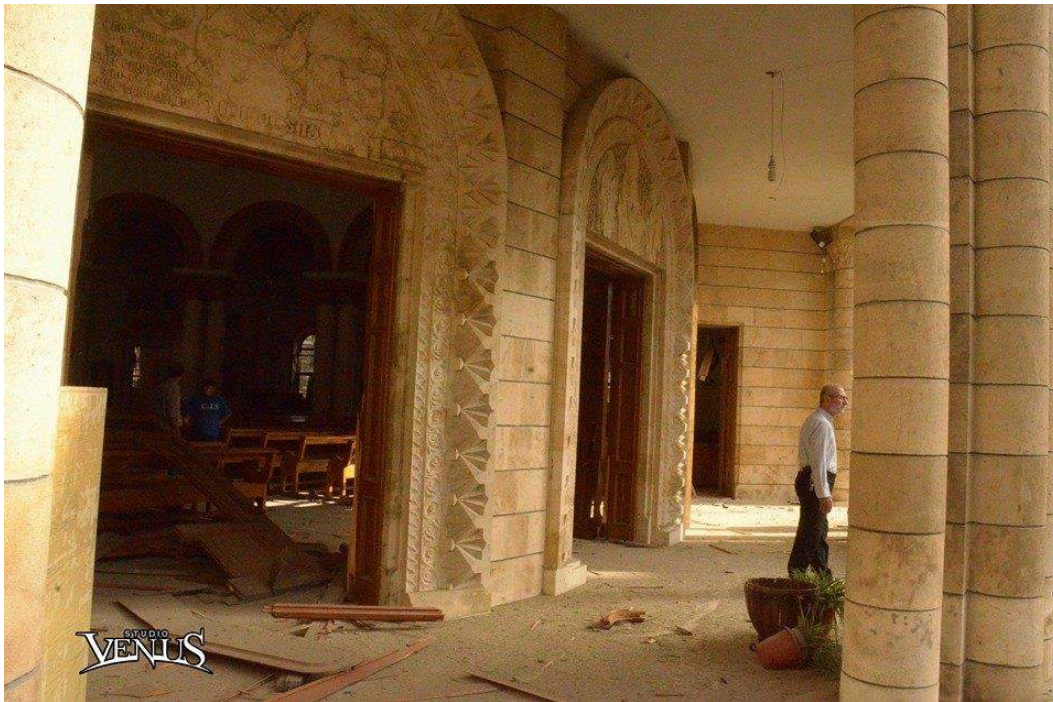
June 5, 2016: <http://www.kansasar.com/news/?p=8393> ; <https://www.facebook.com/kansasar/posts/867588500009844>



Damage to fence surrounding church (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



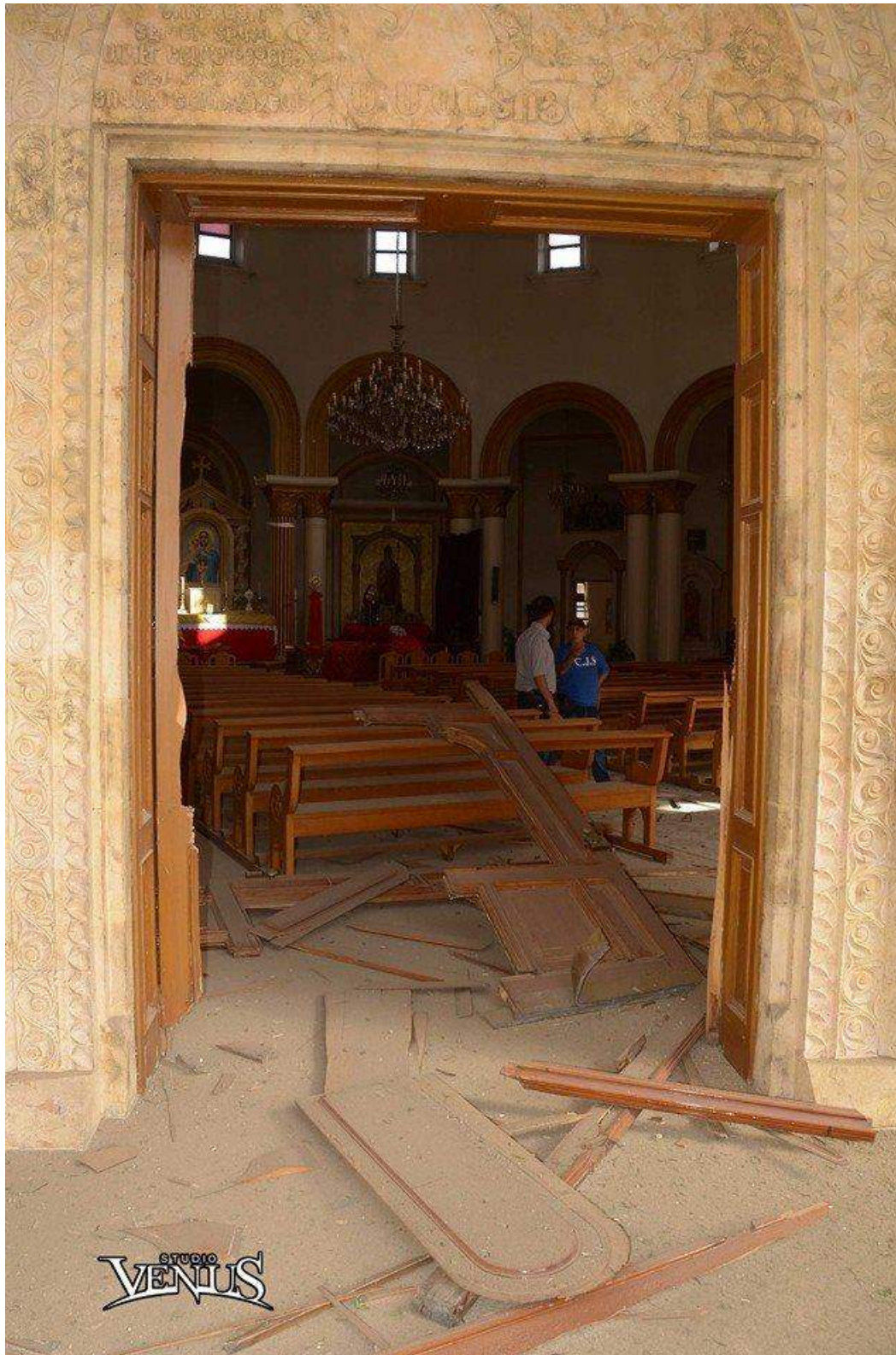
Damage to an entrance of the church (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to church entrance (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to church door (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to entrance of the church (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



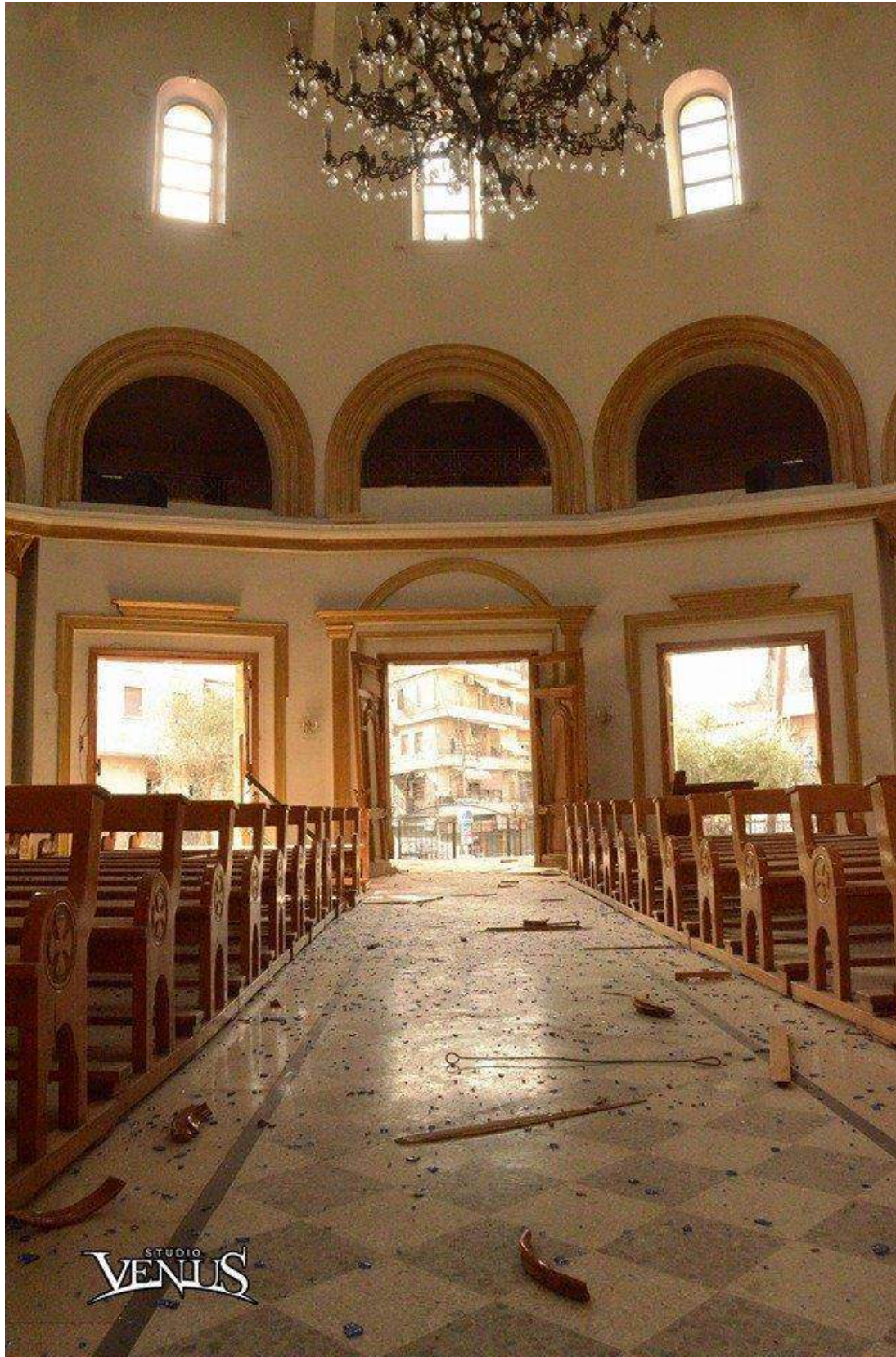
Damage to church doorway and pews (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to church doorway (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage and debris in church interior (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage and debris in church interior (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to church doorway (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to church organ (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 5, 2016)



Damage to Zvartnots School classroom (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)



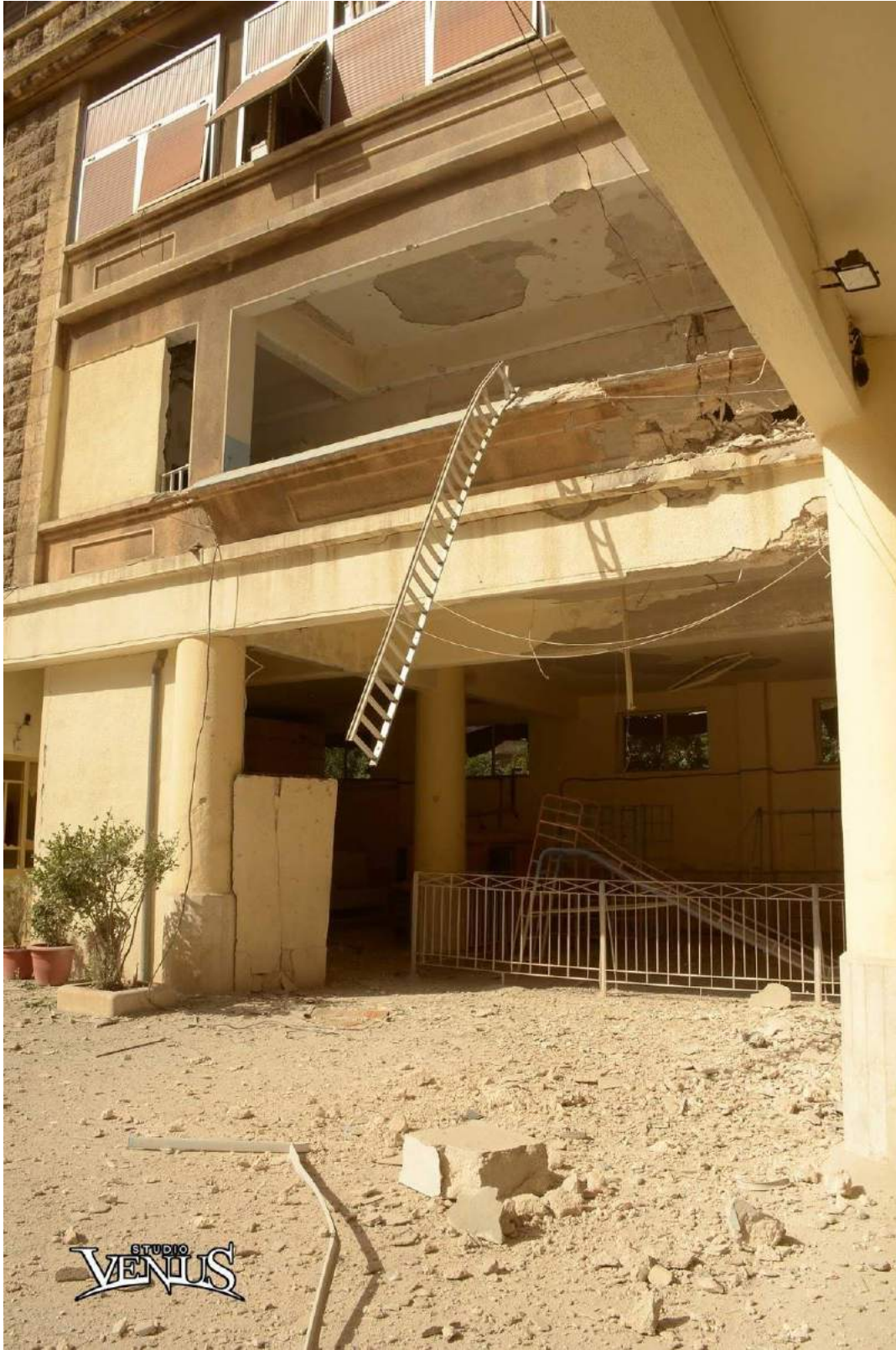
Severe structural damage to Zvartnots School (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)



Damage to Zvartnots School (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)



Severe structural damage to Zvartnots School (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)



Damage to Zvartnots School (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)



Severe structural damage to Zvartnots School (Kantsasar/Studio Venus; June 3, 2016)

Incident Reports: Iraq

IHI 16-0008 UPDATE

Report Date: May 25, 2016

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

Date of Incident: March 9, 2016

Location: Kubaysah (Kabisa), District of Hit, Al Anbar Governorate

Site Description: Mosque, also described as a compound by some sources.

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Alleged US-led coalition airstrikes caused extensive damage to mosque.

Incident Source and Description: Recent satellite images of the mosque show the extent of damage from the alleged US-led coalition airstrikes that occurred on March 9, 2016. DigitalGlobe imagery from March 24, 2016 shows the extent of damage. The minaret is still standing but the damage to the mosque is extensive. Much of the building has been reduced to rubble and there has been no clearance of the debris since the incident.

For further information on the US-led coalition airstrike on al-Farooq Mosque see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 16-0008** in **Weekly Report 83-84**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the al-Farooq Mosque and the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

A'Maq News Agency: <https://archive.org/details/1Ak15>

Air Wars: <http://airwars.org/military-reports-march-2016/>

Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/1Ak15>



Al-Farooq Mosque and its surrounding buildings prior to destruction (DigitalGlobe; August 31, 2011)



Al-Farooq Mosque and its surrounding buildings after its destruction (DigitalGlobe; March 24, 2016)



Damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Christiaan Triebert; March 15, 2016)¹⁰⁷



Still image of the damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)

¹⁰⁷ <https://twitter.com/trbrtc/status/709816396302163968>



Still image of the damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to the surrounding area of al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to the surrounding area of al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to the surrounding area of al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to the surrounding area of al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to the surrounding area of al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of the damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Still image of material damage to al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)



Missile fragment found at al-Farooq Mosque (Internet Archive; March 15, 2016)

IHI 16-0010 UPDATE

Report Date: June 7, 2016

Site Name: Nineveh

- Mashki Gate (بوابة المسقى)
- Adad Gate (بوابة ادد)
- Nergal Gate (بوابة نركال)

Date of Incident: Adad Gate: April 14, 2016

Mashki and Nergal Gates: Unconfirmed

Location: Ancient City of Nineveh, Ninawa Governorate

Site Description:

- Nineveh - Nineveh was the capital of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. The area was settled about 6000 BCE. The mound is located on the eastern bank of the Tigris River inside the city of Mosul. By 3000 BCE it had become an important religious center for the worship of Ishtar. During the Neo-Assyrian period (900-600 BCE), Nineveh was the capital of the vast empire until it was sacked by a coalition of Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Chaldeans, Scythians, and Cimmerians in 612 BCE. Nineveh was abandoned after this destruction.

Nineveh is made up of two mounds, Kuyunjik and Tell Nabi Yunus. Kuyunjik rises about 20 meters above the surrounding plain of the ancient city. It measures 800 by 500 meters. Its layers contained several Neo-Assyrian palaces and temples, as well as habitation as early as 6000 BCE. Nebi Yunus is the smaller mound with a palace built by Esarhaddon, and a later church and mosque constructed on top. The ruins of Nineveh are surrounded by a massive stone and mudbrick wall dating to about 700 BCE. This city wall was fitted with fifteen monumental gateways.

- Mashki Gate (بوابة المسقى) - The Mashki Gate is dated to the reign of Sennacherib (701-681 BCE). Located on the Tigris River, the gate's name may be translated as the "Gate of Watering Places." The exterior of the gate included stone steps leading down to the river, an indication that livestock would be driven through this gate to drink. Excavation and reconstruction of the gate took place between 1967-1971 under the auspices of the Iraq Department of Antiquities. The interior of the gate was excavated by David Stronach of UC Berkeley in 1989-1990.¹⁰⁸

- Adad Gate (بوابة ادد) - The Adad Gate, named for the storm-god Adad or Hadad, is located east of the Nergal Gate on the northern side of Nineveh. Excavations at this site turned up large tiles dating to the reign of Sennacherib (701-681 BCE).¹⁰⁹ This gate was excavated and reconstructed by the University of Mosul in the 1960s.¹¹⁰ The

¹⁰⁸ Madhloum, Tariq A. 1968. "Nineveh. The 1967-1968 Campaign". *Sumer* 24:45.

¹⁰⁹ Madhloum, Tariq A. 1966. "Nineveh" *Sumer* 22

¹¹⁰ Sulaiman, 'Amer. 1971. *Adab al-Rafidain*. 1. 45-97

reconstruction is a mixture of concrete and mudbrick.¹¹¹

- Nergal Gate (بوابة نركال) - The Nergal Gate, named for the god Nergal, was located on the northern side of Nineveh. The gate was reconstructed by Iraq's Department of Antiquities in the 1950s in order to protect the winged bulls and create a local museum.¹¹² Dating to the reign of Sennacherib, A.H. Layard, one of the first archaeologists to explore Nineveh, offers this description of the gate:

"It was apparently the remains of a gate leading into this quarter of the city, and part of a building, with fragments of two colossal winged figures, had already been discovered in it. . . Following the rows of limestone slabs, from the south side of the mound, and passing through two halls or chambers, we came at length to the opposite entrance. This gateway, facing the open country, was formed by a pair of majestic human-headed bulls, fourteen feet in length, and still entire, though cracked and injured by fire."¹¹³

Site Date: 700 - 681 BCE (Assyrian)

Incident Summary: New video footage released by ISIL shows destruction and damage to three gates in the ancient city of Nineveh.

Incident Source and Description: In early June 2016, ISIL media released new video footage of the destruction of the Adad, Mashki, and Nergal gates in the ancient city of Nineveh.¹¹⁴ The footage shows the intentional and performative destruction of a 'Winged Bull' located within or near the gates, as well as the clearing of debris created by the destruction. The video also confirms some damage to the Nergal Gate, including to artifacts located at the gate, which ASOR CHI had previously been unable to verify. The video has been uploaded to several social media accounts and web pages affiliated with ISIL, but most of these sites have been removed or the video has been deleted. The date of the video, shown in the last few seconds of the footage, is given as Ramadan 2016. The video was probably released on, or perhaps for, the first day of Ramadan.

DigitalGlobe imagery of the Nergal Gate from May 25, 2016 shows the structure is partially destroyed. The southern side of the gate has been badly damaged. There are clear bulldozer tracks around the gate. ASOR CHI will attempt to determine the extent of the damage when newer satellite imagery becomes available.

ASOR CHI previously reported that ISIL had begun destroying the gates in early April 2016.¹¹⁵ Much of the ancient site of Nineveh has been subjected to damage, looting, and intentional destruction by ISIL militants (see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0033** in **Weekly Report 30**, **IHI 15-0095** in **Weekly Report 59-60**, **IHI 15-0097** in **Weekly Report 67-68**, **IHI 15-0097 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 79-80**, **IHI 16-0010** in **Weekly Report 89-90**, **IHI 16-0010 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 91-92**, **ASOR CHI UPDATE IHI 16-0010 UPDATE** in **Weekly Report 93-94**).

¹¹¹ el-Wailly, Faisal. 1966. "Forward" *Sumer* 22:a-j

¹¹² al-Asil 1956.3-9.

¹¹³ Layard, A.H. 1853. *Discoveries in the Ruins of Babylon and Nineveh*. London: John Murray. pp. 120.

¹¹⁴ <https://amp.twimg.com/v/f31a8cb2-deb7-43fc-9065-b663a5c9c642>

¹¹⁵ <https://www.facebook.com/mosulyoon/posts/973626796066385:0>

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reports of damage this and other cultural heritage sites in the city of Mosul and in Ninawa Governorate.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Amaq: <https://amp.twimg.com/v/f31a8cb2-deb7-43fc-9065-b663a5c9c642>

Mosul Eye: <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/videos/935104543277715/>

Scholarly:

al-Asil, N. (1956) "Recent Archaeological Activity in Iraq." *Sumer* 12: 3-9.

Layard, A.H. (1853) *Discoveries in the Ruins of Babylon and Nineveh*". London: John Murray.

Madhloum, T. A. (1966) "Nineveh" *Sumer* 22.

Ibid. (1968) "Nineveh. The 1967-1968 Campaign". *Sumer* 24: 45.

Ibid. (1969). "Excavations at Nineveh. A Preliminary Report (1965-1967)." *Sumer* 23: 76-9.

Madhloum, T. A. & A.M. Mahdi (1976) *Nineveh. Historical Monuments in Iraq I*. Directorate General of Antiquities, Baghdad.



Video still of two earthmovers destroying the reconstructed Mashki Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover destroying the reconstructed Mashki Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover demolishing Nineveh's reconstructed city wall, likely near the Mashki Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover demolishing Nineveh's reconstructed city wall, likely near the Mashki Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover demolishing Nineveh's reconstructed city wall, likely near the Mashki Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover at the Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover driving into the reconstructed Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover driving into the reconstructed Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover driving into the reconstructed Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover driving into the reconstructed Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover driving into the reconstructed Adad Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover and dump truck at the Nergal Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover and dump truck at the Nergal Gate during the removal of stones, possibly sculpture (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



An earthmover knocking over a Winged Bull at the reconstructed Nergal Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



An earthmover knocking over a Winged Bull at the reconstructed Nergal Gate (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover knocking over a modern outer wall at the ancient site of Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover destroying a modern outer wall at the ancient site of Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover destroying an outer modern wall at the ancient site of Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of an earthmover destroying a modern wall at the ancient site of Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of debris clearing near the ancient site of Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of Intentional damage and defacement of Winged Bulls (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of a the hooves of a Winged Bull located in Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Video still of fragmentary Assyrian reliefs at Nineveh (Amaq News Agency; Downloaded June 7, 2016)



Nergal Gate with some new bulldozer tracks but the gate appears to be intact at this time (DigitalGlobe; May 21, 2016)



Nergal Gate with damage on the southern side indicated by the black arrows. (DigitalGlobe; May 25, 2016)

IHI 16-0015

Report Date: May 28, 2016

Site Name: al-Karma Great Mosque (مسجد الكرمة الكبير);
Ibrahim al-Hassoun Mosque (جامع إبراهيم الحسون; ar-Rashad Mosque)

Date of Incident: May 27, 2016

Location: al-Karma District (Garma; كرمة), al-Anbar Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: Mosques

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: Shia Popular Mobilization Front allegedly blows up two mosques in Karma.

Incident Source and Description: On May 28, 2016 various news sources reported that the Shia militia known as the Popular Mobilization Force (aka al-Hashd al-Shaabi) had intentionally destroyed two mosques in al-Karma district two days after capturing the town from ISIL militants.¹¹⁶ The Popular Mobilization Front and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi rejected these claims.¹¹⁷ According to the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), the Popular Mobilization Force handed the town over to Iraqi Security Forces following the destruction of the mosques and amid allegations that members of the militia had “looted homes and buildings, and kidnapped and executed Sunni Arabs.”

Recent DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from May 31, 2016 shows both mosques are damaged but the buildings are still standing. The western side of Al-Karma Great Mosque is damaged, though the extent of the damage is unclear. The minaret may have also been damaged as no trace of it is seen in the image. The Ibrahim al-Hassoun Mosque has debris clearly visible outside the southeastern corner of the mosque. No other damage is seen to the exterior of the building. Further information on the condition of the interior of both mosques is needed to evaluate the total damage to the mosques in al-Karma City.

Pattern: Military activity: intentional destruction.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Karma Great Mosque and Ibrahim al-Hussein Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to potential sectarian violence.

¹¹⁶ <http://www.aina.org/news/20160528085051.htm> ; <http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-shia-militia-accused-of-blowing-up-anbar-mosques-580184> ; <http://basnews.com/index.php/ar/news/iraq/278267> ; <http://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/1202570> ; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz_LBpQnbM0

¹¹⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-may-24-june-1-2016.html>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Arabiya: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vz_LBpQnbM0

Al Araby (Arabic): <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2016/5/27/معرفة-الفلوجة-استعادة-الكرمة-واتهام-المليشيات-بتفجير-جوامع>

Anadolu Agency: <http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/iraq-shia-militia-accused-of-blowing-up-anbar-mosques-/580184>

Ammar Karim (Journalist, AFP):
https://twitter.com/ammkar_afp/status/735834675122442240

Assyrian International News Agency: <http://www.aina.org/news/20160528085051.htm>

Bas News: <http://basnews.com/index.php/ar/news/iraq/278267>

El Watan News:

May 28, 2016: <http://www.elwatannews.com/news/details/1202570> ; <http://www.elwatannews.net/world/12144.html>

Fallujah TV:

May 27, 2016: <https://twitter.com/fallujahtv/status/736193065967312896>

May 28, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUgH37U99pk> ; <https://twitter.com/fallujahtv/status/736487559249809408> ; <https://twitter.com/fallujahtv/status/736560761321885697>

Institute for the Study for War:

May 31, 2016: <http://understandingwar.org/backgrounder/fallujah-control-terrain-map-may-31-2016>

June 1, 2016: <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2016/06/iraq-situation-report-may-24-june-1-2016.html>

Iraqi News: <http://www.iraqinews.com/iraq-war/security-forces-control-al-karma-district-fully/>

Iraqi Spring Media Center:

<https://www.facebook.com/IraqiSMCEn/photos/pb.325968694238316.-2207520000.1464966088./578519672316549/>

Mubasher Al Jazeera: <http://mubasher.aljazeera.net/news/arabic-and-international/2016/05/2016527194947165315.htm>



Al-Karma Great Mosque prior to damage
(DigitalGlobe; May 20, 2016)



Al-Karma Great Mosque with some damage to
the western side. The minaret may also be
missing. (DigitalGlobe; May 31, 2016)



Ibrahim al-Hassoun Mosque prior to damage
(DigitalGlobe; May 20, 2016)



Debris can be seen outside the southeastern
corner (DigitalGlobe; May 31, 2016)



A 'hand out' picture of al-Karma Great Mosque following the recapturing of the city from ISIL (Ammar Karim; May 26, 2016)



A photograph of damage to al-Karma Great Mosque (Iraqi Spring Media Center; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to one of the mosques allegedly damaged by the Popular Mobilization Front (Al Arabiya; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to one of the mosques allegedly damaged by the Popular Mobilization Front (Al Arabiya; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to one of the mosques allegedly damaged by the Popular Mobilization Front (Al Arabiya; May 28, 2016)



Video damage to the dome and minaret of one of the mosques allegedly damaged by the Popular Mobilization Front (Al Arabiya; May 28, 2016)

IHI 16-0016**Report Date:** May 28, 2016**Site Name:** al-Mudallal Mosque (جامع المدلل)**Date of Incident:** May 28, 2016**Location:** al-Dhubat Neighborhood, Fallujah, al-Anbar Governorate, Iraq**Site Description:** Mosque**Site Date:** Unknown**Incident Summary:** Possible US-led coalition airstrikes damaged mosque.**Incident Source and Description:** On May 28, 2016 ISIL-affiliate Amaq News Agency reported that missiles struck and damaged al-Mudallal Mosque in Fallujah. The missiles were likely launched via US-led Coalition airstrikes, though the title of the released video does not further clarify the matter.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery from May 28, 2016 shows damage to the roof of an auxiliary building on the eastern side of the mosque's courtyard. It is unclear what damage occurred to the interiors of these buildings.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Mudallal Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in regions subject to ongoing aerial bombardment campaigns and intense military activity.**Sources:**Online Reporting:

Daily Telegraph (Video): <http://video.dailytelegraph.com.au/v/465042/IRAQ-Islamic-State-Mosque-Damaged-in-Ongoing-Fallujah-Campaign-May-28>



Prior to damage (DigitalGlobe; May 20, 2016)



Visible damage to the metal roof directly north of the main mosque (DigitalGlobe; May 28, 2016)



Video still of entrance to al-Mudallal Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to al-Mudallal Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2016)



Video still of a dislodged and broken fan lying on the ground outside of al-Mudallal Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to al-Mudallal Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2016)



Video still of damage to al-Mudallal Mosque (Amaq News Agency; May 28, 2016)

IHI 16-0017

Report Date: June 7, 2016

Site Name: Temple of Nabu (معبد نابو; Ezida)

Date of Incident: Unknown

Location: Nimrud (Ancient Kalhu), Ninawa Governorate, Iraq

Site Description: The Ezida is a complex of buildings at Nimrud (ancient Kalhu) that contains the Temple of Nabu, a Babylonian and Assyrian god of wisdom. The complex was the result of several stages of construction in the 8th-century BCE.¹¹⁸ The shrines to Nabu and his consort Tašmetu, the rooms around the adjacent inner courtyard, and the Fish Gate entrance on the northern side of the complex were all built ca. 800 BCE during the reign of Adad-Nerari III. The Fish Gate is a unique design — most Assyrian temple and palace entrances featured winged bulls, but the main entrance to the Ezida was instead guarded by monumental statues of beneficent half-fish, half-man creatures. Ezida was a center of scholarly activity at Nimrud and included a large library. Many of the cuneiform tablets found at Nimrud came from the Temple of Nabu complex.¹¹⁹

Site Date: built ca. 800 BCE, remodeled ca. 700 BCE

Incident Summary: ISIL militants destroyed the entrance to the Temple of Nabu at Nimrud.

Incident Source and Description: In early June 2016, ISIL released new video footage of the destruction to the reconstructed Temple of Nabu at Nimrud.¹²⁰ The video shows the explosion from two different angles — northeast and southeast — and the blast appears to have been centered on the Fish Gate on the northern side of the complex. In the footage following the explosion, the arch of the Fish Gate appears to have collapsed and piles of debris are visible around the remains of the gate. Pieces of at least one of the ‘fish-man’ statues for which the gate is named are visible on the ground amidst the debris. The extent of the damage to the rest of the complex is unclear, though a post-explosion view of the Fish Gate taken from the southwest shows the walls of the rest complex are still standing.

The video has been uploaded to several social media accounts and web pages affiliated with ISIL, but most of these sites have been removed or the video has been deleted. The date of the video is shown in the last few seconds of the footage and is given as Ramadan 2016. This suggests that the video was released on, or perhaps for, the first day of Ramadan.

DigitalGlobe imagery from June 3, 2016 shows extensive damage to the central part of the Fish Gate with debris visible around the area. The walls directly south of the gate were also damaged though the full extent of this damage is unknown. The exterior of the northern wall of the temple was also damaged with large chunks removed. A few interior walls

¹¹⁸ http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thepeople/nabu/#reflink_1

¹¹⁹

<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thecity/nabustemple/index.html#heyday>

¹²⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEyee/videos/93510454327715/>

within the temple also appear to have been removed or damaged. The former dig house just north of the Temple of Nabu was also damaged, likely with explosives.

Other sites located within Nimrud have been previously and intentionally destroyed by ISIL (see **ASOR CHI Incident Report IHI 15-0067** in **Weekly Report 31**; **IHI 15-0067** in **Weekly Report 34**; **IHI 15-0079** in **Weekly Report 36**; **IHI 15-0079** in **Weekly Report 38**).

Pattern: Military activity: performative destruction, explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI remains extremely concerned about the state of the ancient city of Nimrud and will continue to monitor the situation.

Sources:

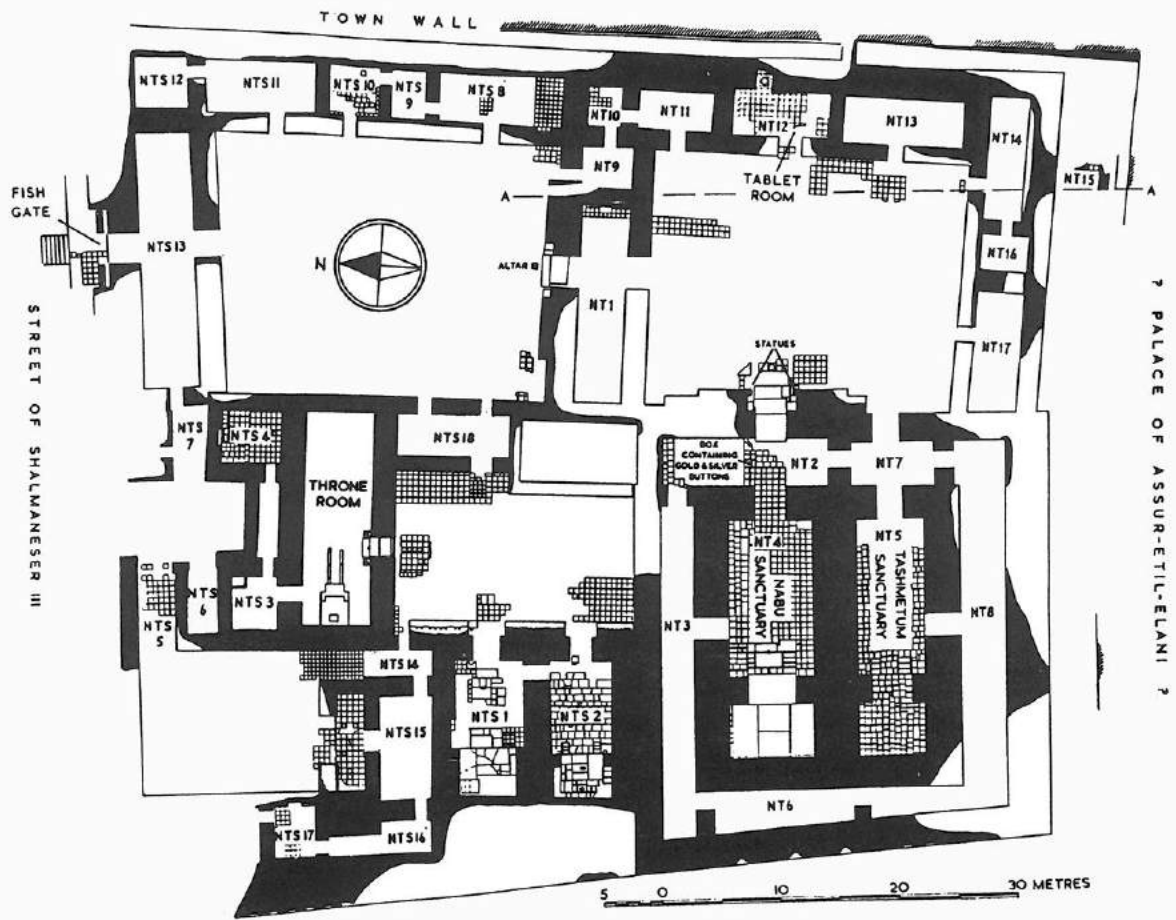
Online Reporting:

Mosul Eye: <https://www.facebook.com/MosulEye/videos/935104543277715/>

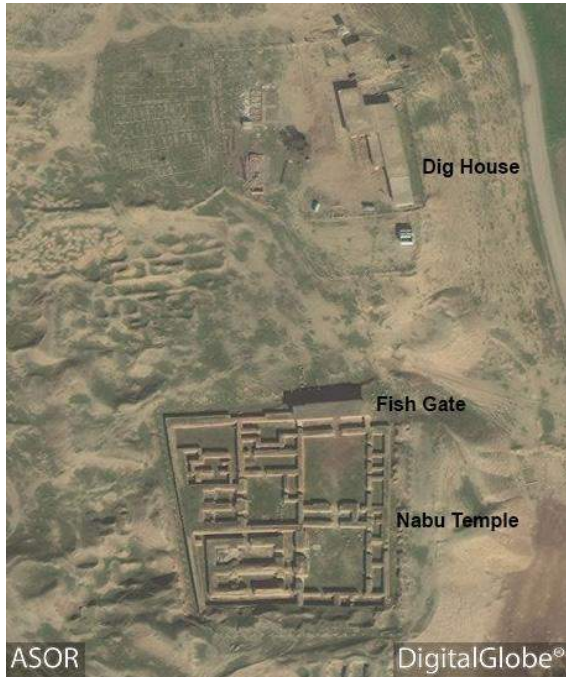
Scholarly:

The Nimrud Project at ORACC:

<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thecity/nabustemple/index.html> ;
<http://oracc.museum.upenn.edu/nimrud/ancientkalhu/thepeople/nabu/>



Plan of Temple of Nabu Complex (Oates; 2001)



The Temple of Nabu and former Dig House at Nimrud before damage (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; February 12, 2016)



Damage to the Fish Gate, Temple of Nabu, and Dig House outlined in red (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; June 3, 2016)



Temple of Nabu prior to damage (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; February 12, 2016)



Damage to the Fish Gate and the Temple of Nabu, outlined with red arrows. Note the two missing interior walls in addition to areas damaged by the explosives. (ASOR CHI/DigitalGlobe; June 3, 2016)



Pre-damage video still of the Fish Gate entrance to the Nabu Temple (facing south) (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Pre-damage video still of Fish Gate and Nabu Temple (facing southeast) (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Pre-damage video still of Fish Gate of Nabu Temple (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Pre-damage video still of remains of monumental Fish Guardian statues at entrance gate of Nabu Temple (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Video still of detonation of the Fish Gate (facing southeast) (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Video still of detonation of the Fish Gate (facing northeast) (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Remains of Fish Gate after detonation (facing northeast) (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Remains of Fish Gate after detonation, with damaged Fish Guardian statue in foreground (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Remains of Fish Gate after detonation (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)



Remains of Fish Gate after detonation (Mosul Eye; June 7, 2016)