

Heritage Timeline

September 29, 2016

The New York Review of Books published an article titled "Ancient Syrian Site: A Different Story of Destruction" (by Hugh Eakin). The article discusses the timeline of damage to Palmyra and the need for better efforts in mitigating this destruction.
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2016/09/29/ancient-syrian-sites-palmyra-destruction/>

Ekathimerini published an article titled "A guardian of Syria's imperiled cultural heritage" (by Giota Mirtsioti). The European Center of Byzantine and Post-Byzantine Monuments (EKBMM) has worked with Syrian students and scholars for almost a decade to study and document early Christian mosaics at the National Museum in Damascus. The resultant database contains 8 Monumen(n)-4h decy

UNESCO published an article titled "**UNESCO's Culture** Conventions more important than ever." The Second Meeting of the Chairpersons of the Committees of UNESCO Culture Conventions at UNESCO Headquarters on September 26, 2016 addressed two key themes: safeguarding cultural heritage and cultural diversity in times of conflict and the role of the Conventions in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1562>

September 26, 2016

The Conversation published an article titled "Your tourist snaps can help preserve threatened heritage sites for the future." Curious Travellers is a project launched by researchers from the universities of Bradford, St. Andrews, Nottingham Ningbo China, and Birmingham, alongside international heritage consultancy MOSPA, that aims to preserve a record of sites and monuments in 3D digital form using compilations of tourist snaps.

<http://theconversation.com/your-tourist-snaps-can-help-preserve-threatened-heritage-sites-for-the-future-65610>

September 22, 2016

The International Justice Project held an event titled "Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Conflict: Promoting Accountability and the Rule of Law."

<http://www.internationaljusticeproject.com/join-us-in-dc-sept-22-2016-destruction-of-cultural-heritage-in-2016>

2016

September 18, 2016

SNHR published a post titled "Government forces targeted Tal Hassan mosque in Tal Hassan village in Aleppo governorate, September 17." A mosque was damaged in an airstrike. [ASOR CHI In16](#)

4. Damascus Governorate:
On September 16, clashes erupted between SARG and opposition forces in the Damascus suburb of Jobar in some of the fiercest fighting of the week since the announcement of a ceasefire.²¹
5. Hasakah Governorate:
On September 15, clashes between Kurdish YPG forces and ISIL militants occurred in two villages near the city of Shaddadi, resulting in casualties on both sides.²²
6. Quneitra Governorate:
On September 14, Arab tribal groups in the city of Ras al-Ain protested against Turkish intervention in Syria.²³
On September 15, Islamist rebels from the Qadissiyat al-Janoub Coalition threatened to attack the Druze-populated town of Hadir should the residents refuse to support the Islamists' fight against SARG forces.²⁴
7. Raqqa Governorate:
On September 16, the US-led coalition announced that a September 7, 2016 'precision strike' had targeted and killed an ISIL senior leader known as Dr. Wa'il.²⁵
8. Rif Dimashq Governorate:
On September 21, a Syrian warplane crashed in the area of Eastern Qalamoun. The cause of the crash was unclear.²⁶

Other Key Points:

During the reporting period, the US-led coalition conducted airstrikes in the areas of Abu Kamal, Ayn Isa, Deir ez Zor, Manbij, Mar'a, Shaddadi, Raqqa, and Washiyah.²⁷

On September 14, US officials stated that 40 American special-operation soldiers were now working with Turkish forces as they clear out a stretch of land across the Turkish-Syrian border region.²⁸

On September 18, French officials accused the Syrian government as being the principal violator of the Russian and US brokered ceasefire. New violence in Syria has threatened the ceasefire.²⁹

²⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/isis-militants-attack-regime-held-oilfield-syrias-homs/>

²¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/clashes-near-damascus-threaten-syrias-fragile-cease-fire/2016/09/16/479cff7e-7b7b-11e6-8064-c1ddc8a724bb_story.html

²² <http://aranews.net/2016/09/35-isis-militants-killed-clashes-kurdish-ypg-forces-hasakah/>

²³ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/arab-tribes-hasakah-protest-turkish-intervention-syria/>

²⁴ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/syrian-islamist-factions-threaten-attack-druze-minority-quneitra/>

²⁵ <http://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/947094/coalition-strike-kills-senior-isil-leader/source/GovDelivery>

²⁶ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-damascus-idUSKCN11R12Y>

²⁷ See: "US DOD News Release Military Strikes Hit ISIL in Syria, Iraq". *Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve*. News Release No: 947752, 947856, 948069, 949254

On September 21, a report from The Washington Post discussed ongoing resistance efforts inside the city of Mosul, including opposition graffiti appearing in the city. In addition, ISIL spokesman Abu Iman al-Iraq was reported to have deserted ISIL in Mosul, fleeing the city with his family.³⁶

On September 22, the US military carried out testing to investigate if chemical agents had been used in an ISIL rocket attack that fell near the Qayyarah Airbase.³⁷

On September 25, ISIL militants reportedly executed dozens of prisoners inside the Mosul Central Prison.³⁸

On September 27, US-led Coalition airstrikes struck an ISIL base located on the road between Mosul and the district of Khazir, killing at least 28 ISIL militants. Kurdish Peshmerga shelling against ISIL positions in the town of Bashiqa, killed another 11 militants.³⁹

On September 30, a US-led Coalition announced the death of ISIL Deputy Military Chief Abu Jannat, during a targeted airstrike in Mosul. Abu Jannat was reportedly responsible for the manufacturing of chemical weapons.⁴⁰

2. Kirkuk Governorate:

On September 20, Iraqi forces made up of Iraqi soldiers and government allied militias launched a new operation to recapture the town of Shirqat from ISIL militants.⁴¹

On September 21, Iraqi forces captured as many as 12 villages surrounding Shirqat and advanced towards the center of the town.⁴²

On September 28, the Iraq Oil Ministry announced that ISIL militants had lost control over their oil wells across the country after they were expelled from Shirqat.⁴³

3. Baghdad Governorate:

On September 27, a series of bombings in Baghdad killed at least 17 people and wounded dozens more. ISIL claimed the attack.⁴⁴

On September 30, two explosions occurred in a market in Sadr City, killing three people and wounding three more. No group took immediate responsibility for the attack.⁴⁵

³⁶ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle-east/signs-of-panic-and-rebellion-in-the-heart-of-islamic-states-so-called-caliphate/2016/09/20/55421e4a-7520-11e6-9781-49e591781754_story.html ; <http://aranews.net/2016/09/another-jihadi-leader-deserts-isis-ranks-nineveh/>

³⁷ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37436152> ; <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-chemical-idUSKCN11R2RB>

³⁸ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/islamic-state-executes-75-prisoners-northern-iraq/>

³⁹ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/dozens-isis-militants-killed-coalition-airstrikes-peshmerga-shelling-near-mosul/>

⁴⁰ <http://aranews.net/2016/09/prominent-jihadi-leader-killed-us-strike-north-iraq-official/>

⁴¹ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-shirqat-idUSKCN11Q01Q> ; <http://www.aina.org/news/20160920134414.htm> ; <http://www.wsj.com/articles/iraqi-forces-launch-attack-on-shirqat-1474376703> ; <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/iraq-forces-launch-operation-isil-held-town-160920154300904.html>

⁴² <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-shirqat-idUSKCN11R150>

⁴³ <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-oil-idUSKCN11Y1UA>

⁴⁴ <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/civilians-killed-powerful-suicide-attack-baghdad-160927093232445.html> ; <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-37484912>

⁴⁵ <http://rudaw.net/english/middleeast/iraq/300920165>

Incident Reports: Syria

SHI 16-0057 UPDATE

Report Date: September 21, 2016

Site Name: al-Nur Mosque (

SHI 16-0149

Report Date: September 15, 2016

Site Name: Qalaat Rahbah (); al-Zahra Mosque ()

Date of Incident: September 15, 2016

Location: al-Mayadin, Deir ez Zor Governorate, Syria

Site Description:

Qalaat Rahbah - According to Ross Burns,:

"The first fort was constructed on this spot by Malik Ibn Tauk during the caliphate of al-Mamun (813-33) but was destroyed by an earthquake in 1157. A new castle was built by al-Mujahid Assad al-Din Shirkuh, an amir of Homs (r 1186-1240) and uncle of Saladin, as part of the latter's grand design for the unification of Syria under a single Muslim ruler (a goal largely realised in 1154). This was part of a program of castle-building, all in the style common to Islamic fortifications, in areas of central Syria controlled by Homs (Qaalat Shmemis, Qaalat Shirkuh,). In 1264, the Mamluk ruler, Baybars, appointed an Egyptian as governor. As the successive Mongol invasions ravaged Syria (1260-1400) the fort's usefulness lapsed in the face of damage inflicted by invaders.

SHI 16-0150

Report Date: September 16-27, 2016

Site Name:

Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral ()
Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery
al-Tawba Mosque ()

Date of Incident: September 16-27, 2016

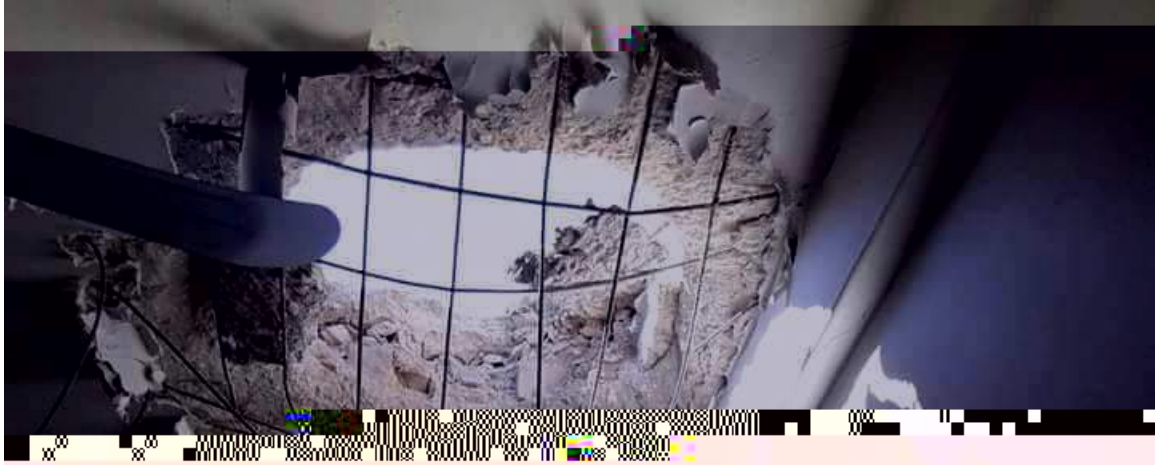
Location:

Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Church - al-Aziziyah neighborhood,
Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
Cemetery - Salahaddin neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria
al-Tawba Mosque - Bab al-Nayrab neighborhood, Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, Syria

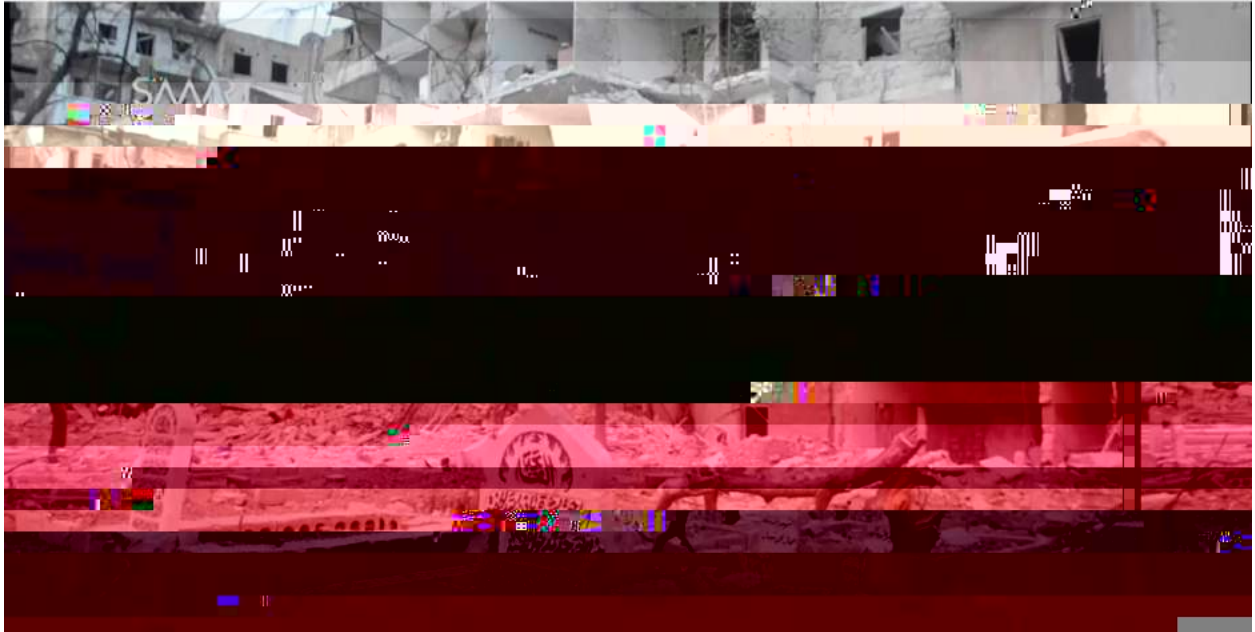
Site Description:

Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral - opened in 1970 CE. The Syrian Catholic Archbishopric of Aleppo o, A 792 A 71ñBah neighborhood,

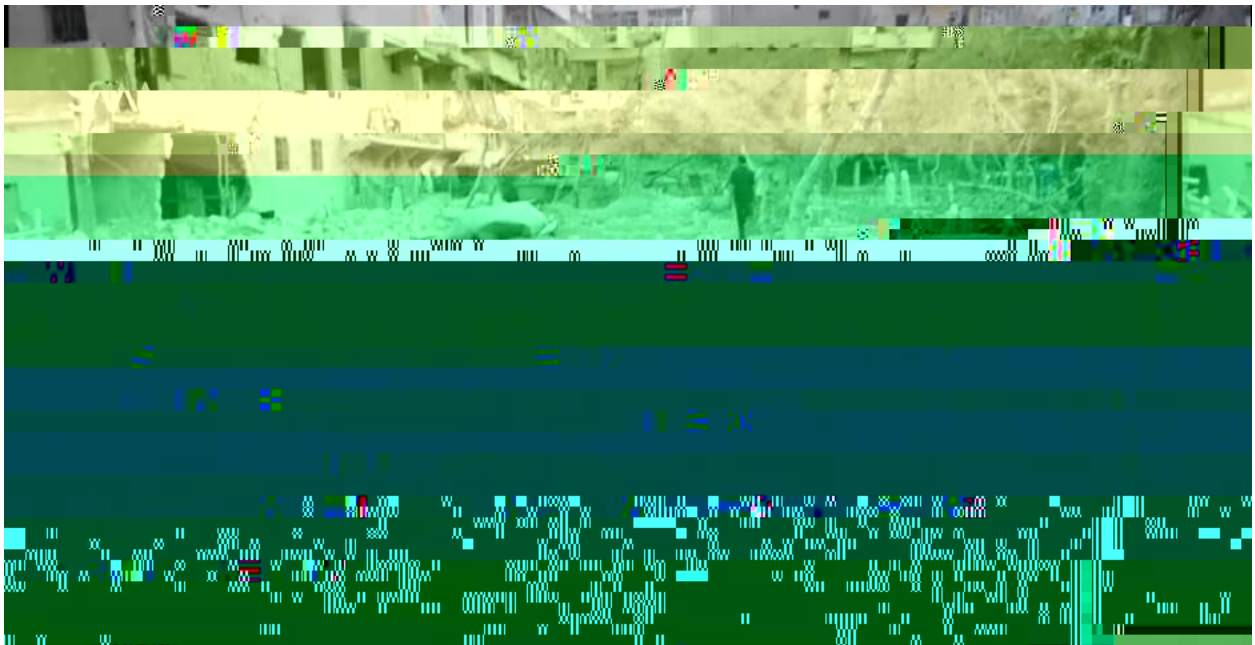
On September 26, 2016 Halab News reported that large sections of al-Tawba Mosque were destroyed as



Damage to Our Lady of the Assumption Syrian Catholic Cathedral (SNHR; September 16, 2016)



Video still of damage to the Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery (SMART News Agency; September 20, 2016)



Video still of damage to cemetery in the Salahaddin Neighborhood Cemetery (SMART News Agency; September 20, 2016)



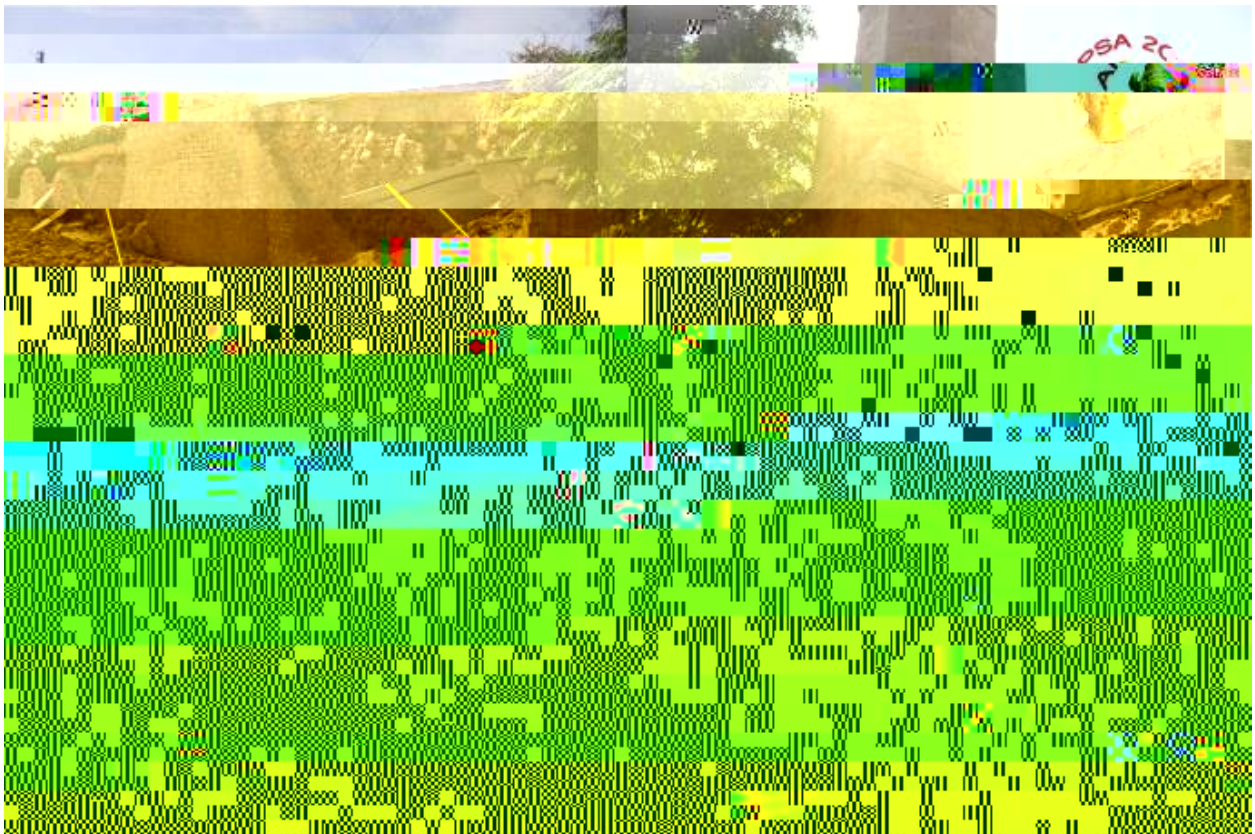
Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to north wall and entrance of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



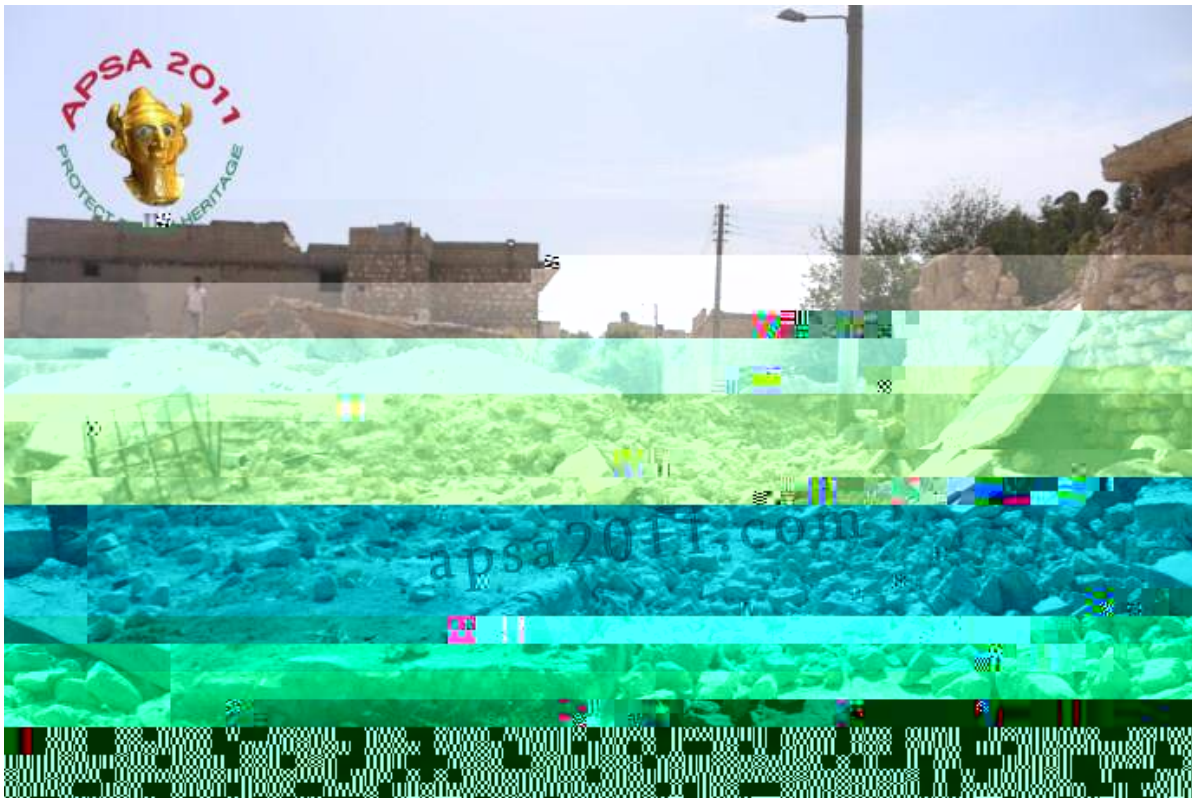
Severe damage to north wall and entrance of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



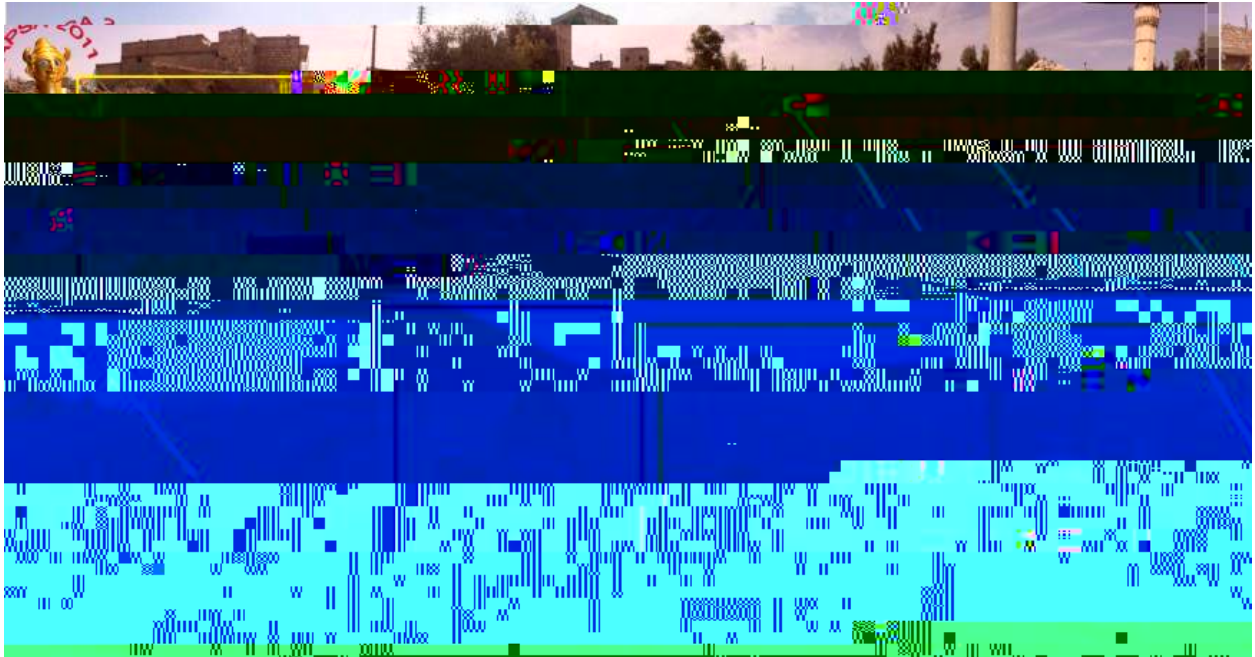
Severe damage to eastern wall of al-Tawba Mosque (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Severe damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to southern section of al-Tawba Mosque, including destroyed dome (APSA; October 6, 2016)



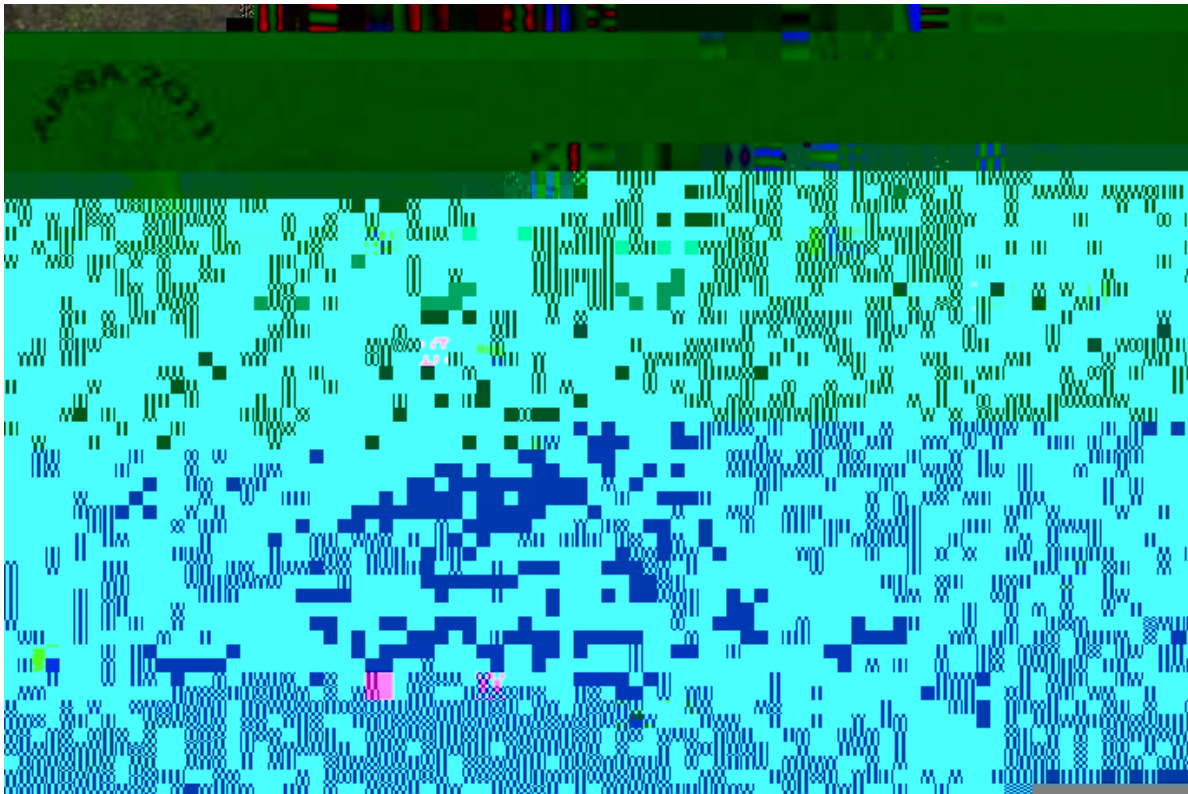
Severe damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing northwest (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to southern section of mosque and 'before' photographs (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south (APSA; October 6, 2016)



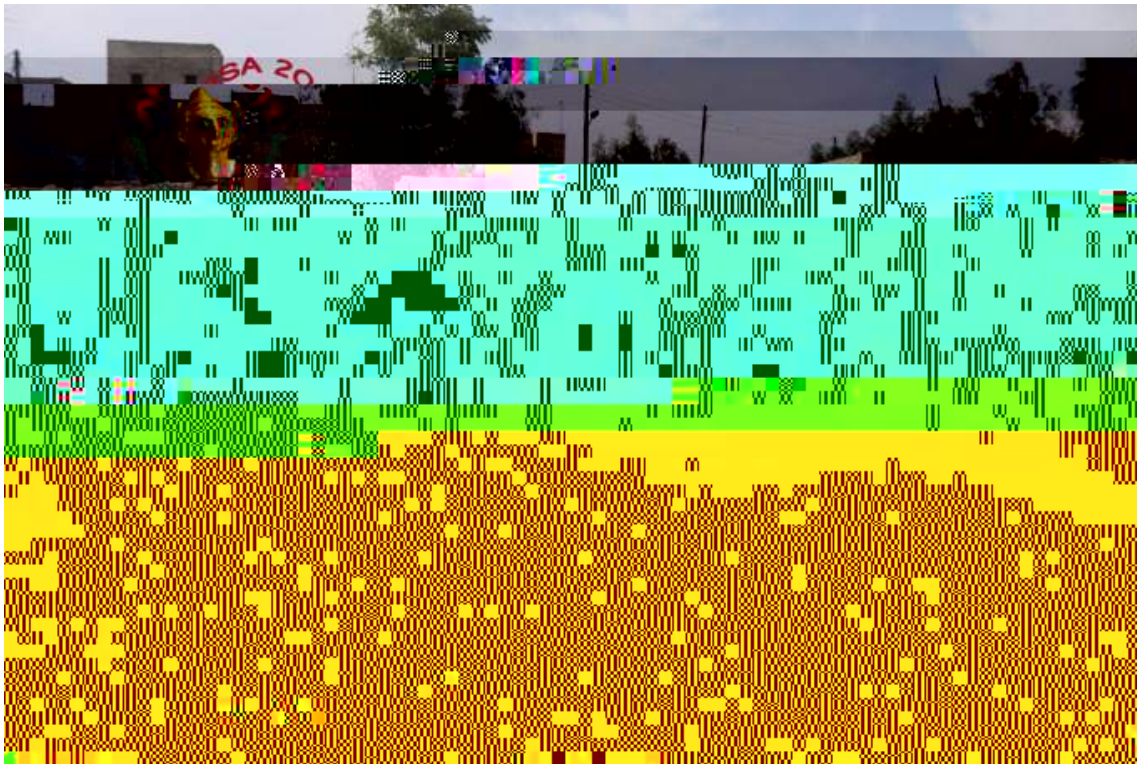
Damage to interior of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing west (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing northwest (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing south, and 'before' photographs of interior (APSA; October 6, 2016)



Damage to courtyard of al-Tawba Mosque, facing north (APSA; October 6, 2016)

SHI 16-0151

Report Date: September 16, 2016

Site Name: Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque ()

Date of Incident: September 16, 2016

Location: Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib Governorate, Syria

Site Description: Mosque in the city of Khan Sheikhoun.

Site Date: Unknown, likely modern

Incident Summary: Reported SARG airstrike damages mosque.

Incident Source and Description: On September 16, 2016 the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) reported that SARG warplanes fired missiles near Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque in the city of Khan Sheikhoun, causing partial damage.⁶¹ The photograph provided by SNHR shows dust or smoke rising from the main building, but the extent of the damage to the exterior or interior of the building was not known at the time of publication.

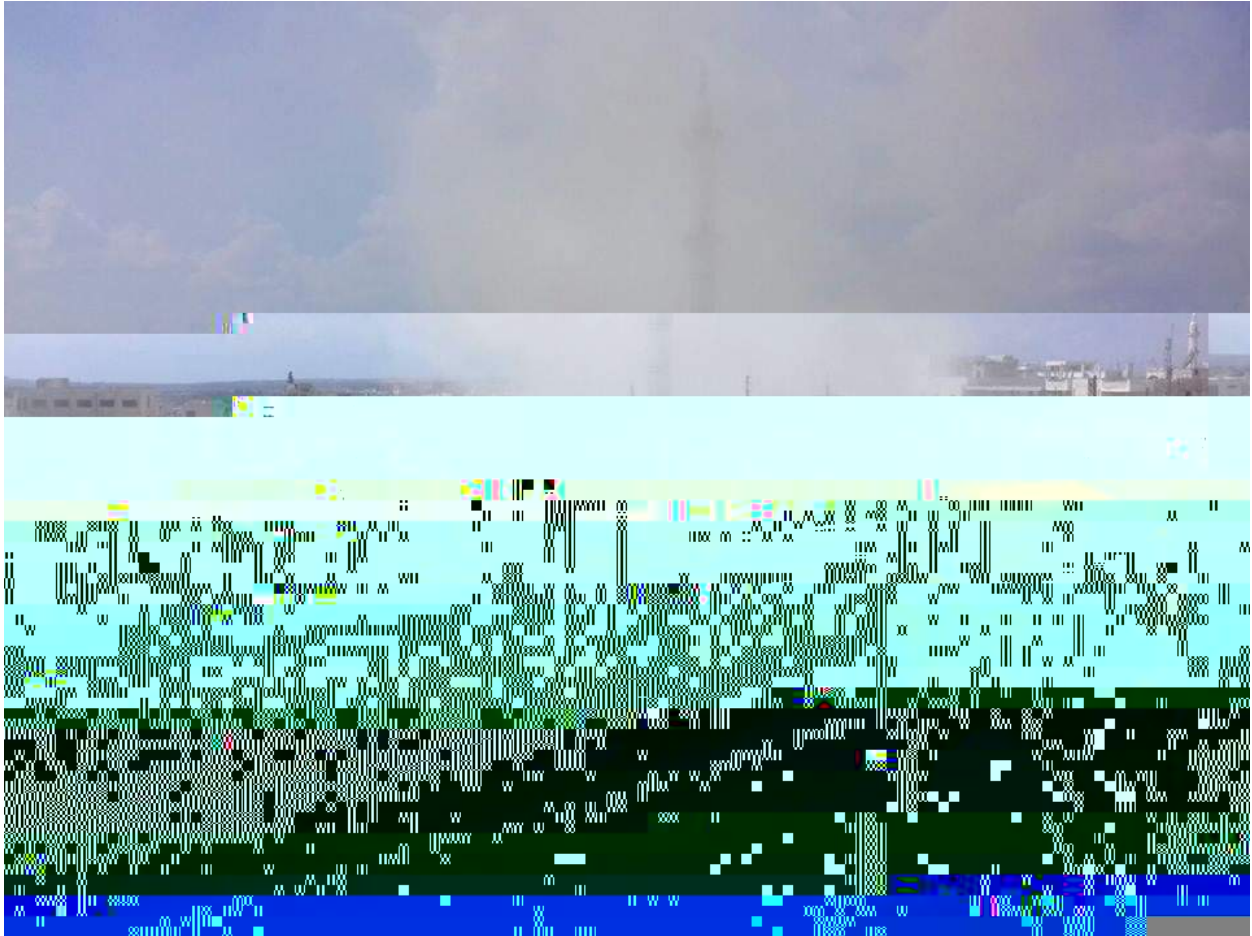
Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

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

Sources:

Online Reporting:

SNHR: <http://sn4hr.org/blog/2016/09/16/government-forces-targeted-khaled-bin-al-waleid-mosque-khan-shaikhoun-city-idlib-governorate-september->



Smoke rises following an airstrike that partially damaged Khalid bin al-Waleed Mosque (SNHR; September 16, 2016)

On September 23, 2016 NBN Television released a video report from Daraya documenting a religious ceremony inside Mart Teqla Church. The video footage shows that the exterior of the church as well as the interior has been heavily damaged, most likely as a result of ongoing bombardment in the area over the past four years. Additional video footage shared by the Sama Channel shows extensive damage to the roof of the church, leaving some areas of the church open to the elements.⁶⁸ Additional video footage shared online shows the extensive damage that occurred during years of indiscriminate shelling and barrel bombings.⁶⁹ Mar Teqla has previously been damaged by reported SARG barrel bombings in May 2014 and by reported SARG shelling in November 2012.⁷⁰

Pattern: Military activity: explosives.

Monitoring Recommendations and Mitigation Measures: ASOR CHI will continue to monitor new reports of damage in Daraya, as well as other heritage sites located in areas subject to aerial bombardment.

Sources:

Online Reporting:

ASoury.Net: <https://asoury.net/2283- - - - ->

Byzantine Catholic Church in America: <http://byzcath.org/mobile/index.php/news-mainmenu-49/3854-a-list-of-churches-and-monasteries-and-shrines-damaged-in-the-syrian-crisis-22-11-13>

Darya Revolution: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x005xhjZkRY>

Frederik Pleitgen, CNN Senior International Correspondent:
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BKIP7WMgQLR/?hl=en>

Local Council Darayya: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jOzyNkr4SM>

El Nashra:

SANA: <http://sana.sy/en/?p=87961>

SAMA Channel:

September 11, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3C6OdsIlg4E>

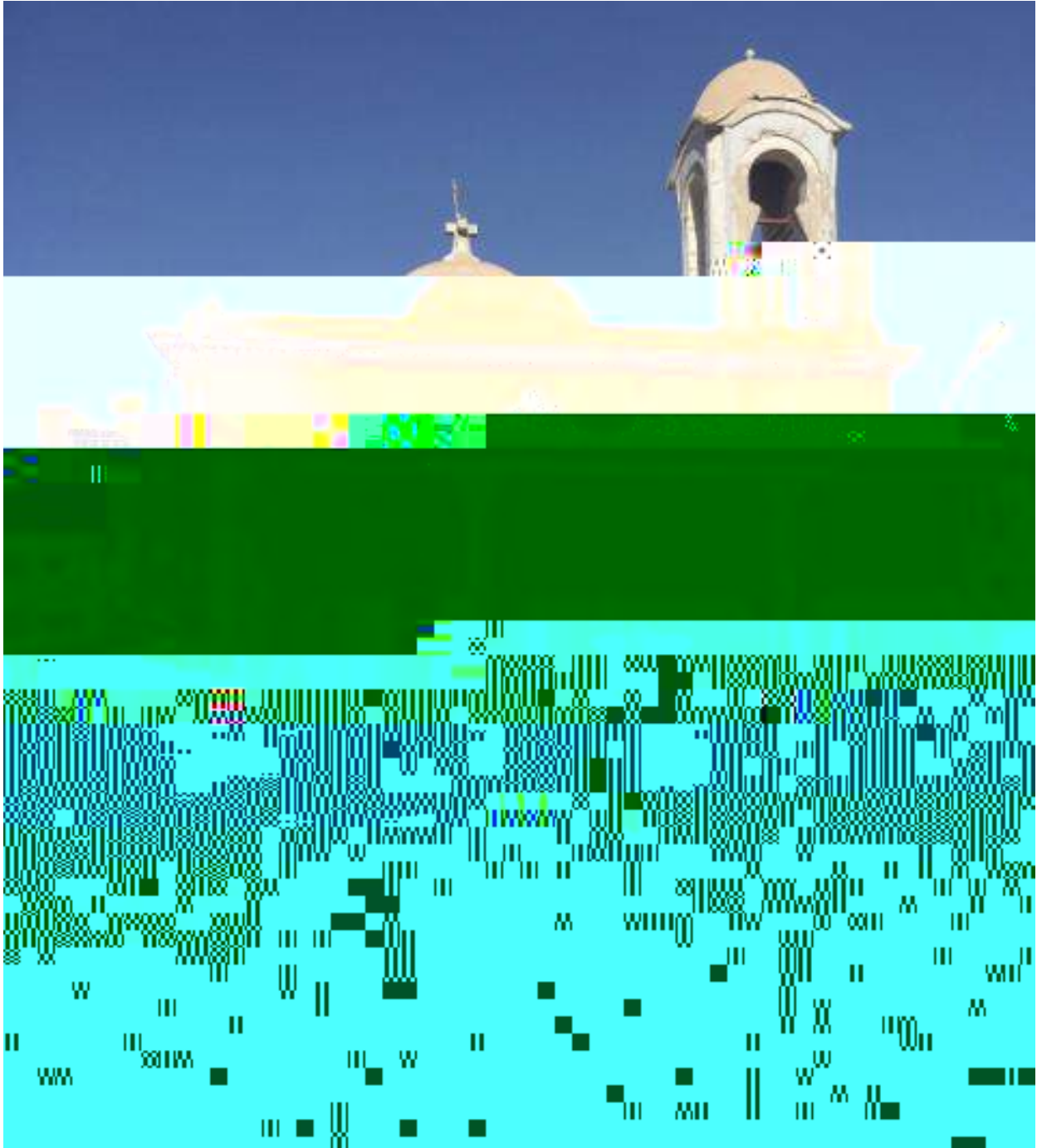
September 23, 2016: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp7d7jOLGHM>

Syria Live UA Map: <http://syria.liveuamap.com/en/2016/23-september-syria-mass-at-mar-taqia-church-in-captured-town>

Today in Syria: <https://twitter.com/todayinsyria/status/769163231055253506>



The view inside Saad bin Moaz Mosque (SANA; September 12, 2016)



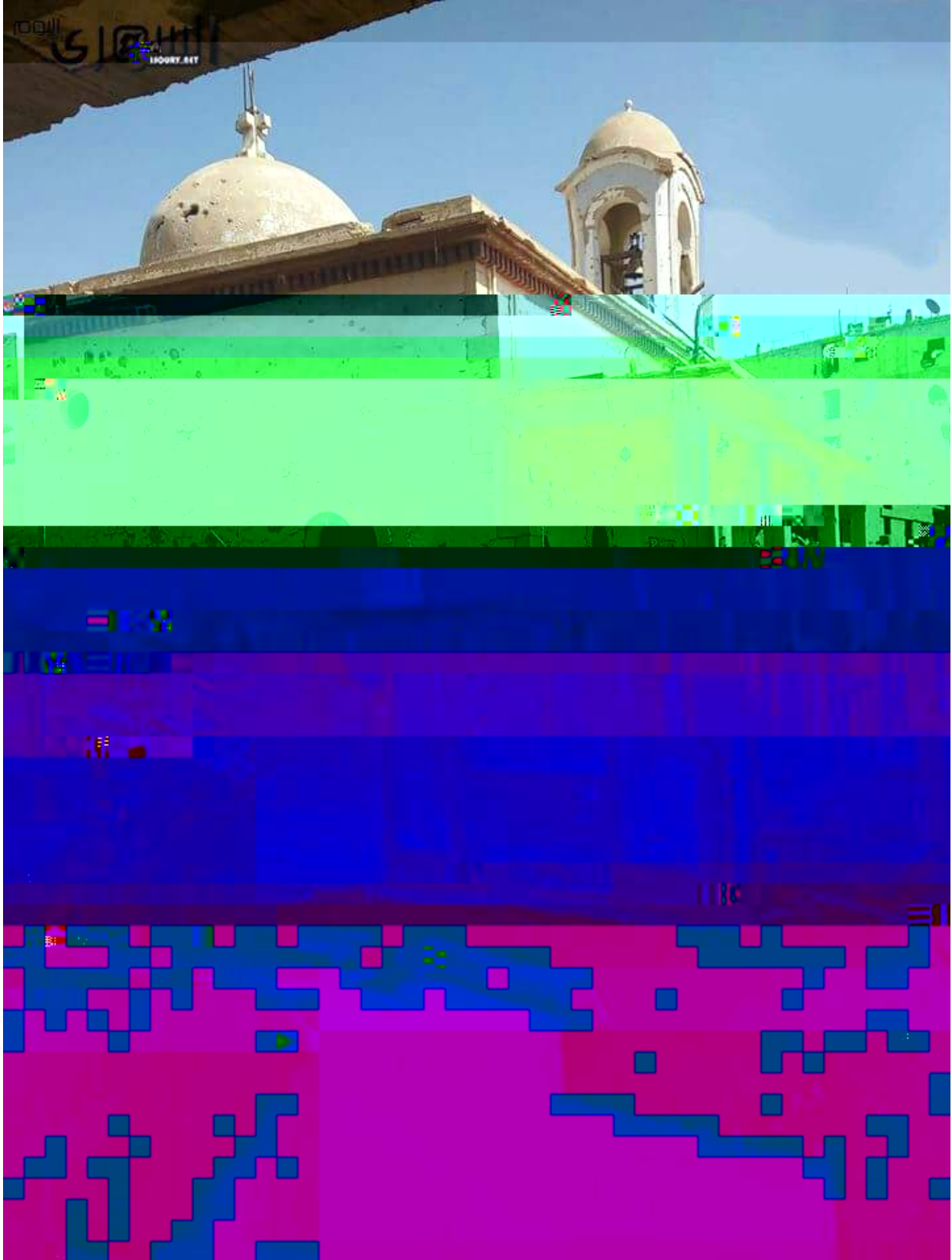
Exterior and surrounding damage to Saint Paul the Apostle Church (Frederik Pleitgen; September 20, 2016)



Video still of the damage to Saint Paul the Apostle Church (Today in Syria; August 26, 2016)



Damage to the exterior and surrounding area of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



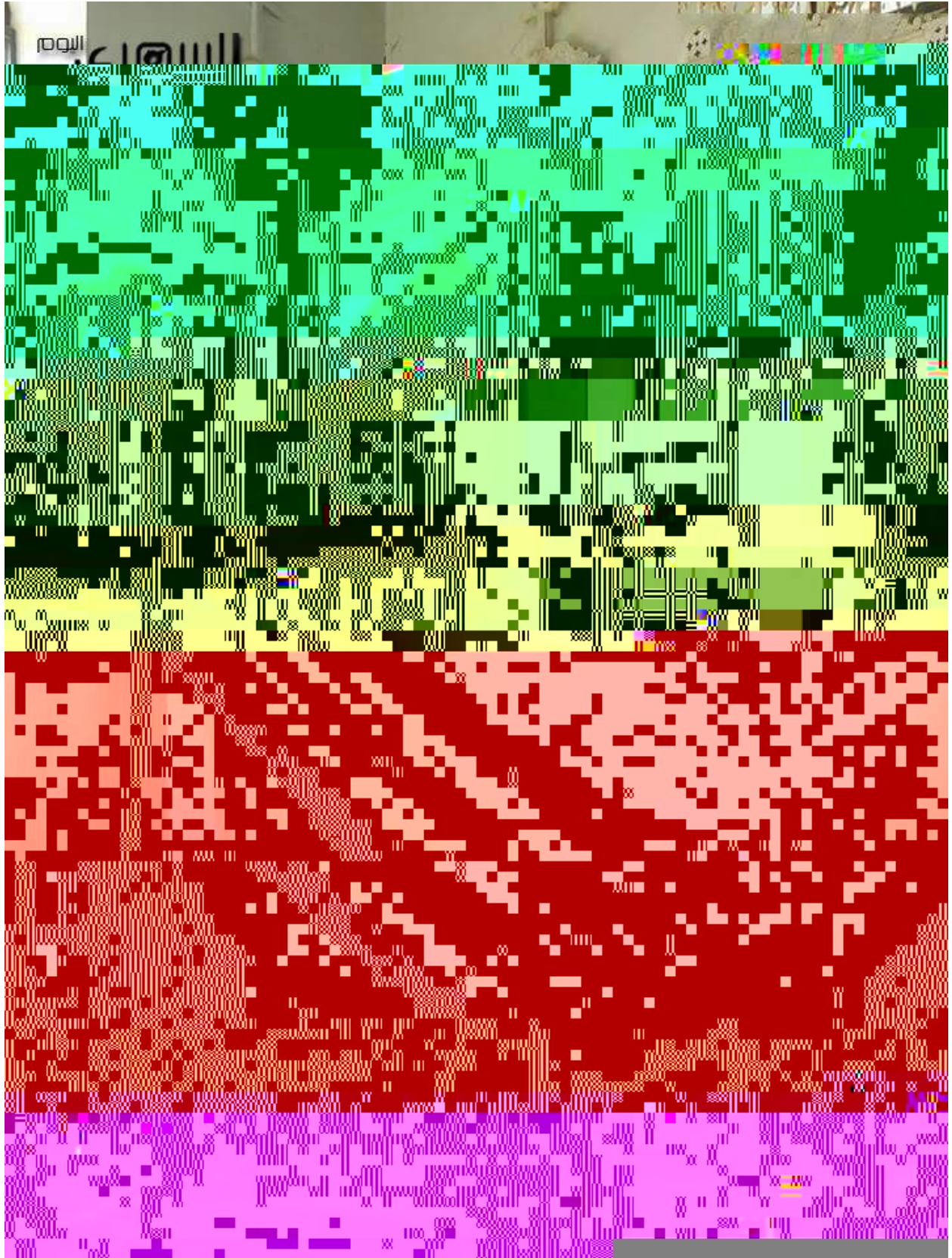
Damage to the exterior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



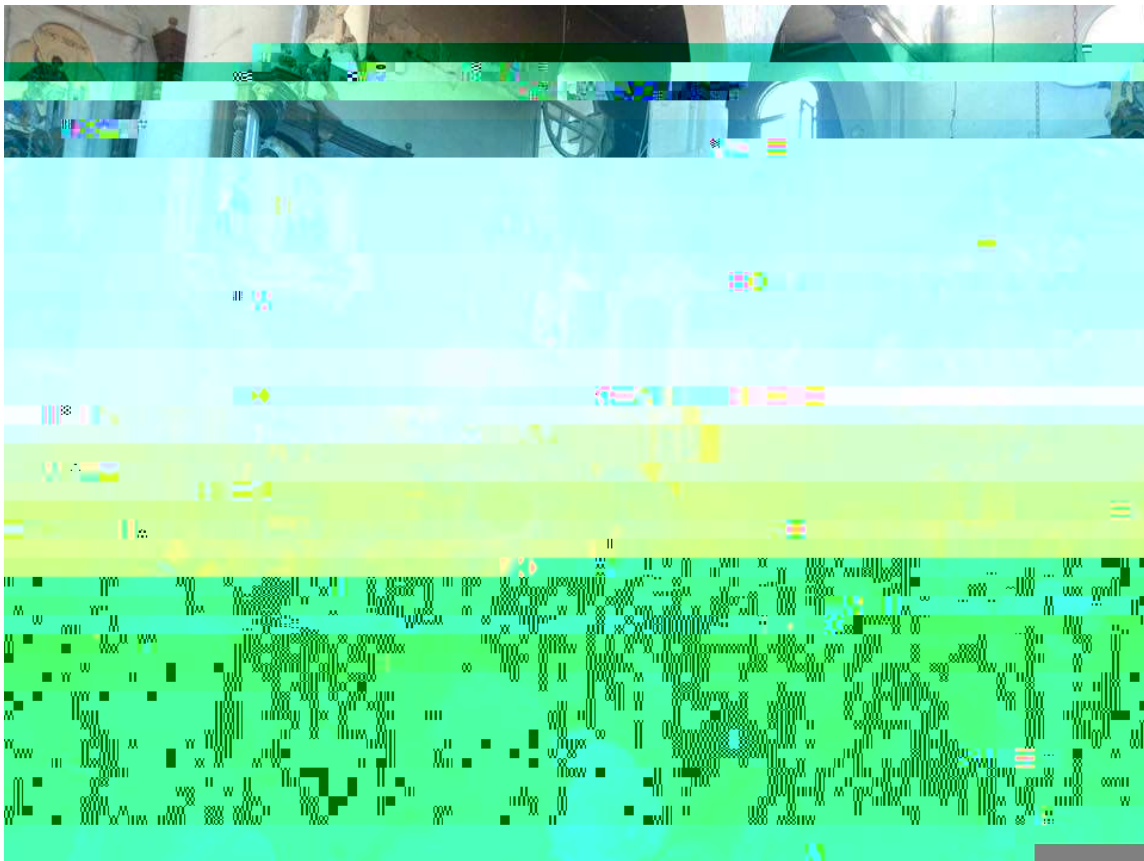
Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Saint Paul the Apostle Church (ASoury; September 5, 2016)



Video still of the exterior of Mart Teqla Church (NBN Television; September 23, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Mart Teqla Church (Syria Live UA Map; September 23, 2016)



Damage to the interior of Mart Teqla Church (Syria Live UA Map; September 23, 2016)