

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

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September 2018 Monthly Appendices

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¹ This report is based on research conducted by the American Schools of Oriental Research Cultural Heritage Initiatives. Monthly 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.

Other Key Points

- **Aleppo Governorate**
 - An IED detonated outside of the al-Maytam Mosque in A'zaz, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0131**
 - Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet) released a report detailing reconstruction efforts at five mosques in Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0132**
 - Reconstruction work began at the al-Kabir Mosque in al-Bab, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0133**
 - Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army forces vandalized and reused the Statue of the Nowruz Flame in Afrin, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0136**
 - Reconstruction work continues at the al-Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0137**
 - The building of a new museum began in Khan al-Wazir, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0139**
- **Deir ez-Zor Governorate**
 - A reported US-led Coalition airstrike destroyed the al-Hashim Mosque in al-Susah, Deir ez-Zor Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0134**
- **Hama Governorate**
 - A suspected Russian airstrike destroyed the Hasraya Village Mosque in Hasraya Village, Hama Governorate. **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0135**
- **Hasakah Governorate**
 - A third stage of reconstruction work took place at the ancient site of Tell Beydar, Hasakah Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0140**
- **Rif Dimashq Governorate**
 - Reconstruction work began at the St. George Monastery and Church in Maaloula, Rif Dimashq Governorate. **ASOR CHI Heritage Response Report SHI 18-0138**

Military and Political Context

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

1. Idlib Governorate:
 - On September 4– 11, Russian forces carried out airstrikes in Idlib Governorate and portions of Hama Governorate. Airstrikes were reported in Kafr Zeita, Lataminah, and Khan Sheikhoun. Pro-regime forces also “increased shelling attacks on frontline towns and villages,” in Idlib Governorate.²
 - On September 14, protests against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad continued throughout opposition-held areas of Idlib Governorate. Syrian opposition groups, including those affiliated with both Al-Qaeda and Turkey, reportedly have backed the protests.³
 - On September 22–24, pro-regime forces, including members of the Syrian Arab Army and Hezbollah, relocated from Idlib Governorate to participate in anti-ISIS operations in Suwayda and Rif Dimashq Governorate.⁴
2. Deir ez-Zor Governorate:
 - On September 18–19, US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), receiving aerial support by the US-led Coalition, captured the town of Baghouz and a nearby crossing over the Euphrates River from ISIS.⁵
 - On September 18, a Saudi delegation met with members of the SDF, the SDF-affiliated Deir ez Zor Civil Council, and local tribal leaders in Busayrah. A US advisor to the US-led Coalition was also present for the meeting. Saudi Arabia reportedly offered to fund reconstruction projects in Eastern Syria in exchange for tribal support of the SDF.⁶
3. Homs Governorate:
 - On September 6–11, the US-led Coalition and US-backed Syrian opposition group Maghawir al-Thawra conducted live fire exercises near the US-base at al-Tanf.
 - On September 16, Liwa Shuhada al-Qaryatain—a former US-backed Syrian opposition group—reached a deal with Russia to evacuate from the Rukban IDP camp located on the Syrian-Jordanian border to opposition-held areas of Aleppo Governorate.⁷
4. Latakia Governorate:
 - On September 17, Syrian forces accidentally downed a Russian aircraft, killing all onboard. The incident occurred during Israeli airstrikes against an ammunition depot near the city of Latakia. Following the accident, Russia pledged to provide four to eight Surface-to-Air Missile Systems to strengthen Syrian air defense coverage. The systems will reportedly be placed along Syria’s borders with Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq.⁸

² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-august-28.html>

³ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-september-13-26.html>

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *ibid.*

5. Aleppo Governorate:
 - On September 9–10, pro-regime forces deployed to the towns of Deir Jamal and Tel Rifaat, possibly in an attempt to secure the countryside, north of the city of Aleppo, in the event of Turkish-backed opposition groups launching a counterattack.⁹
 - On September 14, Turkish intelligence and police forces arrested nine alleged Syrian Kurdish YPG members in the city of Afrin under charges that the members killed two Turkish soldiers during the January 2018 Turkish-led Operation Olive Branch.¹⁰
 - On September 19, YPG and Asayish Internal Security Forces reportedly seized a weapons cache and arrested dozens of ISIS-linked militants in the town of Kobani.¹¹
6. Hama Governorate:
 - On September 4, Israeli airstrikes reportedly targeted a research center associated with Syria’s chemical weapons program in the city of Maysaf.¹²
 - On September 8–10, unknown militants carried out a rocket attack against pro-regime helicopter and artillery positions in Hama Governorate, including the military airport.¹³
7. Tartus Governorate:
 - On September 4, Israeli airstrikes reportedly targeted pro-regime positions in Wadi al-Ayun where Iran is reportedly constructing a surface-to-surface missile facility.¹⁴
8. Suwayda Governorate:
 - On September 4, a large explosion struck Khalkhala Airbase. It was unclear whether or not this explosion was related to Israeli airstrikes that targeted Iranian sites in Tartus and Hama Governorates.¹⁵
9. Raqqa Governorate:
 - On September 29, the Raqqa Internal Security Forces (RISF) uncovered an ISIS sleeper cell in the city of Raqqa.¹⁶

Other Key Points:

- On September 13, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) announced an end to the five-year cross-border humanitarian assistance mission known as “Operation Good Neighbor.” The operation provided humanitarian aid to Syrians in areas along the Golan Heights Border.¹⁷

⁹ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-august-28.html>

¹⁰ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-september-13-26.html>

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-august-28.html>

¹³ *ibid.*

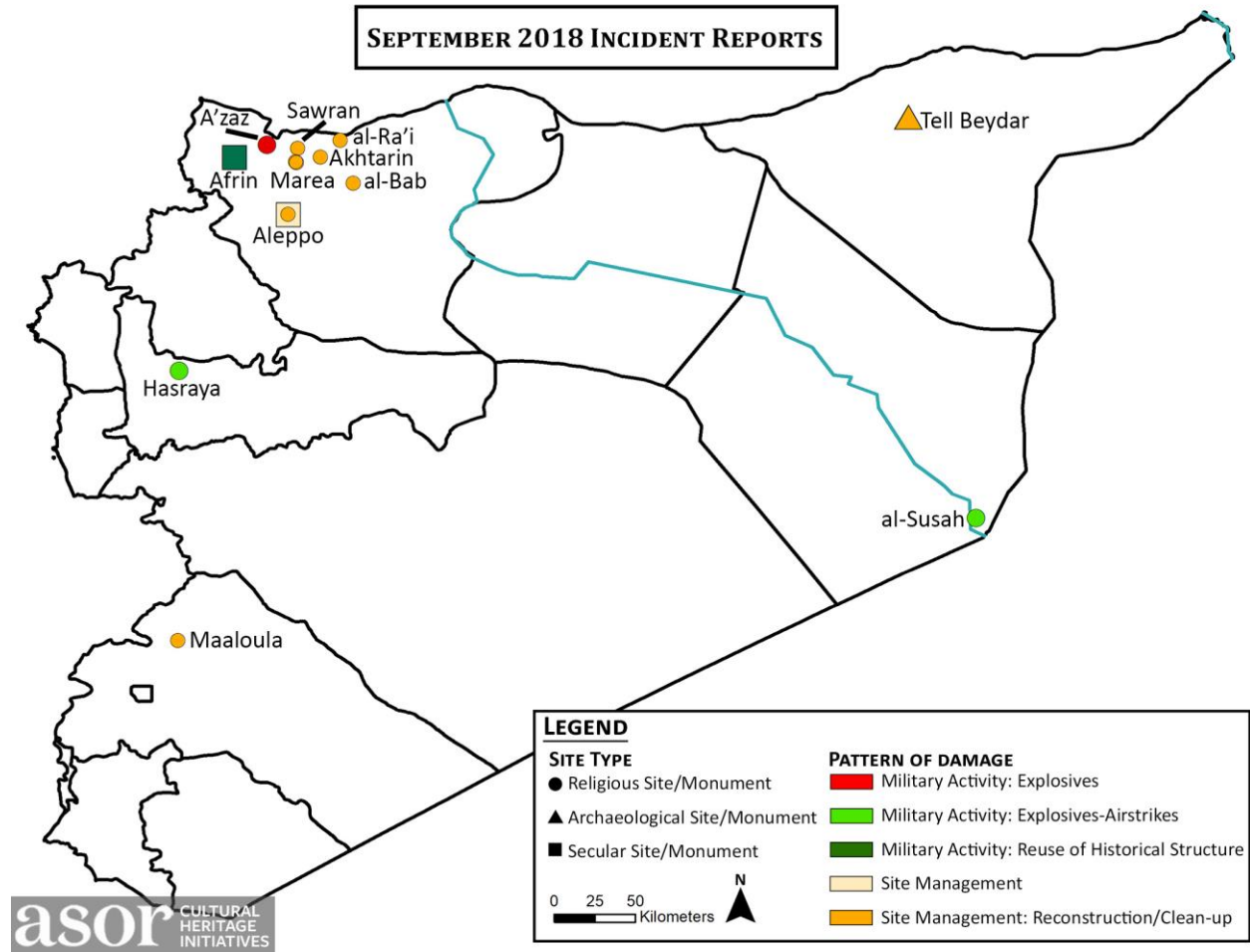
¹⁴ *ibid.*

¹⁵ *ibid.*

¹⁶ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/10/syria-situation-report-september-23.html>

¹⁷ <http://iswresearch.blogspot.com/2018/09/syria-situation-report-september-13-26.html>

Incident Reports: Syria



SHI 18-0131

Report Date: October 4, 2018

Site Name: al-Maytam Mosque (جامع الميتم)

Date of Incident: September 1, 2018

Location: A'zaz, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: An IED detonated outside of a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On October 4, 2018 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) released their Vital Facilities Report that documented 31 attacks on vital civilian facilities during the month of September 2018. According to SNHR, an IED placed near the al-Maytam Mosque in the center of A'zaz City detonated, causing moderate damage to the mosque as well as civilian casualties.¹⁸ Al Jazeera reported that the explosion outside the mosque was a car bombing that killed at least one person.¹⁹ No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery indicates damage to a street in A'zaz, which runs east to west along the southern facade of the al-Maytam mosque. This damage is visible between August 22, 2018 and September 4, 2018. Imagery from September 7, 2018 more clearly shows the damage. There is possible damage to the southern facade of the mosque.

This is the second incident reported that caused damage to al-Maytam Mosque. On May 3, 2017 a car bomb caused moderate damage to the mosque.²⁰ Once again, the perpetrator of the attack remained unknown.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0136**.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the al-Maytam Mosque, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites located in regions subject to military activity.

¹⁸ [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No less than 31 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in September 2018 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No_less_than_31_Attacks_on_Vital_Civilian_Facilities_in_Syria_in_September_2018_en.pdf)

¹⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/syria-war-deadly-car-bomb-attack-hits-rebel-held-azaz-180901090552948.html>

²⁰ [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack on civilian vital centers in May 2017 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack_on_civilian_vital_centers_in_May_2017_en.pdf)

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Jazeera:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/09/syria-war-deadly-car-bomb-attack-hits-rebel-held-azaz-180901090552948.html>

Syrian Network for Human Rights:

June 8, 2017: [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack on civilian vital centers in May 2017 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/Attack%20on%20civilian%20vital%20centers%20in%20May%202017%20en.pdf)

October 4, 2018: [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No less than 31 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in September 2018 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No%20less%20than%2031%20Attacks%20on%20Vital%20Civilian%20Facilities%20in%20Syria%20in%20September%202018%20en.pdf)



The scene of the IED explosion that occurred outside the al-Maytam Mosque (SNHR; September 1, 2018)



Al-Maytam mosque visible within the red square (©2018 DigitalGlobe; August 22, 2018)



Red arrows indicate the locations of damage from an IED, which possibly damaged the southern facade of the mosque (©2018 DigitalGlobe; September 7, 2018)

SHI 18-0132 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 1, 2018

Site Name:

- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque (مسجد أبو بكر الصديق)
- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque (مسجد أبو بكر الصديق)
- Ihsan Mosque (مسجد إحسان)
- Ali Bin Abu Talib Mosque (مسجد علي بن أبو طالب)
- al-Kabir Mosque

Location:

- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque: al-Rai, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque: Marea, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- Ihsan Mosque: Marea, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- Ali Bin Abu Talib Mosque: Akhtarín, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
- al-Kabir Mosque: Sawran, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Damaged mosques in Aleppo Governorate.

Site Date: Unknown

Heritage Response Summary: Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate reports the rebuilding of mosques in Aleppo Governorate.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: Over the summer of 2018, the Turkey's Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet) published a 104-page document titled "Syria's Euphrates Shield and Olive Branch Activity Report."²¹ A portion of the report focused on Turkish-funded efforts to repair mosques in northern Syria. According to the report, the Diyanet repaired 108 mosques in Jarablus, al-Bab, al-Rai, Mare', al-Bara, Ihtimlat, and Akhterin—spending \$1.6 million USD. Several mosques were highlighted in the report, and photographs of the now repaired mosques were featured.²² These mosques are Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque (al-Rai), Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Mosque (Marea), Ihsan Mosque (Marea), Ali Bin Abu Talib Mosque (Akhtarín), and al-Kabir Mosque (Sawran).

In addition, reconstruction studies were completed for the restoration of 160 mosques in Sawran, Akhterin, Al Rai, Mare, and Azaz villages and towns, which were planned to start in July 2018 at an estimated cost of \$900,000 USD.

The Diyanet announced initial efforts to restore mosques in in early-2017, stating that the organization was planning to "construct and repair 66 mosques."²³ By mid-2017, at least three mosques were repaired and reopened in the town of Jarablus. The Diyanet repaired and reopened another 127 mosques in areas of Turkey's east and southeast that had been damaged by ongoing conflict with the PKK.

²¹ <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/09/turkey-syria-religious-body-becomes-pillar-influence-tool.html>; <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-s-religious-body-repairs-108-mosques-in-syria/1253877>

²² <http://dinhizmetleri.diyamet.gov.tr/Documents/FKB-ZDB%20Faaliyet%20Raporu.pdf>

²³ <https://www.dailysabah.com/syrian-crisis/2017/04/23/turkey-to-repair-dozens-of-mosques-in-syria>

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were reconstructed in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0133**, **SHI 18-0137**, and **SHI 18-0139**.

Description of Previous Damage to Site: Northern Aleppo Governorate has been the site of multiple clashes, most recently between Syrian opposition forces and the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) along with Turkish armed forces in the military offensive Operation Euphrates Shield (August 2016–March 2017). It is possible the mosques repaired by the Diyanet were damaged during these clashes, or in fighting that occurred previously in the area. Satellite imagery does not indicate that the mosques listed in the Diyanet report had heavy exterior damage.

Operating Organization: Turkey’s Religious Affairs Directorate (Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı)

Pattern: Site management: reconstruction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor heritage response activity in Aleppo Governorate, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites undergoing response activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al Monitor:

<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/09/turkey-syria-religious-body-becomes-pillar-influence-tool.html>

Anadolu Agency:

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/turkey-s-religious-body-repairs-108-mosques-in-syria/1253877>

Daily Sabah:

<https://www.dailysabah.com/syrian-crisis/2017/04/23/turkey-to-repair-dozens-of-mosques-in-syria>

Diyanet İşleri Başkanlığı:

<http://dinhizmetleri.diyamet.gov.tr/Documents/FKB-ZDB%20Faaliyet%20Raporu.pdf>

SHI 18-0133 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 6, 2018

Site Name: al-Kabir Mosque (جامع الكبير) (al-Omari Mosque)

Date of Incident: Ongoing

Location: al-Bab, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The oldest mosque in the city.

Site Date: ca. 13th Century AD

Heritage Response Summary: Local Syrian workers began to rebuild al-Kabir Mosque with Turkish support.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: On September 6, 2018 the Youtube account *Bawaba Halab* released video footage of the “first stages” of reconstruction of the al-Kabir Mosque.²⁴ The project is expected to take less than three years.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were reconstructed in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0132**, **SHI 18-0137**, and **SHI 18-0139**.

Description of Previous Damage to Site: According to *Bawaba Halab*, clashes in the city of al-Bab resulted in damage to the mosque. Between December 2016–March 2017, aerial bombardment and clashes repeatedly damaged the site. In February 2017, bombardment attributed to Turkish forces damaged the courtyard and the southeastern corner of the mosque, and likely caused some damage to one of the mosque’s domes. In April 2018, a car bomb detonated outside of a fuel shop located in front of the mosque, resulting in damage to the mosque and surrounding shops. The explosion killed at least 10 civilians.

For more information on previous damage to the al-Kabir Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0020** in the **February 2017 Monthly Report**, **SHI 17-0048** in the **April 2017 Monthly Report**, **SHI 17-0048 UPDATE** in the **May 2017 Monthly Report**, **SHI 18-0081** in the **April 2018 Monthly Report**.

Operating Organization: Local Syrian workers with the support of Turkey.

Pattern: Site management: reconstruction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor heritage response activity at al-Kabir Mosque, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites undergoing response activity.

²⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYGp9kDhUFA>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Bawaba Halab: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYGp9kDhUFA>



Video still of workers and organized stones at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers and organized stones at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers and organized stones at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers and building materials at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers and organized stones at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of one of the domes at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



A video still of a missing dome at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of a worker removing damaged architecture at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of the condition of the architecture of al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of the condition of the architecture of al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers cleaning and stacking tiles at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of workers cleaning and stacking tiles at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of work taking place at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of work at the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)



Video still of the current condition of the al-Kabir Mosque (Bawaba Halab; September 6, 2018)

SHI 18-0134

Report Date: October 8, 2018

Site Name: al-Hashim Mosque (مسجد الهشيم)

Date of Incident: September 30, 2018

Location: as-Susah, Deir ez-Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A US-led Coalition airstrike destroyed a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On October 3, 2018 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a US-led Coalition airstrike had damaged the al-Hashim Mosque on September 30.²⁵ According to SNHR, the airstrike severely damaged the mosque and its contents.²⁶ No photographs or video of the reported damage were available at the time of publication.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of al-Hashim Mosque, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Syrian Network for Human Rights:

October 3, 2018: <http://sn4hr.org/sites/news/2018/10/03/international-coalition-forces-bombed-mosque-al-sousa-town-deir-ez-zour-suburbs-september-30/>

October 4, 2018: [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No less than 31 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in September 2018 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No%20less%20than%2031%20Attacks%20on%20Vital%20Civilian%20Facilities%20in%20Syria%20in%20September%202018%20en.pdf)

²⁵ <http://sn4hr.org/sites/news/2018/10/03/international-coalition-forces-bombed-mosque-al-sousa-town-deir-ez-zour-suburbs-september-30/>

²⁶ [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No less than 31 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in September 2018 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No%20less%20than%2031%20Attacks%20on%20Vital%20Civilian%20Facilities%20in%20Syria%20in%20September%202018%20en.pdf)

SHI 18-0135

Report Date: September 12, 2018

Site Name: Hasraya Village Mosque

Date of Incident: September 10, 2018

Location: Hasraya Village, Hama Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque

Site Date: Unknown

Incident Summary: A suspected Russian airstrike destroyed a mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On September 12, 2018 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that a suspected Russian airstrike had badly damaged the Hasraya Village Mosque. A photograph included in the SNHR report shows the almost complete destruction and collapse of the mosque.

An increase in damage to the mosque is visible in DigitalGlobe satellite imagery between August 27, 2018 and September 11, 2018. It is not clear through satellite imagery the cause of the damage, but during this time frame the central portion of the mosque's roof has collapsed.

Pattern: Military activity: explosives - airstrike.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Hasraya Village Mosque, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR:

September 12, 2018: <http://sn4hr.org/sites/news/2018/09/12/russian-forces-bombed-mosque-hasraya-village-hama-suburbs-september-10/>

October 4, 2018: [http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No less than 31 Attacks on Vital Civilian Facilities in Syria in September 2018 en.pdf](http://sn4hr.org/wp-content/pdf/english/No%20less%20than%2031%20Attacks%20on%20Vital%20Civilian%20Facilities%20in%20Syria%20in%20September%202018%20en.pdf)

Youth Mobilization al-Lataminah:

<https://www.facebook.com/shbablatamneh3/photos/a.177089536431250/309244536549082/>



The destruction of the Hasraya Village Mosque (SNHR; September 12, 2018)



The Hasraya Village Mosque showing prior minor damage to the roof, and military trenching to the east of the mosque (©2018 DigitalGlobe; August 27, 2018)



Increased damage to the mosque as indicated by red arrows. It appears that the central portion of the roof has collapsed (©2018 DigitalGlobe; September 11, 2018)

SHI 18-0136

Report Date: September 20, 2018

Site Name: Statue of the Nowruz Flame

Date of Incident: September 20, 2018

Location: Afrin, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: The Statue of the Nowruz Flame is located in the middle of the Nowruz Roundabout in western Afrin. It consists of a hexagonal pedestal with a candle base on top of it. Each face of the pedestal has metal reliefs. Most of the faces have an inscription at the top.

Site Date: Modern

Incident Summary: Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army forces vandalized a statue.

Incident Source and Description: On September 20, the Afrin Media Center reported that members of the al-Shami Front, a brigade in the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA), had vandalized the Statue of the Nowruz Flame in the middle of the Nowruz Roundabout in Afrin.²⁷ The militiamen covered the sides of the monument with FSA and Turkish flags and erected an additional FSA flag on top of the statue. Afrin Media Center also reported that the name of the roundabout was changed from Nowruz Roundabout to Salahaddin Roundabout. The Nowruz Roundabout was a site of celebration by the FSA following its entry into the city of Afrin.²⁸

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were damaged in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0131**.

Pattern: Military activity; reuse of historic structure; Vandalism.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor the condition of the Statue of the Nowruz Flame, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites located in regions subject to military activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Afrin Media Center: <https://twitter.com/nre6172/status/1042895716291682305>

The Independent:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/afrin-turkey-syria-forces-seize-control-tear-down-statue-kawa-a8262111.html>

²⁷ <https://twitter.com/nre6172/status/1042895716291682305>

²⁸ <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/afrin-turkey-syria-forces-seize-control-tear-down-statue-kawa-a8262111.html>



The Statue of the Nowruz Flame after its intentional destruction (Afrin Media Center; September 20, 2018)



A video still of celebration in front of the Statue of the Nowruz Flame (The Independent; March 18, 2018)



A video still of celebration in front of the Statue of the Nowruz Flame (The Independent; March 18, 2018)



A video still of celebration in front of the Statue of the Nowruz Flame (The Independent; March 18, 2018)

SHI 18-0137 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 25, 2018

Site Name: al-Umayyad Mosque

Date of Incident: Ongoing

Location: Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Ross Burns writes,

"The Great Mosque within the walled city of Aleppo is unjustly given second billing after the Great Mosque of the Umayyads in Damascus. While it lacks the richness of the associations with early Islam and the Roman predecessor on the Damascus site, the Aleppo Great Mosque has its own unique sense of symmetry and calm which owes much to the rebuilding of the mosque in the Ayyubid years, after a disastrous fire. It thus provides us with one of the most striking statements of the purity of form of Islamic medieval architecture.

The site of the mosque was originally at the centre of the ancient city and falls partly on the ground used for the sixth century Cathedral of St Helena (the mother of Constantine). A remarkable madrasa to the west of the mosque, the Madrasa Halawiye, preserves part of the cathedral following its twelfth century conversion to serve as a madrasa. The remains of the cathedral were seized in reprisal following the unsuccessful Crusader assault on Aleppo in 1124 and their sacking of important Shi'ite shrines outside the city."²⁹

Site Date: 715 CE; reconstructed during the 11th century CE.

Heritage Response Summary: Reconstruction continues at the al-Umayyad Mosque.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: On September 25, 2018 the Syrian Arab News Network (SANA) released a video report on the ongoing restoration work on the al-Umayyad Mosque. The video shows the numbering and replacing of damaged stones to the structure, the clearing of debris, and the detailed work of Syrian technicians at the mosque. Restoration of the mosque began in early-2017, following the Syrian regime's recapturing of the Old City of Aleppo.

DigitalGlobe satellite imagery has documented the ongoing reconstruction efforts. Satellite imagery taken over a period of time shows the organizing of broken stones in the mosque courtyard, as well the clearing of debris.

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were reconstructed in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0132**, **SHI 18-0133**, and **SHI 18-0139**.

Description of Previous Damage to Site: The al-Umayyad Mosque was damaged multiple times during the conflict. For more information on previous damage to the al-Umayyad Mosque, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0040 in Weekly Report 9**; **SHI 15-0015 in Weekly Report 26-27**; **SHI 15-0084 in Weekly Report 40**; **SHI 15-0085 in Weekly Report 41**; **SHI 16-0071 in**

²⁹ <http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrasa-halawiye/>

Weekly Report 93-94; SHI 16-0091 in Weekly Report 123-124; SHI 16-01052 in Weekly Report 121-122; SHI 17-0006 in Weekly Report 125-128 in the January 2017 Monthly Report; SHI 17-0051 in the April 2017 Monthly Report; SHI 17-0089 in the May 2017 Monthly Report.

Operating Organization: It is likely that multiple organizations have been or are involved in the restoration of the al-Umayyad Mosque, including the Chechen Republic's Akhmad Kadyrov Fund (aka Ahmat-Hajji Kadyrov Foundation),³⁰ Syrian officials, including from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Syrian military construction company al-Iskaan al-Askeri (which receives its order from the Syrian president's office), and teams of Syrian technicians and experts, all of whom were led in 2017 by the Mustafa Kurdi, the reconstruction supervisor.³¹

Pattern: Site management: reconstruction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor reconstruction efforts at the al-Umayyad Mosque, as well as the condition of other heritage sites located in the Old City of Aleppo.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Alghad TV: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-qKqbYor-s>

Euronews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjEIFS6aHrI>

The Independent:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/syria-great-mosque-of-aleppo-ummayad-rebuild-the-city-a7858846.html>

Monuments of Syria:

<http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrassa-halawiye/>

The National:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/is-reconstruction-of-aleppo-s-grand-mosque-whitewashing-history-1.728715>

RT Arabic: <https://arabic.rt.com/features/924092-#جهود-ترميم-جامع-أموي-كبير-حلب->

SANA: <https://sana.sy/en/?p=147576>

Tass: <http://tass.com/society/965306>

³⁰ The Kadyrov Foundation is run by the family of Ramzan Kadyrov, a Russian-loyalist Chechen leader. Chechens are reportedly forced to contribute to Kadyrov projects from their earnings.

³¹ <https://arabic.rt.com/features/924092-#جهود-ترميم-جامع-أموي-كبير-حلب->; <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/syria-great-mosque-of-aleppo-ummayad-rebuild-the-city-a7858846.html>; <https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/is-reconstruction-of-aleppo-s-grand-mosque-whitewashing-history-1.728715>; <https://www.yahoo.com/news/helping-retake-aleppo-russia-seeks-rebuild-105752371.html>

Yahoo/AFP:

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/helping-retake-aleppo-russia-seeks-rebuild-105752371.html>



A video still of numbered stones replaced at the al-Umayyad Mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



A video still of workers replacing stones at the al-Umayyad Mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



A video still of organized damaged stonework at the al-Umayyad Mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



A video still of debris outside of the mosque's surrounding walls (SANA; September 25, 2018)



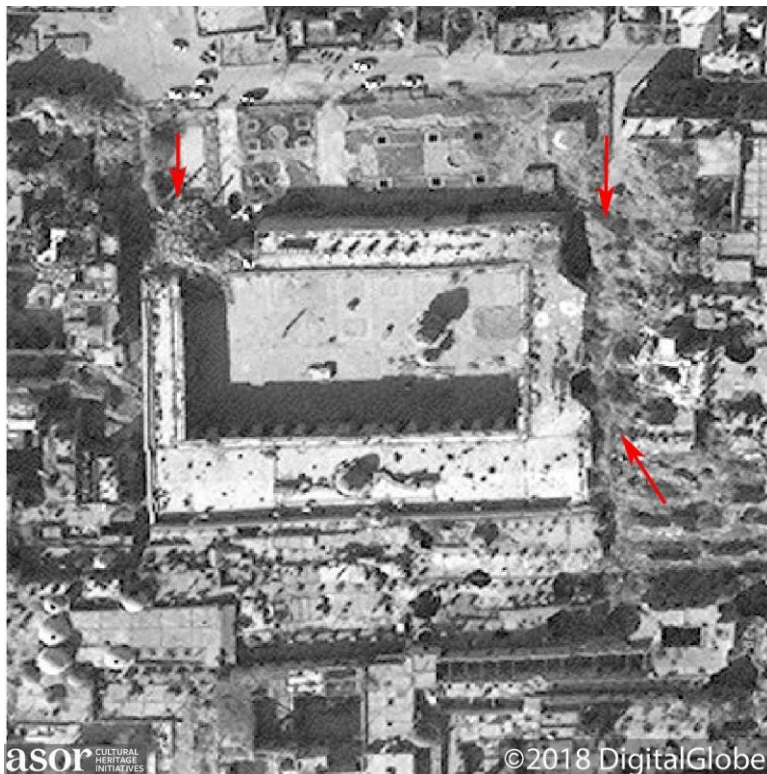
A video still of debris clearance outside of the mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



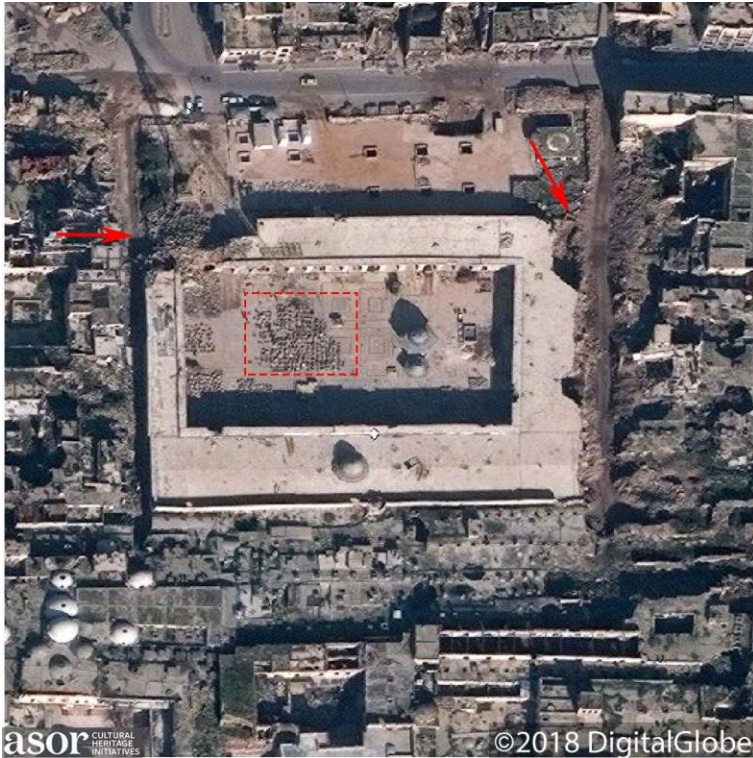
A video still of debris clearance outside of the mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



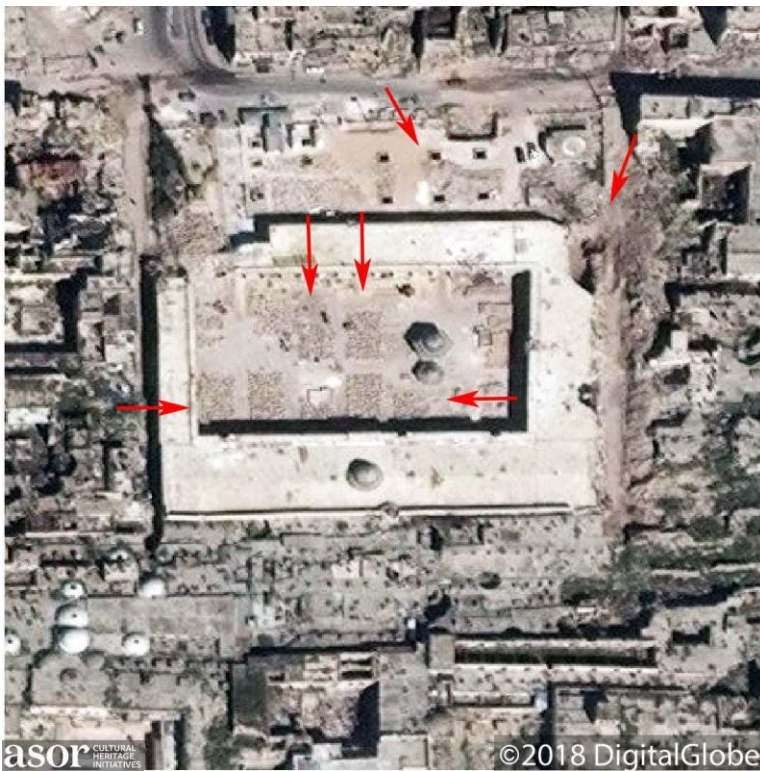
A video still of the current condition of the al-Umayyad Mosque (SANA; September 25, 2018)



Al-Umayyad Mosque prior to significant reconstruction and clean-up efforts, with red arrows indicating areas of severe damage to the structure (©2018 DigitalGlobe; October 23, 2017)



Clean-up efforts, with rubble organized into piles, visible as indicated by a red box and red arrows (©2018 DigitalGlobe; January 29, 2018)



Continued clean-up and restoration efforts visible as indicated by red arrows (©2018 DigitalGlobe; March 17, 2018)



The most recent visible clean-up efforts at al-Umayyad Mosque (©2018 DigitalGlobe; August 31, 2018)

SHI 18-0138 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 2, 2018

Site Name: St. George Monastery and Church (كنيسة مار جرجيس)

Location: Maaloula, Rif Dimashq Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Greek Melkite Church. Worship services at the church are still conducted in Aramaic, the language believed to have been spoken by Jesus.

Site Date: Unknown.

Heritage Response Summary: Reconstruction work began at the St. George Monastery and Church.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: On September 6, 2018 R&U Videos released a video report on the restoration of St. George Church. According to the leader of restoration team, Fadi Shahim, full restoration is estimated to take one year.³² Shahim asserts that the staircase that leads to the bell tower has already been repaired.³³ Video footage shows restoration work taking place on the roof and bell tower of the church, and clean-up efforts taking place in the church's interior.

Description of Previous Damage to Site: In December 2013, the al-Qaeda affiliate al-Nusra Front (currently known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) captured the town of Maaloula. According to Fadi Shahim, the leader of the restoration team, members of al-Nusra Front vandalized and looted anything seen to have value from the church. According to Shahim, the forces "grabbed an ancient bell and [vandalized] the faces of saints on the icons by scratching them out." An ancient icon of St. George that hung at the church's entrance was also stolen; its whereabouts remain unknown.³⁴ Marble slabs were reportedly stolen from the church's floor and altar. The church was then set on fire.

A description from the website *Christians in Syria* stated that the Islamist opposition group left "the exterior of the building largely intact; only the dome was hit by shelling. However everything inside the church was severely damaged by the Islamist fighters. They destroyed ancient icons: burning them or defacing them; others were stolen. The magnificent iconostasis was almost entirely burnt. A statue of Jesus in the courtyard was knocked down, and a statue of the church's patron saint St. George was mutilated. All of the church's electrical equipment was stolen. The monastery was looted, destroyed and burnt."³⁵ Other churches in the area were also damaged and vandalized by al-Nusra Front. Pro-regime forces recaptured the village in April 2014.

Operating Organization: Parishioners, Syrian Christian communities, and the Russian Orthodox Church provided funding for the reconstruction.³⁶ Local Syrians, including members of the church,

³² <http://tass.com/society/1019621>

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ *ibid.*

³⁵ <https://www.christiansofsyria.org/locations/saint-george-melkite-monastery-and-church-in-maaloula/>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iZQXZAtnJU>; <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/04/29/russias-catholic-and-orthodox-to-rebuild-churches-in-syria/>

are involved in the reconstruction. Russian experts are reportedly acting as advisers on the project.³⁷

Pattern: Site management: reconstruction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor heritage response activity at the St. George Church, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites undergoing reconstruction/clean-up activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Abouna: <http://en.abouna.org/ar/content/syrian-christian-community-maaloula-we-are-rising-again>

Catholic Church Herald: <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/04/29/russias-catholic-and-orthodox-to-rebuild-churches-in-syria/>

Christians of Syria: <https://www.christiansofsyria.org/locations/saint-george-melkite-monastery-and-church-in-maaloula/>

R&U Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iZQXZAtnJU>

TASS: <http://tass.com/society/1019621>



A video still of repair work at the St. George Church (R&U Videos; September 6, 2018)

³⁷ <http://tass.com/society/1019621>

SHI 18-0139 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 24, 2018

Site Name: al-Mutanabbi House

Location: Khan al-Wazir, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Located near the Aleppo Citadel, the house is built of “Shahba stone...and consists of two storeys with wooden doors, decorated arched windows and a courtyard sheltering a fountain.” The house is believed to have been the home of the famous poet Abu At-Tayyib Ahmad ibn Al Husayn Al Mutanabbi (aka al-Mutanabbi) for nine years during his lifetime. Syrian Researcher, Dr Mohammad Qija, rediscovered the house after over a decade of research and received permission to turn the house into a museum about the poet. However, the project was put on hold when conflict erupted in Syria.³⁸

Site Date: Islamic Period.

Heritage Response Summary: The building of a museum began in Aleppo.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: Following the end of fighting in Aleppo, the Syrian Ministry of Culture is building a museum dedicated to the Arab poet al-Mutanabbi. Work on the site is estimated to take 2 years.³⁹

See associated incident reports in this monthly report for other heritage sites that were reconstructed in Aleppo Governorate: **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0132, SHI 18-0133, and SHI 18-0137.**

Description of Previous Damage to Site: Previous damage to the exact site where this museum was to be built is unknown. However, the Khan al-Wazir, where the museum will be located, was heavily damaged during the conflict.

Operating Organization: Syrian Ministry of Culture.

Pattern: Site management.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor heritage response activity at al-Mutanabbi House, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites undergoing response activity.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

Al-Arab: <https://alarab.co.uk/بيت-المتنبي-في-حلب-يعود-متحفا-يؤرخ-للأدب/>

Aramco World: <http://archive.aramcoworld.com/issue/198704/the.lure.of.aleppo.htm>

³⁸ <https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/10th-century-poet-is-a-special-guest-1.686092>

³⁹ <https://alarab.co.uk/بيت-المتنبي-في-حلب-يعود-متحفا-يؤرخ-للأدب/>

The National:

<https://www.thenational.ae/arts-culture/10th-century-poet-is-a-special-guest-1.686092>

SHI 18-0140 Heritage Response Report

Report Date: September 27, 2018

Site Name: Tell Beydar

Location: Hasakah Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Tell Beydar is a multi-period archaeological mound divided into a 25-hectare high mound and a 50-hectare low mound. The low mounded area dates to the Late Bronze Age and Early Iron Age. The European Centre for Upper Mesopotamian Studies and the DGAM started work in 1992, and to date 16 seasons have been completed. The site is best known for its Early Bronze Age architectural complex in the area of the high mound and an archive of pre-Sargonic cuneiform tablets.⁴⁰

Site Date: Early Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Early Iron Age, Hellenistic.

Heritage Response Summary: ATPA released a report on a “third stage” of restorations at Tell Beydar.

Heritage Response Source (organization) and Description of Work: On August 28, 2018 the Antiquities and Tourism Protection Authority in the Jazirah Canton (ATPA) began the “third stage” of restorations at Tell Beydar.⁴¹ The restoration period lasted for 20 days. The ATPA released multiple status reports between August 28 and September 27, 2018. On September 27, the ATPA reported that it had placed 12 new identification panels at the site that provide detailed information.⁴²

Description of Previous Damage to Site: In September 2014, reports and photographs surfaced that unknown persons had removed brick paving and destroyed signage at the site (**ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0026** in **Weekly Report 5**).

In September–October 2017 the Authority of Tourism and the Protection of Antiquities (ATPA) for the Jazirah Canton reported that restoration at the site had been completed. Restored sites included: Temple A, Temple B, Temple C, Temple D, “workshops,” and the Hellenistic Palace. For more information on restoration at Tell Beydar, see **ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 17-0183** in the **October 2017 Monthly Report**.

Operating Organization: The Authority of Tourism and the Protection of Antiquities (ATPA) in the Jazirah Canton.

Pattern: Site management: reconstruction/clean-up.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor heritage response activity at Tell Beydar, as well as the condition of other cultural heritage sites undergoing reconstruction/clean-up activity.

⁴⁰ <http://www.beydar.org/>

⁴¹ <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/begin-the-third-step-of-the-restoration-of-tell-baydar/>

⁴² <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/identification-panel-at-tell-baydar/>

Sources:

Online Reporting:

ATPA:

August 28, 2018: <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/begin-the-third-step-of-the-restoration-of-tell-baiydar/>

August 30, 2018: <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/some-photos-of-the-restoration-of-tell-baiydar-site/>

September 6, 2018: <https://www.facebook.com/rxd.Antiquities/videos/676010476113277/>

September 27, 2018: <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/identification-panel-at-tell-baydar/>

Beydar: <http://www.beydar.org/>

Jason Ur, Field Projects: <https://scholar.harvard.edu/jasonur/pages/tell-beydar>



The ATPA released a photograph of Tell Beydar upon announcing the third step of restoration (ATPA; August 28, 2018)



The ATPA released a photograph of Tell Beydar upon announcing the third step of restoration (ATPA; August 28, 2018)



Photographs show restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; August 30, 2018)



Photographs show restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; August 30, 2018)



Photographs show restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; August 30, 2018)



Photographs show restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; August 30, 2018)



A video still of restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



A video still of restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



A video still of restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



A video still of restoration efforts at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



A video still of Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



A video still of paving stones at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)



Panel locations at the Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 27, 2018)

Acropolis Palace 2450 BC

The Acropolis Palace of Tell Beydar is situated on top of a terrace in the N of the Acropolis, widely visible in the middle of the town.

It was built - 2500 BC (phase 1). Later on the ground plan was altered twice. In phase 2, two storage wings were added to the E and NW. Later the floors in the W sector were raised and new rooms were built on a higher level (phase 3). What you see is phase 2, which was chosen for restoration.

When the palace was built, Nabada was probably an independent city state with its own ruler. Later the city became part of the Kingdom of Nagar. The triangular audience room in the W of the palace fell out of use, since Nabada had no independent ruler anymore.

The building served four purposes: (1) it was the centre of the administration for Nabada and its district, (2) the city authorities hosted visitors here, (3) valuable goods were stored, and (4) it served as residence of the city government. Only the reception suite and the storage wings are preserved. The administration and the private apartments were located at the 2nd floor, which was destroyed.

Qeralgeha bajêr ya jorîn 2450 BZ :

Qeralgeha Tî Bêder dikeve loteya bejê bakur ji Ekropolis de/Bajarê jorîn/ku bi awayekî fireh û xuyakirî dikeve nava bajêr de.

Ev qeralgeh sala 2500 BZ hatîye avakirin û li ser qonaxan: Ya yekem dizayna qeralgehê ya jêrîn du caran hatîye guhertin di çexa pêşîn de, ya duyemîn du alî ji odeyên rojhilat û rojava lê zêde bûn . ya sêyemîn tiştekî di qonaxa duyem de derbas bûn hatin nûjenkirin lê di demeka paşîn re bilindahiya wê di aliyê rojava de bilind bû . ji bilî ku hin odeyên din ji di asteke bilind de hatibûn avakirin .

Tê texmînkirin ku di dema avakirina qeralgehê de ebada bajarêk an jî bajarokeke serbixwe û xwedî hukmekî serwer bû .

Piştê ev bajar bû bejêk ji Qeralgeha Nagar .

Odeya qerel ya sêgojeyî ku dikeve rojavayê qeralgehê de . piştî destjêrmayîna Nabada û bîdestxistina wê ji serweriya serbixwe re nehatiye bikaranîn .Lê ev avahî jî bo çar amcandan hatîye avakirin:

- 1.Navenda rêveberiyê ji Nebada û herîma wê re .
- 2.serweriyên bajêr û serdêrên wê di wir de bûn .
- 3.Yek ji aliyên ji boyî nixumandina bargeyên giranbûha bû.
4. çihê avakirina serweriya navendî bû . tenê aliyê mvanxane û bargehan maye.

قصر المدينة العلوي: ٢٤٥٠ ق م.

بتمركز قصر تل بيدر في أعلى المنصبة في الجزء الشمالي من الأكروليس (المدينة العلوية)، المتوضع بشكل واسع ومرتب في وسط المدينة .

بني القصر حوالي ٢٥٠٠ ق م (المرحلة ١) . حيث تغير مخطط القصر الأرضي مرتين في القرن الثاني (لما بعد) . وفي المرحلة (٢) كان قد أضيف جناحين من الغرف في القسم الشرقي والشمالي الغربي .

وفي مرحلة لاحقة ارتفعت الطوابق في الجزء الغربي بالإضافة إلى أن هناك غرف جديدة كانت قد بنيت في مستوى أعلى (في المرحلة ٣) . وقد تم اختيار كل ما نشأه في المرحلة (٢) كتزييم ومن المحتمل أنه عند بناء القصر كانت نابادا مدينة أو ولاية مستقلة لها حكمها الخاص .

بعد ذلك أصبحت المدينة جزءاً من مملكة ناعار .

ويعتقد أن غرفة العرش المشيئة الشكل في القسم الغربي من القصر لم تستعمل منذ أن عززت نابادا وأصبح لها حكماً مستقلاً .

أسلعت البناء لأربعة أهداف:

- ١- أسلعت كمركز الإدارة لنابادا وقلمها .
- ٢- تمركزت سلطات المدينة والوزار هنا .
- ٣- لمخصص أحد الأحيمة لتخزين المنتجات التامة .
- ٤- تمركزت إقامة الحكومة المدنية - ولم يبق غير جناح الاستقبال وأحيمة الخزان .

وقد تمركزت الإدارة ومقطعات خاصة في الطابق الثاني الذي نهتم عن طريق المت .




An example of one of the panels installed at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 27, 2018)



A video still of a completed information panel at Tell Beydar (ATPA; September 6, 2018)

Heritage Timeline

- September 27, 2018 *European Interest* published an article titled “**EPP: Stop the Black Market of Cultural Goods.**” The European Parliament has established a common definition for cultural goods in the context of import and a certification system to guarantee the legality of the imported cultural goods.
<https://www.europeaninterest.eu/article/epp-stop-black-market-cultural-goods/>
- September 26, 2018 **The Institute for Digital Archaeology** published an article titled “**Reconstructed Palmyrene Arch Reaches Washington D.C.**” The 3D reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch from Palmyra was constructed on the National Mall in Washington D.C.
<http://digitalarchaeology.org.uk/washington-dc>
- September 25, 2018 **Heritage for Peace** published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage- 25 September 2018.**”
<http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-25-september-2018/>
- *China.Org* published an article titled “**Palace Museum to Help Restore Ancient Syrian Relics.**” The Palace Museum in China signed an agreement with the Syrian Ministry of Culture to restore Syrian artifacts.
http://www.china.org.cn/arts/2018-09/25/content_63998169.htm
- September 24, 2018 *SANA* published an article titled “**Architectural Teams Continue Restoration Works of Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo.**” Syrian specialists are restoring the Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo. They are working on the reconstruction of the walls in the same style as was constructed.
<https://sana.sy/en/?p=147509>
- September 22, 2018 The **DGAM** published an article titled “**Opening of the Work of the Hungarian-Syrian Joint Archaeological Mission in Qala’at al-Hosn.**” Syrian and Hungarian specialists are carrying out restoration works at Krak des Chevaliers.
<http://dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=177&id=2427>
- September 19, 2018 **Syrians for Truth and Justice** published an article titled “**Excavations in Kafriya and al-Fu’ah Following Rebel’s Control.**” Reportedly Hayat Tahrir al-Sham is sponsoring 500 excavations in Idlib. They reportedly take 50 percent of the findings.
<https://www.stj-sy.com/en/view/759>

- The ATPA published an article titled “**Identification Panel at Tell Baydar**”. The ATPA placed an identification panel at Tell Baydar in English, Kurdish, and Arabic giving information on the site. <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/identification-panel-at-tell-baydar/>
 - The ATPA published an article titled “**Project of account the damages at the excavated archaeological sites in Al Jazira**”. The ATPA documented damage at Seker al-Ahemer. <http://desteya-shunwaran.com/ar/project-of-account-the-damages-at-the-excavated-archaeological-sites-in-al-jazira/>
- September 12, 2018
- The **German Foreign Ministry** published an article titled “متحف الفن الإسلامي في برلين يدعم إعادة إعمار حلب (The Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin supports the reconstruction of Aleppo).” The Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin is supporting the reconstruction of cultural heritage sites in the city of Aleppo, including the al-Umayyad Mosque. <https://almania.diplo.de/ardz-ar/-/2135786>
- September 11, 2018
- Heritage for Peace** published its bi-weekly newsletter titled “**Damage to Syria’s Heritage- 11 September 2018.**” <http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-to-syrias-heritage-11-september-2018/>
- September 10, 2018
- Sputnik News* published an article titled “**Syria Begins Reconstruction of UNESCO World Heritage Castle Near Homs.**” Syrian and Russian specialists are carrying out restoration works at Krak des Chevaliers. <https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201809101067888209-syria-begins-homs-unesco-heritage-reconstruction/>
- *CTV news* published an article titled “**Paris’s Arab World Institute Lets Viewers See Palmyra in Virtual Reality Exhibit.**” Digital reconstructions of Palmyra will go on display on October 10, 2018 at the Paris Arab World Institute. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/paris-s-arab-world-institute-lets-viewers-see-palmyra-in-virtual-reality-exhibit-1.4086744>
- September 8, 2018
- The Syria Times* published an article titled “**Authorities Find Stolen Archaeological Artifacts In Abandoned Terrorist Hideout North of Homs.**” A group of artifacts from archaeological sites were found in a hideout. <http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/archaeology/38093-authorities-find-stolen-archeological-artifacts-in-abandoned-terrorist-hideout-north-of-homs>

September 4, 2018

Vice News published an article titled “**Where Do ISIS-Looted Antiquities Go?**” (by Kathleen Caulderwood). The FBI is asking for help in tracking down ISIS looted antiquities from Syria and Iraq.
https://www.vice.com/en_au/article/9akeae/where-do-isis-looted-antiquities-go

September 2, 2018

TASS published an article titled “**Restoration of 13th century Christian church begins in Syrian town of Maaloula.**” The restoration of the St. George Church in Maaloula began on September 2.
<http://tass.com/society/1019621>