

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

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Table of Contents:

Executive Summary	2
Key Points	2
Report	2

Executive Summary

During the reporting period, pro-regime forces recaptured all remaining Syrian opposition-held areas of Daraa and Quneitra Governorate following reconciliation deals mediated by Jordan and Russia.² Syrian opposition fighters were relocated to Idlib Governorate along with their families. In a unique event, 422 volunteer White Helmets members and their families were evacuated to Jordan. Pro-regime forces also completed an offensive against ISIS in Daraa Governorate. By the end of the reporting period, the Syrian regime had full control over the Yarmouk Basin.³

ISIS carried out a large-scale attack in Suwayda Governorate, targeting several majority-Druze villages and killing more than 200 civilians.⁴ An estimated 30 civilians were also kidnapped by the militants. The attack led to an outcry by the Druze community against the Syrian regime, who they blamed for not protecting them. In two smaller attacks, ISIS targeted an HTS-held checkpoint in the city of Saraqib, Idlib Governorate and detonated an IED near the town of Hazra.⁵ These were the first ISIS attacks in the governorate since February.

In Idlib Governorate, HTS and Iran agreed upon a deal that allowed around 7,000 pro-regime fighters and residents of Fuah and Kefraya, two majority-Shia towns, in exchange for a reported 1,500 detainees held by the Syrian regime. It was unclear at the time of publication whether all detainees had been released.

The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, backed by Coalition airstrikes, completed clearing operations of remaining ISIS-held positions in Hasakah and Deir ez-Zor Governorates as part of operations against the militant group in Syria.⁶

Key Points

Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on the Roman Theater in Bosra, Daraa Governorate. [ASOR CHI In0000tfighter 612](#) .

