

# ASOR Cultural Heritage Initiatives (CHI): Planning for Safeguarding Heritage Sites in Syria and Iraq<sup>1</sup>

NEA-PSHSS-14-001

Weekly Report 26–27 — February 9, 2015

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## Key Points

- Comparison of the DGAM's *Initial Damage Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage Quarterly Reports 2014* with the Syrian Human Rights Committee's *13<sup>th</sup> Annual report on human rights in Syria 2014*, which details deliberate attacks on religious sites, reveals underreporting by the DGAM in connection with 1) SARG attacks on religious heritage, 2) damage to Sunni heritage, and 3) damage in certain Syrian governorates, especially **Rif Dimashq**. For more details, see the special section below summarizing the results of a recent report by the Syrian Human Rights Committee. (pp. 7–9)
- Digital Globe satellite imagery reveals large-scale looting and earthmoving activity with heavy machinery at the Bronze Age mound of **Tell Bi'a** in Raqqa Governorate, starting in October 2013, as well as ongoing looting. [SHI Incident Report SHI 15-023](#). (pp. 75–76)
- Increased combat in Damascus, Aleppo, and the Dead Cities region of Idlib Governorate has led to a marked increase in the rate of damage in these areas.
- **ISIL** militants deliberately destroyed library collections in **Mosul's Central Library system**. [IHI Incident Report IHI 15-017](#) (pp. 77–78)

## Heritage Timeline

February 7–9, 2015

APSA posted a short report and video documenting the condition of the Al-Mouhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo. [SHI Incident Report SHI 15-022](#).  
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1117-aleppo-al-mouhtaseb.html>

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

- February 7, 2015 *Al-Araby al-Jadid* No. 59: 12–13 published the article “Cities of the Forgotten” [The Dead Cities] detailing damage to sites in the limestone massif area. [in Arabic]  
<http://www.alaraby.co.uk/investigations/c1bc79d5-83db-4721-a143-d5687e46461b>
- February 6, 2015 The **DGAM** announced a symposium titled “The Reality of the Syrian Antiquities during the Crisis,” taking place at the Damascene Hall in the National Museum of Damascus on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 10:00. <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1590>
- February 5, 2015 News media reported that three **missiles** hit areas **near the Umayyad Mosque in the Old City of Damascus**. According to personal communication, one rocket also landed within the Great Court of the mosque. The incident is apparently part of a broader campaign of rocket attacks by **Jaysh al-Islam** (Islam Army), a group based in the eastern Ghouta region. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-019**.  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/05/us-mideast-crisis-syria-damascus-idUSKBN0L90J120150205>  
<http://abcnews.go.com/International/International/damascus-syria-wakes-massive-rocket-attacks/story?id=28743309>  
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/damascus-hit-rockets-fired-islam-army-insurgents-state-media-n300611>  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/mortar-lands-near-ancient-syrian-mosque-20131129174038319409.html>
- The **DGAM** announced an upcoming **training session, hosted by UNESCO**, within the framework of the Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Heritage project. This training session is dedicated to building capacity for the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. It will take place **February 9–13, 2015, in Beirut**.  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1587>
  - The **DGAM** posted three photos showing the **partial destruction of the upper part of the Damascus Citadel Northwest Ayyubid Tower**, the oldest of the twelve surviving towers. The destruction is linked to an explosion that ripped apart a bus near the Souq al-Hamidiyeh on February 1. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-020**.  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1589>

- **APSA** posted eight photos showing damage to the Ottoman-era police center in the Qastel Harami neighborhood of Aleppo. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-021**.  
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1115-castel-harami-police-2.html>
  - **ISIL** Information Office, Nineveh Province, Iraq, posted a video showing a sequence of deliberate destructions of built heritage deemed “*shirk*.” [https://archive.org/details/ezalt\\_shirk](https://archive.org/details/ezalt_shirk)
- February 4, 2015
- APSA** posted nine images and a video documenting damage to the **Great Mosque of Jobar** in Jobar, a suburb of Damascus (Rif Dimashq Governorate). **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-017**.  
<http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/rif-dimashq/monuments/1108-dimashq-jobar-mosque-of.html>
- **APSA** posted a summary report on Syria’s Cultural Heritage (January 2015). <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/apsa-rapports/1111-apsa-report-january-2015.html>
- February 3, 2015
- The **DGAM** reported **damage to five archaeological sites in Hasakah Governorate**. The damage includes illegal building and bulldozing at Tell Abu Rassen, bulldozing at Tell Harmal, vandalism and stolen excavation equipment at Tell Fakhariya, tunnel digging at Tell Safok, and illegal excavations using a bulldozer at Tell al-Fadghmy. **SHI Incident Report SHI 15-018**  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1584>
- February 2, 2015
- Heritage for Peace** published its newsletter *Damage to Syria’s Heritage 02 February 2015*. <http://www.heritageforpeace.org/syria-culture-and-heritage/damage-to-cultural-heritage/previous-damage-newsletters/damage-syrias-heritage-02-february-2015/>
- January 28, 2015
- British politicians** are calling for a stricter **crackdown on the illicit trafficking of antiquities** out of Syria and Iraq. MP’s leading the campaign (which should generate a debate in the House of Commons within the next few weeks) include **Robert Jenrick**, the Conservative MP for Newark and former director at Christies, as well as **Hugo Swire**, the Conservative MP for East Devon and former director of Sotheby’s.  
<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/MP-leads-campaign-to-stop-Islamic-State-funding-terror-through-trafficking/36987>

- **MP Jenrick** has been liaising with US politicians, as well as publishing an editorial in *The Art Newspaper* calling IS destruction “the most tragic and outrageous assault on our shared heritage that any of us have seen.”  
<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/No-one-group-has-done-more-to-put-our-heritage-at-risk-than-Islamic-State/36985>
- The *Art Newspaper* published an article calling for “a new generation of **Monuments Men**” for the US Army.  
<http://www.theartnewspaper.com/articles/Wanted-a-new-generation-of-Monuments-Men-for-US-army/36935>
- There are reports of a **tunnel bomb** detonated in the **Old City of Aleppo in the vicinity of the Umayyad Mosque**. Sources (Shahba Press Agency) claim that the explosion damaged the Waqf Library and the “Women’s Chapel,” and the DGAM confirmed that the explosion caused the collapse of the eastern exterior wall of the Umayyad Mosque. *SHI Incident Report SHI 15-015*  
<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1579>
- In the **Qastal al-Harami neighborhood of Aleppo**, there are reports of damage to the roof and minaret of the Mosque el-Ibn, the Khan al-Basha, Bardabak (Qastal al-Harami) Mosque, and Mosque Senkler. *SHI Incident Report 15-016*.
- A source in **Nineveh province** claimed that ISIS has resumed bombing historical buildings and monuments in the province, noting that it has allegedly blown up the **historic wall in the center of Mosul**. The source told “Shafaq News” that “ISIS terrorists have destroyed large parts of the historic wall of Nineveh in Tahrir neighborhood in the left coast of the Mosul area, using large quantities of explosives.” **Subsequent information has indicated that these reports were false.**  
<http://www.iraqnews.com/iraq-war/isis-detonates-large-parts-nineveh-historical-wall/>

January 25, 2015

**Jabhat al-Nusra** issued a statement enumerating their intention to impose **Sharia law** in occupied portions of **Aleppo Governorate**, including the mandating of dress for women and the demolishing of shrines.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.aiwa.co.il/?mod=articles&ID=4267>

## Military and Political Context

### The main theaters of military operations immediately prior to and during the reporting period in Syria were:

-Jabhat al-Nusra, Ahrar al-Sham, and the FSA-Affiliated Southern Front seized the regime Brigade 82 base near Sheikh Miskin (Daraa Governorate) following a rebel announcement of new operations targeting remaining regime positions in the area and along nearby supply routes (1/24).<sup>3</sup>

-Kurdish YPG Forces and locals of Kobane/Ayn al-Arab established control of the city, driving out ISIS forces that had been occupying the town<sup>4</sup> (1/26). YPG also seized two villages south of the town.<sup>5</sup>

-In Lattakia Governorate, Islamic factions shelled locations in Mashquata, Ayn al-Bayda, al-Bahlolleyyi, Jeb al-Hasan, and Saqqobin (1/27).

- In Idlib Governorate, regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the towns of al-Bara in Jebel Zawiya, Hzarin, Ma'erret Mater, and Abo al-Dohour. Warplanes carried out 3 raids on the village of al-Talb and 2 raids on the villages of Om Jarrin and al-Hamidiyyi. Regime forces supported by NDF clashed with Jabhat al-Nusra, rebel, and Islamic battalions in the vicinity of al-Fo'ah town, which is inhabited by Shi'a (1/27).<sup>6</sup>

-In Aleppo, SARG forces and Islamic battalions clashed in al-Ashrafia neighborhood. A tunnel bomb was detonated in the Old City of Aleppo (1/28).<sup>7</sup> Clashes took place between regime forces backed by Hezbollah and non-Syrian fighters against Jabhat al-Nusra and Islamic battalions around the Air Forces Intelligence building in Jamia al-Zahra neighborhood, Mysalon neighborhood, and the al-Brej area (1/29).<sup>8</sup>

-Violent clashes erupted between Jabhat al-Nusra and (moderate) Harakat Hazzm in the town of Daret Ezzehin the west of Aleppo (1/29).

-Under continued pressure from Jabhat al-Nusra and other Islamist groups, Harakat Hazzm joined Jabhat al-Shamiyya (the Levant Front), a coalition of insurgent groups which formed in December as an attempt at unity among factions in Syria that have often fought each other, as well as the Syrian army and hardline jihadist groups (1/31).<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Institute for the Study of War Report for January 20-26 2015, J. Cafarella and J. Sauerhoff.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=26372>

<sup>5</sup> Institute for the Study of War Report for January 20-26 2015, J. Cafarella and J. Sauerhoff.

<sup>6</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights January 27 2015

<sup>7</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights January 28 2015

<sup>8</sup> Syrian Observatory for Human Rights January 29 2015

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/31/us-mideast-crisis-syria-aleppo-idUSKBN0L408G20150131>

- According to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights,<sup>10</sup> violent clashes broke out between regime forces and Islamic battalions near the citadel in the Old City of Aleppo (2/2).
- Rocket attacks by Jaysh al-Islam (Islam Army), based in eastern Ghouta, killed at least five civilians and wounded at least 35 in five different areas (including the area of the Umayyad Mosque in the Old City) within the city of Damascus (2/5).<sup>11</sup>
- In retaliation for the execution of a captured Jordanian pilot, Jordan launched new airstrikes against IS in Raqqa and near Hassakah (2/5).<sup>12</sup>

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

- Security forces in Ramadi imposed a curfew in preparation for an operation to clear the city of ISIS. Security forces then advanced into southern Ramadi as well as neighborhoods outside the city. Parallel efforts were undertaken to the east in Sjariya (1/26).
- A source in Mosul reported that ISIS is seeking bids to have a trench dug around the city in preparation for an assault by anti-ISIS forces. Heavy munitions were fired on the city by anti-ISIS forces including Peshmerga. Following the attacks, ISIS published a video sensationalizing the civilian deaths caused by the bombardment, prompting Masoud Barazani, President of Iraqi Kurdistan, to order the Peshmerga to stop shelling and to accuse ISIS of using the citizens of Mosul as 'human shields' (1/22).
- A source from Jazeera and Badia Operations Command stated that security forces cleared the southern part of Barwana sub-district, south of Haditha District, killing 22 ISIS members in the process (1/26)<sup>13</sup>.
- ISIS launched an attack on Iraqi border guards on the Iraq-Jordan border, but was repelled by border guards and joint air support (1/26).<sup>14</sup>
- International airstrikes heavily targeted ISIS operations in and around Mosul, destroying several positions (1/27–1/28).

<sup>10</sup><http://syriahr.com/en/2015/02/the-islamic-battalions-launch-some-shells-while-aerial-bombardment-take-place-on-areas-in-aleppo-2/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/05/us-mideast-crisis-syria-damascus-idUSKBN0L90J120150205>, <http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=27539>, <http://abcnews.go.com/International/International/damascus-syria-wakes-massive-rocket-attacks/story?id=28743309>, <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/damascus-hit-rockets-fired-islam-army-insurgents-state-media-n300611>, <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2013/11/mortar-lands-near-ancient-syrian-mosque-20131129174038319409.html>

<sup>12</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/05/jordan-airstrikes-isis\\_n\\_6620844.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/02/05/jordan-airstrikes-isis_n_6620844.html), <http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/05/world/isis-jordan/>

<sup>13</sup> Institute for the Study of War Report 1/26-1/27, prepared by ISW Iraq Team and J. Sauerhoff.

<sup>14</sup> Institute for the Study of War Report 1/27-1/28, prepared by ISW Iraq Team, S. Adnan and J. Sauerhoff.

- ISIS launched a large-scale ground assault on Peshmerga positions south and southwest of Kirkuk, supported by SVESTs and VBIEDs. These positions represent the first line of defense for Kirkuk and are also located in close proximity to the North Oil Company oil fields. The assault was joined by attacks on Peshmerga positions to the west of Mosul and in Samarra (2 SVESTs), Jalula (1 SVEST), Baghdad (2 IEDs), and Ramadi (2 SVBIEDs) (1/29–1/30).<sup>15</sup>

## **Key Heritage Recommendations and Actions**

SHI is in the process of gathering resources for more detailed reporting on the status of built heritage in urban areas affected by ongoing combat (e.g. Aleppo).

## **13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Syrian Human Rights Committee**

In January 2015, the Syrian Human Rights Committee (SHRC) published its 13<sup>th</sup> Annual report on human rights violations in Syria, including a section on the targeting of religious heritage. The report does not include the large number of shrines and tombs destroyed by combat and targeted by deliberate destructions that have been documented by other sources monitored by ASOR CHI. Hence, the report especially overlooks the targeting of modern Sufi religious heritage by Salafi-Jihadi groups such as ISIL and Jabhat al-Nusra across much of Syria. In large part, this gap stems from the report's focus on places of worship frequented regularly by religious communities and targeted for this reason, noting "the Army's [i.e., SARG's] willingness to kill and injure as many civilians as possible" (164). In contrast, the destruction of modern Sufi heritage is covered in DGAM reporting, while the DGAM, conversely, does not consistently report damage to more modern Sunni religious sites. The vast majority of SHRC reported incidents represent SARG deliberate attacks on Sunni mosques and minarets. We may conclude that these deliberate attacks are linked to SARG's belief that these mosques are used for anti-regime proselytizing. The SHRC report provides data on 80 mosques and 2 churches targeted in Syria in 2014. The report erroneously counts 82 mosques, 2 churches, and 1 shrine (p. 164). Nearly all of these religious sites were intentionally targeted. The report notes:

- 6 historically significant structures that suffered damage in 2014 (the actual number is far higher as reported by ASOR CHI in its recent 180-Day report). Most in-country heritage reporting (DGAM, APSA, etc.) covers damage to historically prominent sites.
- 15 cases of mosques being targeted during Friday prayers
- 9 cases of car bombings near mosques — 7 occurred as people exited the mosques after Friday prayers.

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<sup>15</sup> Sinan Adnan and ISW Iraq Team. Iraq Situation Report: 1/29–30, 2015. Institute for the Study of War.

Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the SHRC data according to Syrian governorate, which contrasts with DGAM reporting of heritage damage to religious sites (i.e., deliberate combat damage and intentional destructions). DGAM 2014 reporting included virtually no damage incidents of any kind in Rif Dimashq, especially to religious heritage. Moreover, the DGAM documented damage to Sunni mosques inflicted by SARG deliberate attacks, 1) only when said mosque was historically prominent/well known and 2) only in general terms without referencing regime involvement. This DGAM bias stands out markedly given the assiduous documentation of damage inflicted to Sufi religious sites. In sum, the sectarian nature of the Syrian conflict strongly biases reporting practices with regard to religious heritage.

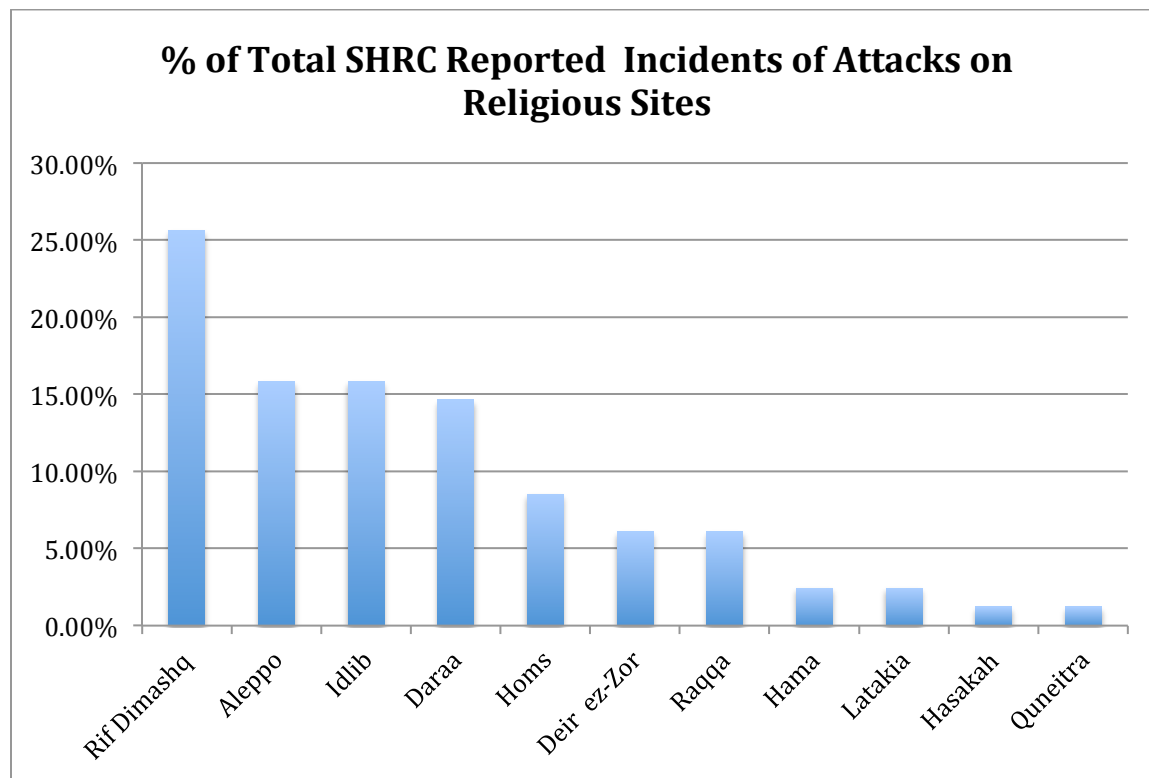


Figure 1. Attacks on religious sites (80 mosques and 2 churches) in Syria in 2014 by governorate, as reported by SHRC. The spatial pattern contrasts with reporting by the DGAM on more modern religious heritage; in particular, the DGAM has focused on Sufi shrines and tombs, while the SHRC has focused on Sunni places of worship targeted by SARG (especially in Rif Dimashq), which DGAM has seemingly ignored.

**Sources**

DGAM. 2014. *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises. January 3, 2014.* Damascus.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2014b. *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises: July 1 – September 30, 2014.* Damascus.



\_\_\_\_\_. 2014c. *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises: October 1 – December 31, 2014*. Damascus.

The Syrian Human Rights Committee. 2015. *The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Human Rights in Syria (January 2014–December 2014)*, p. 170. [www.shrc.org](http://www.shrc.org).

## INCIDENT REPORTS: SYRIA

**SHI 15-015**

**Report Date:** January 29, 2015

**Site Name:** The Umayyad Mosque (Great Mosque) in Aleppo (SHI #192) and al-Mekteba al-Waqfya (Waqfya Library) (SHI #3951).

**SHI Site Number(s):** 192, 3951

**Date of Incident:** January 28, 2015

**Location:** UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ancient City of Aleppo, west of the citadel

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:**

According to Ross Burns,

The site of the [Umayyad] 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).<sup>16</sup>

The Umayyad Mosque has been the site of urban conflict for the last several years of Aleppo's occupation, and has suffered from its use as a field of combat. The mosque burned in March 2013, and in April of that year the minaret was destroyed by explosives in an effort to unseat snipers.

The Waqfya Library was established in 1926, and renovated for 10 years in 1996–2006. It is home to thousands of rare manuscripts and books, as well as catalogues for volumes stored elsewhere in the city, and includes a museum of scientific artifacts.<sup>17</sup>

**Site Date:** 11th century AD (Umayyad Mosque) and 20th century AD (Waqfya Library)

**Source of Destruction:** Sources (DGAM and Syrian Observatory for Human Rights) report a tunnel bomb detonated early on 1/28.

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<sup>16</sup> Burns, Ross. 2012. Aleppo حلب — itinerary 03a, the Great Mosque and Madrasa Halawiye. *Monuments of Syria* website. <http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/aleppo-03-the-great-mosque-and-madrasa-halawiye/>

<sup>17</sup> Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation Newsletter 11, Autumn 2012.

A source in Aleppo Governorate told SANA that members of “Takfiri” terrorist organizations booby-trapped a tunnel under the wall of the Umayyad Mosque with high-explosive materials and that they then detonated it, causing the collapse of the eastern exterior wall of the Mosque.<sup>18</sup>

According to SHI Sources (APSA) the Waqfya library was completely gutted by fire in early March 2013.

Accurate reporting on this incident is complicated by ongoing fighting in the area. Clashes continue between regime forces backed by Hezbollah and Islamist battalions in the Old City of Aleppo and in other areas within the northwestern part of the city (SOHR, January 30, 2015).

**Pattern:** Long-term pattern of tunnel bombing in the Old City of Aleppo. Shahba Press Agency in their Facebook posting about the incident attributed the detonation to Assad’s forces, which is anomalous since tunnel bombing has been associated with rebel forces attempting to destroy regime positions in the city; however, the mosque is controlled by rebel groups in a contested area immediately adjacent to territory to the north controlled by SARG.

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

#### **Sources:**

##### Online Reporting:

DGAM Website: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/?d=314&id=1579>

SANA: <http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=26583>

PressTV: <http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2015/01/28/395110/Takfiris-damage-mosque-in-north-Syria>

##### Scholarly:

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

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.sana.sy/en/?p=26583>



The area damaged by the tunnel bomb (bottom right), photographed from the citadel in 2010 by Brandt Maxwell. ([http://www.geographylists.com/syria\\_aleppo2.html](http://www.geographylists.com/syria_aleppo2.html))



The Waqfya Library of Aleppo before the conflict (right) and after the fire in March 2013 (left). (APSA)



The area struck by the tunnel bomb, photographed in 2008 by Julia E.  
(<http://static.panoramio.com/photos/large/115935110.jpg>)

## SHI 15-016

**Report Date:** January 30, 2015

**Site Name:** Buildings in the Qastal al-Harami neighborhood of Aleppo, including Khan al-Basha, Mosque al-Ibn, Bardabak Mosque = Mosque Qastal al-Harami (SHI #176), and Mosque Senkler (Mosque of Senekli?).

**SHI Site Number(s):** 176, 4044, 2 unassigned

**Date of Incident:** January 28–29, 2015

**Location:** Aleppo, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, north of Jadad al-Khandaq in the Almaji Quarter outside the walls of the Old City.

### **Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** Concrete data about these sites has been difficult to procure, as their absolute identifications are still impeded by ongoing urban warfare in Old Aleppo.

Qastal al-Harami Mosque (Bardabak Mosque) is located in the Qastal al-Harami quarter. It was built around a stream of water that flows inside the main facade. The mosque was renovated by the Mamluk prince Bardabek in 1490. All that remains now of the original structure is the facade, the stream, a *turbeh* with the tomb of Bardabek, and the minaret.<sup>19</sup> With regard to the Qastal al-Harami/Bardabak Mosque (Gaube and Wirth no. 519), Gaube and Wirth<sup>20</sup> write, “Anderer Name Moschee Qastal al-Harami oder M. Burdbak, Restaurationsinschrift von 1491, Restaurationsinschrift von 1721, an der Fassade ein Brunnen des Burdbak.”

Gaube and Wirth<sup>21</sup> describe the Mosque al-Ibn (their No. 513) as “An die Wasserleitung angeschlossene Moschee des Sohnes des Stifters der Moschee Kat. 519 (Gazzi, II 423). Restaurationsinschrift von 1369.”

**Site Date:** 13<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> centuries AD to modern

**Source of Destruction:** SHI sources describe an area of destruction connected with ongoing urban warfare in Aleppo in parts of the Old City north of Jadad al-Khandaq. Photographs of the al-Ibn Mosque show relatively minor damage to the minaret and roof, which is confirmed in Digital Globe satellite imagery dated December 15, 2014. The buildings directly west of the Bardabak Mosque appear to have been hit repeatedly by artillery and/or airstrikes.

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<sup>19</sup> ArchNet, citing: Rihawi, Abdul Qader. 1979. *Arabic Islamic Architecture in Syria*. Damascus: Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, p. 184.

<sup>20</sup> Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo. (Ludwig Reichert)*, p. 399.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

**Pattern:** Destruction of built heritage in Aleppo due to combat between regime and rebel forces.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** CHI still requires full and updated reports on these structures, as well as the general condition of built heritage in the Old City of Aleppo. We are collecting data as actively as possible given the in-process nature of events in Aleppo and its surroundings.

**Sources:**

CHI Internal communications

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1105-aleppo-al-ibn-mosque.html>

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1120-aleppo-qastel-hmosque.html>

Scholarly:

Archnet: <http://archnet.org/sites/1814>

Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo. (Ludwig Reichert)*, p. 399.

Sauvaget 1931 no. 102 = Mosque al-Ibn



The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)





The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



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The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



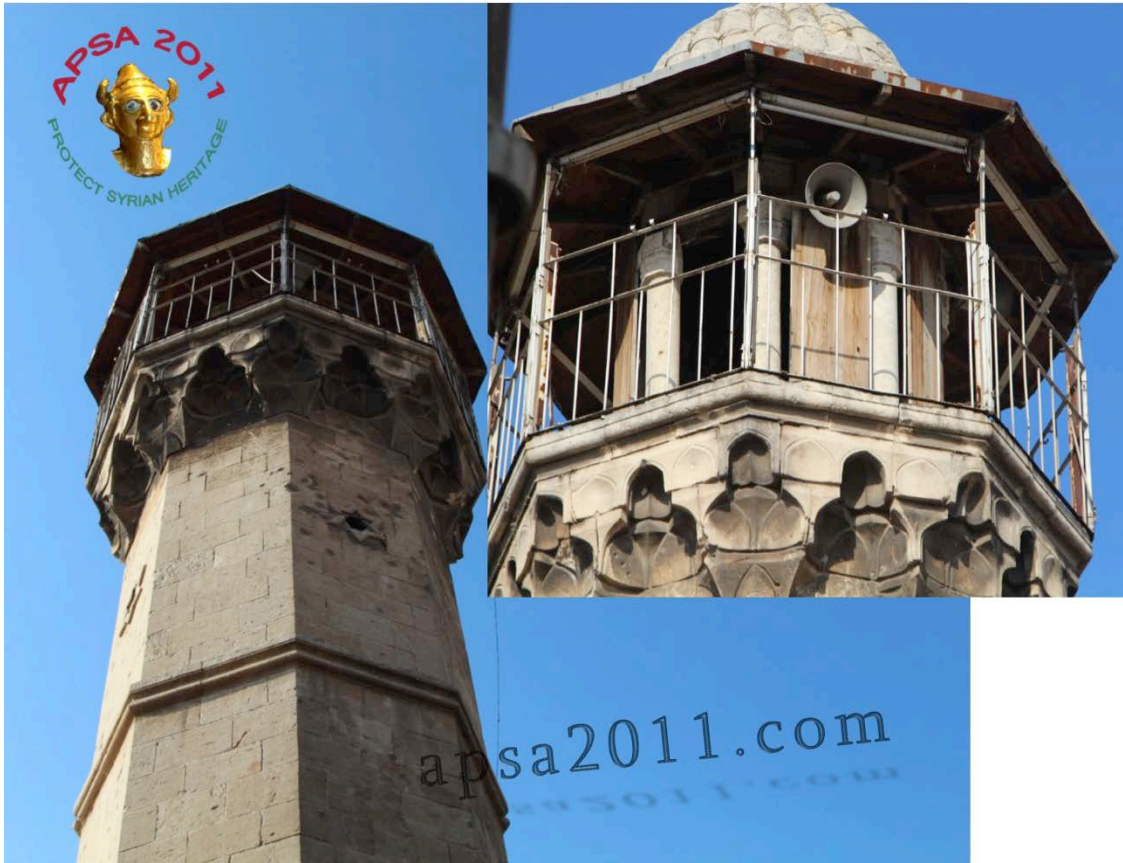
The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the al-Ibn Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Harami) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (AMC)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Harami) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (AMC)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (Shahba Press)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (Halab News)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)





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The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



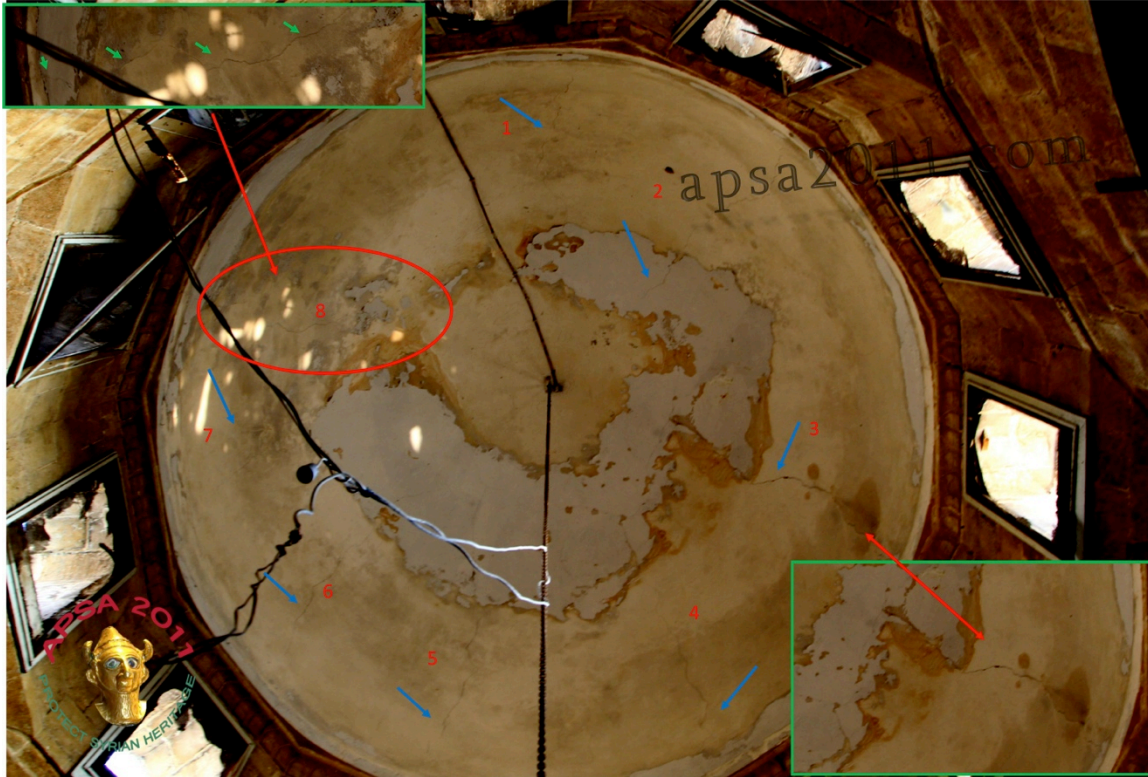
The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (Shahba Press)





The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



The current state of the Bardabak (Qastal al-Haramia) Mosque, Qastal al-Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)

**SHI 15-017**

**Report Date:** February 4, 2015

**Site Name:** Great Mosque of Jobar (Damascus)

**SHI Site Number(s):** Unassigned

**Date of Incident:** Unspecified

**Location:** Jobar Municipality (Rif Dimashq Governorate), 2 km northeast of the old city

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** ASOR CHI is currently seeking sources on this mosque. The APSA photos show standing historical remnants of an early mosque (?) as well as an adjacent modern structure. The extent of damage to the earlier historic remains is difficult to ascertain without pre-conflict documentation.

**Site Date:** Photos seem to indicate at least Ottoman and modern construction.

**Source of Destruction:** Although no explanation was provided by APSA, the photos appear to show evidence for combat damage, as well as possible evidence for looting, vandalism, and/or lack of upkeep.

**Pattern:** Intense urban warfare in the Jobar District of Damascus.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** Comparison of damage reports recently produced by the DGAM (DGAM 2014a, b) compared with non-regime reporting detailing attacks on religious sites (SHRC 2015.) reveals underreporting of heritage damage by DGAM when SARG attacks caused the damage, when Sunni heritage was damaged, and when such damage occurred in certain Syrian governorates, especially Rif Dimashq.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/rif-dimashq/monuments/1108-dimashq-jobar-mosque-of.html>

Scholarly:

DGAM. 2104a. *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises: July 1 – September 30, 2014*. Damascus.

DGAM. 2014b. *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises: October 1 – December 31, 2014*. Damascus.

The Syrian Committee for Human Rights. 2015. *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Human Rights in Syria (January 2014–December 2014)*, p. 170. [www.shrc.org](http://www.shrc.org).



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, exterior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, exterior, minaret (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)

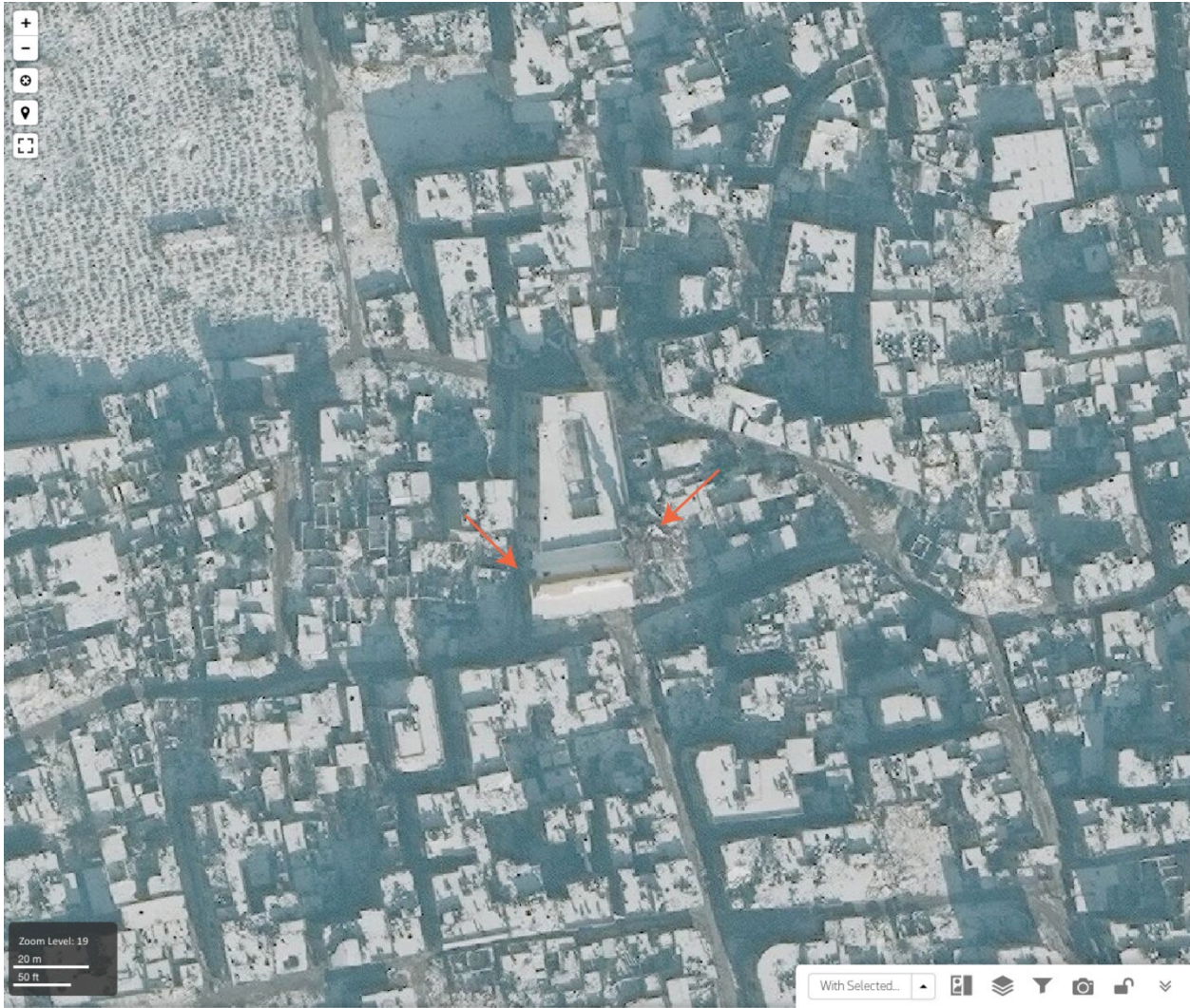


Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, interior (APSA)



Image showing damage to Great Mosque of Jobar, exterior (APSA)





The Great Mosque of Jobar shown after a recent snowfall in a satellite image taken January 10, 2015 (Digital Globe)



The Great Mosque of Jobar shown in a satellite image taken December 28, 2015 (Digital Globe). This area of the Damascus suburbs has suffered greatly for several years.

## SHI 15-018

**Report Date:** February 3, 2015

**Site Name:** Tell Abu Rasayn (SHI 1743; variant spelling Tell Abu Rassen), Tell Harmal, Tell al-Fakhkhariya (SHI 1848; variant spelling Tell Fakhariya), Tell Safok, and Tell Fad-ami (SHI 1770; variant spelling Tell al-Fadghmy)

**SHI Site Number(s):** 1743, 1848, 1770, Unassigned (2)

**Date of Incident:** Unspecified

**Location:** Hasakah Governorate (Tell Abu Rasayn, Tell Harmal, and Tell Fakhkhariya in Ras al-Ayn area; Tell Safok and Tell Fad-ami in Shadady area)

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** Various

**Site Date:** Various

**Source of Destruction:** Illegal building and bulldozing at Tell Abu Rasayn (Tell Abu Rassen), bulldozing at Tell Harmal, vandalism and stolen excavation equipment at Tell al-Fakhkhariya (Tell Fakhariya), tunnel digging at Tell Safok, and illegal excavations using a bulldozer at Tell Fad-ami (Tell al-Fadghmy).

**Pattern:** Widespread looting in Hasakah Governorate as previously documented by the DGAM in their Q4 2014 report *Initial Damages Assessment for Syrian Cultural Heritage During the Crises* October 1–December 31, 2014.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** The most recent Digital Globe satellite imagery for Tell Abu Rasayn dates to September 7, 2013. This image already shows some bulldozing on the western slope of the mound. The only Digital Globe image available for Tell Fadghmy dates to August 26, 2010. Part of its high mound is covered in an Islamic cemetery, and some digging is visible on the low mound. Similar digging is also visible offsite in the area east of the mound near a modern village.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

DGAM website: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1584>

Scholarly:



Illegal buildings and bulldozing at Tell Abu Rasayn (Tell Abu Rassen) (DGAM)



Bulldozing at Tell Harmal (DGAM)



Vandalism within the excavation area at Tell al-Fakhkhariya (Tell Fakhariya) (DGAM)



Tunnel digging at Tell Safok (DGAM)



Illegal excavation using a bulldozer at Tell Fad-ami (Tell al-Fadghmy) (DGAM)



Illegal excavation using a “bulldozer” [bucket loader] at Tell Fad-ami (Tell al-Fadghmy) (DGAM)



Illegal excavation using a bulldozer [SIC] at Tell Fad-ami (Tell al-Fadghmy) (DGAM)

**SHI 15-019**

**Report Date:** February 5, 2015

**Site Name:** Umayyad Mosque (Great Mosque), Damascus (SHI 643)

**SHI Site Number(s):** 643

**Date of Incident:** February 5, 2015

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

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:**

According to Ross Burns:

It is impossible to summarise in a few words the beauty and significance of this building. Few other structures from the ancient world speak so eloquently of the many phases of their history—its beginnings as the temple of the early Roman period dedicated to Jupiter (as successor to the Semitic deity, Hadad, god of the heavens and of fertility); its conversion to the Byzantine church of St John (the Baptist?); its rebuilding in the first years of the eighth century as the great congregational mosque of the new Islamic capital of a world empire; its many vicissitudes since that date including Mongol destruction and the great fire of 1893. It is, in itself, a museum to 3000 years of history and a contemporary place of prayer and contemplation.<sup>22</sup>

**Site Date:** early first millennium BC – nineteenth century AD

**Source of Destruction:** Rocket attacks by Jaysh al-Islam (Islam Army), directed against various areas within Damascus. One rocket appears to have landed within the Great Square of the Umayyad Mosque, and three rockets are reported to have hit near the mosque.

**Pattern:**

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:**

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<sup>22</sup> Burns, Ross. 2014. Damascus دمشق — itinerary 02 the Great Mosque of the Umayyads. *Monuments of Syria* website. <http://monumentsofsyria.com/places/damascus-%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%B4%D9%82-itinerary-02-the-great-mosque-of-the-umayyads/>



**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

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

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

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

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

Scholarly:

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



The Umayyad Mosque of Damascus (Getty Images)



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus



Aftermath of rocket attacks in Damascus (Reuters)

**SHI 15-020**

**Report Date:** February 5, 2015

**Site Name:** Damascus Citadel, Northwest Ayyubid Tower (alternate names: Belvedere Tower, Baybars' Belvedere, Burj al-Tarimeh)

**SHI Site Number(s):** Damascus Citadel = 1135

**Date of Incident:** February 1, 2015

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

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:**

According to Ross Burns:

The Citadel is roughly a rectangle in shape but with the northwestern corner cut off. It is protected by 12 surviving towers ... The works show the features typical of the Ayyubid masons — large rusticated blocks, massive regular towers, vaulted interiors and use of machicolation and arrow slits.

The tower on the northwestern corner where the Akrabani stream cuts off a corner of the quadrilateral was embellished with a high platform from which Baybars could review his troops, hence its title, Belvedere Tower.<sup>23</sup>

**Site Date:** Ayyubid and Mamluk

**Source of Destruction:** The tower was partially destroyed by an explosion that ripped apart a bus near the Souq al-Hamidiyeh.

**Pattern:** Terrorist attacks in Damascus.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** —

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

DGAM: <http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1589>

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<sup>23</sup> Burn, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. London: I.B. Tauris, pp. 107–108.

Scholarly:

Burn, Ross. 2009. *The Monuments of Syria: A Guide*. London: I.B. Tauris. pp. 107–108.



Damage to the Damascus Citadel Northwest Ayyubid Tower (DGAM)



Damage to the Damascus Citadel Northwest Ayyubid Tower (DGAM)



Damage to the Damascus Citadel Northwest Ayyubid Tower (DGAM)

**SHI 15-021**

**Report Date:** February 5, 2015

**Site Name:** Police center, Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo, Almaji District

**SHI Site Number(s):** Unassigned

**Date of Incident:** Unspecified

**Location:** Aleppo (Aleppo governorate)

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** A small late Ottoman structure.

**Site Date:** Ottoman

**Source of Destruction:** APSA posted eight photos showing the current state of the structure. No explanation was provided for the damage, but the photos suggest a mixture of combat damage, looting, vandalism, and neglect. Debris fields and destroyed buildings visible in recent satellite imagery indicate that the Qastel Harami neighborhood has suffered extensive damage during the conflict.

**Pattern:** Urban warfare.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** —

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1115-castel-harami-police-2.html>

Scholarly:



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)





Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



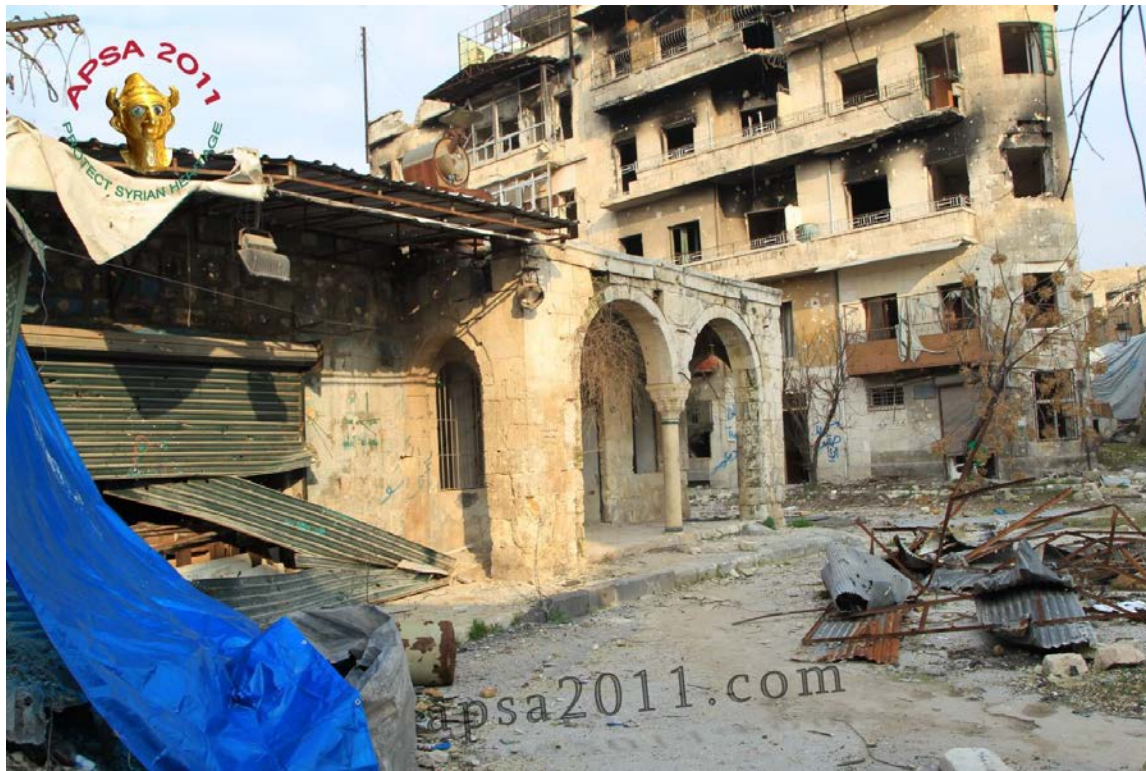
Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)



Police center (Ottoman era), Qastel Harami neighborhood, Aleppo (APSA)

**SHI 15-022**

**Report Date:** February 7, 2015

**Site Name:** Al-Muhtaseb Mosque, Aleppo, Aghyol District

**SHI Site Number(s):** Unassigned

**Date of Incident:** June 25, 2014 — SARG barrel bomb

**Location:** UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ancient City of Aleppo (Aleppo governorate)

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** This Ottoman period mosque is situated in the narrow confines of the Aghyol District just west of the Hanano Military Barracks, the western periphery of which has been hit by major explosions. The mosque has suffered extensive damage. Gaube and Wirth<sup>24</sup> simply list the structure (No. 699) as “Inscription von 1895. Name der Moschee war auch Gazzi (II, 439) nicht bekannt.”

**Site Date:** Ottoman

**Source of Destruction:** APSA posted a video and 25 photos showing the current state of the structure, which was severely damaged by a SARG barrel bomb strike on June 25, 2014. Urban combat in the area of the Hanano Military Base has also impacted this area of Aghyol District.

**Pattern:** SARG barrel bombing of rebel-held building in the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Ancient City of Aleppo.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI continues to monitor Aleppo as one of the program’s highest priorities.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

APSA: <http://www.apsa2011.com/index.php/en/provinces/aleppo/monuments/1117-aleppo-al-mouhtaseb.html>

The Syrian Human Rights Committee. 2015. *13<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on Human Rights in Syria (January 2014–December 2014)*, p. 170. [www.shrc.org](http://www.shrc.org).

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<sup>24</sup> Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo*. (Ludwig Reichert), p. 413.

Scholarly:

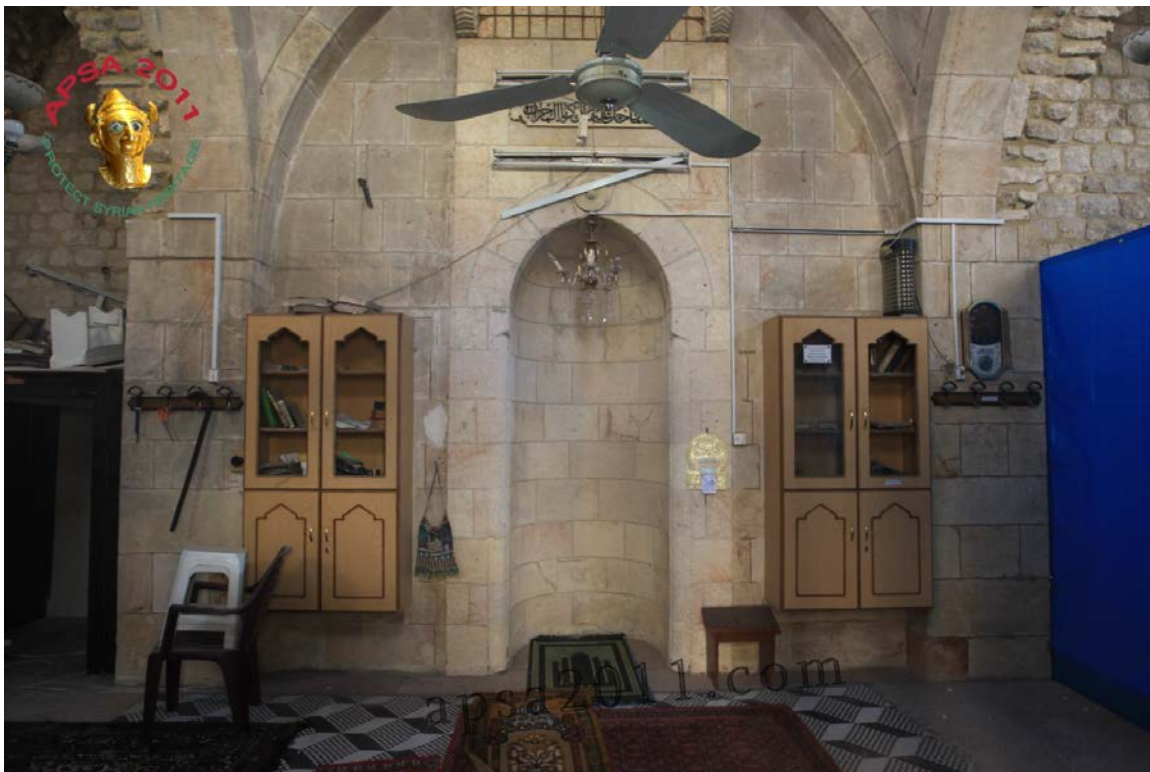
Gaube, Heinz and Eugen Wirth. 1984. *Aleppo*. (Ludwig Reichert), p. 413.



Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Interior of the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Interior of the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Interior of the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Interior of the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)





Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



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Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



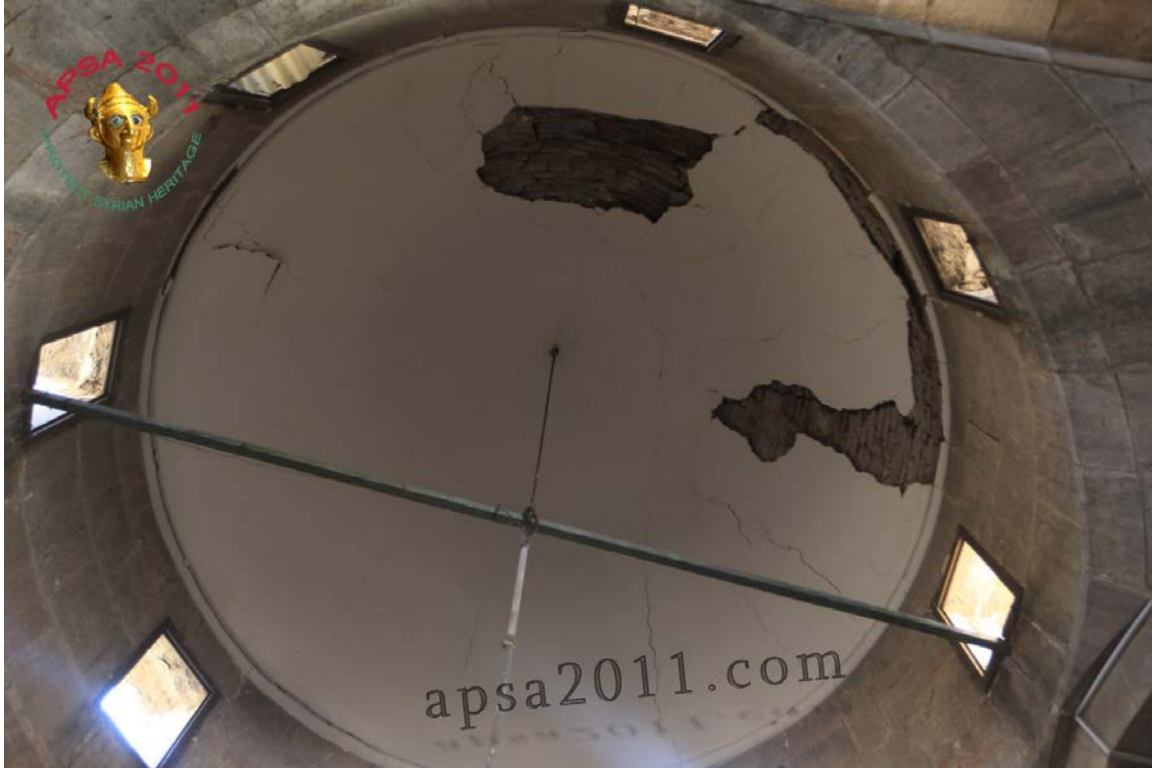
Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



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Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)



Damage to the Al-Muhtaseb Mosque in Aleppo (APSA)

**SHI 15-023****Report Date:** February 9, 2015**Site Name:** Tell Bi'a (ancient Tuttul)**SHI Site Number(s):** SHI 1051**Date of Incident:** Recent looting and looting dating back to 2013**Location:** Raqqa, eastern outskirts of the modern city**Coordinates:****Site Description:** Ancient Tuttul was a major urban center in the Bronze age situated near the confluence of the Balikh and Euphrates rivers. The city was a transregional cult center of the god Dagan and part of the kingdom of the Amnanum with a predominant Amorite ethnos.**Site Date:** Early Bronze Age, Middle Bronze Age, Late Bronze Age, Hellenistic, Roman, Islamic**Source of Destruction:** The site is suffering from two areas of industrial-scale looting on the southeast and southwest peripheries of the site, which has been documented by several sources (e.g. UNITAR 2014: 134, 38–139). The UNITAR report follows the looting up to October 9, 2014. New smaller scale looting is visible in a recent satellite image dated February 2, 2015 in association with the seasonal encampments of transhumant pastoralists. The site is obscured by cloud cover in the most recent image dated February 7, 2015.**Pattern:** Industrial-scale and widespread, small-scale looting in the north and east of Syria.**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** ASOR CHI has designated Raqqa a high priority for monitoring and future remediation efforts.**Sources:**Online Reporting:Scholarly:

UNITAR 2014. *Satellite-based Damage Assessment to Cultural Heritage Sites in Syria*. (UNITAR). <http://www.unitar.org/unosat/chs-syria>



Recent Digital Globe satellite image (2/2/15) of Tell Bi'a (ancient Tuttul) in Raqqa Governorate showing major areas of known looting and earthmoving and an area of recent looting spatiotemporally associated with the cold-season occupation of parts of the site by transhumant pastoralists. New back-dirt piles moved from the site with machinery are also visible just to the west of this image within the modern settlement. (Digital Globe)

## INCIDENT REPORTS: IRAQ

IHI 15-017

**Report Date:** January 31, 2015

**Site Name:** Central Library of Mosul

**Date of Incident:** January 2015, precise date unknown

**Location:** Mosul (Ninawa governorate)

**Coordinates:**

**Site Description:** The Central Library of Mosul is a system of multiple repositories of research volumes, archives, rare books, maps, and other collections. The main repository is the Central Library, which holds the primary research collection for all of Mosul University. Other libraries across the university's many colleges also have specialized libraries. There is also a municipal "Central Library" separate from the university system that houses rare texts. Online reporting and personal accounts claim that both of these libraries, as well as other smaller collections, were vandalized and destroyed. Sources informed ASOR CHI that ISIL burned books on philosophy, history, geography, and science.

**Site Date:** multiple

**Source of Destruction:** Looting and vandalism by ISIL

**Pattern:** On January 31, 2015 the Associated Press reported that sources living near the Central Library witnessed ISIL operatives entering the Central Library sometime in early January and removing approximately 2,000 books on poetry, philosophy, children's literature, sports, health, and culture, leaving behind Islamic-related texts and burning the remaining collection, which allegedly contained Iraqi newspapers dating to the 20th century, Ottoman-era maps and manuscripts, and donations from Maslawi families. AP reports that ISIL then broke into the Mosul University library and burned books on science and culture in front of students. An unnamed Mosul University professor of history claims that ISIL has been vandalizing and destroying libraries in the city since December, specifically noting extreme damage to the Mosul Museum library, the Sunni Muslim Library, and the library of the Latin Church and Monastery of the Dominican Fathers. Local sources also alleged that ISIL has been using Syrian-registered refrigeration trucks to transport stolen rare books and ancient texts belonging to Mosul-area libraries, supposedly to be sold on the black market.

**Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures:** Further verification is required to determine exactly which, if any, municipal, private, or university library collections in Mosul were looted and vandalized.

**Sources:**

Online Reporting:

Associated Press:

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

UNESCO: [http://www.unesco.org/new/en/iraq-office/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco\\_alarmed\\_by\\_news\\_of\\_mass\\_destruction\\_of\\_books\\_in\\_mosul](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/iraq-office/about-this-office/single-view/news/unesco_alarmed_by_news_of_mass_destruction_of_books_in_mosul)

Scholarly:

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