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Executive Summary

During the reporting period, the US government announced its intention to withdraw US forces

from Syria in the near future due to the imminent defeat of IS IS .

2 The government did not provide a

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● Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army members vandalized a cemetery in Tell Qurbê, Aleppo
Governorate. ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0178 ● The condition of a historic mosque deteriorated due to lack of maintenance in Raqqa, Raqqa
Governorate. ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0185
Report
During the reporting period, there was a marked increase in damage to cultural heritage sites
across Syria. In Deir ez-Zor Governorate, ongoing aerial bombardment by the US-led Coalition
damaged at least two mosques (ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0175 and SHI 18-0183). Video
footage and photographs of mosques from Deir ez-Zor also showed the condition of four mosques
likely damaged during ongoing US-backed SDF operations against ISIS (ASOR CHI Incident Report
SHI 18-0176, SHI 18-0179, SHI 18-0184, and SHI 18-0188). Finally, an Iraqi airstrike against ISIS
targets in Deir ez-Zor damaged a mosque (ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0177).
In Aleppo Governorate, Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) forces reportedly vandalized a
cemetery in the Afrin Canton region (ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0178). The targeting of
cemeteries by armed groups in Aleppo Governorate has increased in 2018, marking a possible
pattern of intentional destruction against other ethnic or religious groups. ASOR CHI has previously -075). -0d reported on Turkish forces and the Turkish-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) q
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revealed the ongoing expansion of illegal excavation at Apamea (ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI
18-0174). ASOR CHI has reported extensively on illegal excavation at this site.
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In Damascus, media reported that a historic house had collapsed in the Old City of Damascus (ASOR
CHI Incident Report SHI 18-0182). No cause for the collapse was given.

9 For more information on previous damage to Apamea, see ASOR CHI Incident Report SHI 14-0024 in
Weekly Report 7, SHI 14-0085 in Weekly Report 16–17, SHI 14-0108 in Weekly Report 21–22, SHI 15-
0130 in Weekly Report 57–58, SHI 15-0141 in Weekly Report 63–64, SHI 16-0093 in Weekly Report
97–98, and SHI 18-0100 in May 2018 Monthly Report.