Heritage in Peril: Syria and Iraq

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both their religious and social needs are met. For what good is there in liberating a city only to leave its inhabitants steeped in misguidance and misery, suffering from ignorance and disunity, and disconnected from the Book of Allah and the Sunnah of His Messenger (sallallāhu ʿalayhi wa sallam).

As such, the Islamic State actively works to educate its citizens, preach to and admonish them, enforce their strict adherence to Islamic obligations, judge their disputes, implement the sharī‘ī hudūd, eradicate all traces of shirk and heresy, incite the people to jihād and call them to unite behind the Khalīfah, Ibrāhīm Ibn ʿAwwād Al-Husaynī Al-Qurashi.

These pictures are a window into the various hisbah (commanding the good and forbidding the evil) and da‘wah related events and activities taking place within the Islamic State.

DESTRUCTION OF THE TOMB OF YAHYĀ ABUL-QĀSIM IN NĪNAWA

ISIL publication *Dabiq* Vol. 3, p. 17
“Destruction of the Tomb of Yahya Abul-Qasim in Ninawa [Iraq]”
The ASOR Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI)

DOS Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA)

American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR)

Cooperative Agreement NEA-PSHSS-14-001

DOS Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

International Partners
The ASOR Syrian Heritage Initiative (SHI)

- **SHI Website:** [www.asor-syrianheritage.org](http://www.asor-syrianheritage.org)
  - Project information and updates
  - Weekly Reports

- **Cultural Heritage Monitor:** [www.heritagemonitor.com](http://www.heritagemonitor.com)
  - An anonymous online site in Arabic/English for reporting heritage incidents
Mosul, Iraq: Nebi Yunus Mosque / Prophet Jonah Shrine

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

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Mosul, Iraq: Nebi Yunus Mosque/ Prophet Jonah Shrine

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

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Satellite Image After ISIL Destruction

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After ISIL Destruction of July 24, 2014
Mosul, Iraq: Imam Yahya Ibn al-Qasim Mosque (1239 AD)

Satellite Image Before ISIL Destruction

Satellite Image After ISIL Destruction
Verified ISIL Intentional Destrucions of Heritage in Northern Iraq and Syria (n=36)

ISIL promotes its intentional destructions of cultural heritage — they have publicized over 50% online or in print.
Raqqa, Syria: ISIL Destruction of the Arslan Tash Lion
Dura Europus, Syria: Large-Scale, Systematic Looting

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Satellite Image from June 28, 2012
The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from February 6, 2014 — Before Tunnel Bombs
The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from February 22, 2014 — Episode 1
The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from May 23, 2014 — Episode 2
The Old City of Aleppo: Tunnel Bombs

Satellite Image from August 10, 2014 — Episode 3
The Aleppo Citadel Area Today
www.asor-syrianheritage.org