U.S. Department of State

Documenting ISIL’s Antiquities Trafficking

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ISIL’s Finances

• ISIL has amassed wealth at an unprecedented pace
• ISIL derives most of its revenue from its control of territory
• Antiquities are just another resource for ISIL
ISIL’s Trafficking in Antiquities

Documents captured during the Abu Sayyaf raid offer proof that ISIL:

• Systematically traffics in antiquities  
• Is well organized to traffic in antiquities  
• Licenses looting of archaeological sites  
• Profits from trafficking in antiquities
Organizational Structure

- Diwan
  - Antiquities
    - Western governorates
      - Marketing
      - Excavation
      - Exploration and identification of (new) sites
  - Eastern governorates
    - Research and investigation of known sites
    - Administration
Leadership in Al Sham “Governorates”


[Left side]
There is no God by Allah.
Date: 21 NOV 2014

[Right side]
The Islamic State
Diwan of Natural Resources
Antiquities Division
Number: 008

To Brother [Name], please keep him.
Greetings,
We would like to remind you that the person in charge of the Antiquities Division in the Al Sham Wilayahs [ISIL Governorates in the Levant] shall be Abu-Sayyaf al-'Iraki. The reason being is that he is very knowledgeable in this field, and that [Name] is a simpleton who can’t manage the division. Moreover, people in the Levant who work in the field of antiquities are weak of faith and Abu-Sayyaf has experience in dealing with them.
God bless you.
21 NOV 2014
Your loving brother [a name is not discernible in the signature]
Stolen Antiquities
Stolen Antiquities
Artifacts in Abu Sayyaf’s Possession
License to Loot

Islamic State
Diwan of Natural Resources
Antiquities Division
Number 001
Dated: 16 OCT 2014

To the brothers in the Islamic State
Allow the brother [redacted] to excavate and supervise the Antiquities.

1- The individual in charge of 'Ayyash area is [redacted].
2- The two individuals in charge of the 'Ayyash area are [redacted].
3- The person in charge of Hamdan area is [redacted].

May God reward you
This letter is valid for 16 months from the issue date.
Your brother Abu-Sayyaf al-Iraqi
[TC: stamp and signature]
Receipt Book
## Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Written</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 DEC 2014</td>
<td>2,152,000 SYP</td>
<td>Two million one hundred fifty-two thousand SYP exactly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 DEC 2014</td>
<td>191,560 SYP</td>
<td>One hundred ninety-one thousand five hundred sixty SYP exactly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 DEC 2014</td>
<td>2,960,000 SYP</td>
<td>Two million nine hundred sixty thousand SYP exactly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1/5th the value of the Antiquities Sold in Al Khayr governorate
[Beginning of Translation]

The name of God the most compassionate and most merciful

The Islamic State
The General Committee

Date: 18/11/1435
13 SEP 2015

Thanks be to the Almighty Allah, prayer and peace upon the Messenger of Allah and upon his Household and Companions and those who followed him, afterwards:

Administrative Order Number / 5 /

It is prohibited for any brother from the Islamic State to excavate antiquities or give the permit to anyone from the public without receiving a stamped permit issued from the Diwan of Natural Resources and Minerals-Antiquities Division.

Any previous assignment or permit to any one is considered null whoever the issuing source might be, holder of such a permit must report to the Diwan of Natural Resources – Antiquities Division to obtain a substitute.

Anyone proven to be in violation of this order, since its issuing date, is considered disobedient to this order and is a subject to penalty in accordance to Sharia courts.

May Allah reward you,

Stamp of the Islamic State
The General Governing Committee

[End of Translation]
Conclusion

• Antiquities trafficking helps fuel ISIL’s reign of terror
• Supply is difficult to control
• We must address demand

Demand drives trafficking