



## **Report**

# **The impact of the 2023-Earthquake on archaeological locations in northwest Syria**

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**By Center of Syrian Cultural Heritage Protection and the Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH - an initiative of Heritage for Peace)**

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## **The impact of the 2023-Earthquake on archaeological locations in northwest Syria**

### **1.Introduction**

Throughout history, Syria has been subjected to dozens of earthquakes, including the earthquake that struck the coastal cities in 1822 AD with a magnitude of 7.5 on the Richter Scale, as well as the several earthquakes that struck Antioch between the years 458, 526, 528 and 859 AD. Every time an earthquake occurred, destruction was inflicted on archaeological sites and Historical buildings. The most severe of these earthquakes was the earthquake in Turkey 6/2/2023 AD, which was 7.8 degrees on the Richter Scale, which caused severe damage and casualties, including that inflicted on archaeological sites. The affected sites and their condition is detailed below. The site damage sections are divided into damage that occurred before the earthquake, and damage sustained since.

### **2. Jabal Al-Zawy Park (Al-Barah),**

Including:

Al-Barah sites (Deir Sobat - Abu Sufyan Castle - Pyramid Cemeteries - Al-Masara - Alhusn Church - Ground Cemetery - Islamic Mosque - Byzantine Bath)

#### **1) Al-Bara**

Al-Bara Is an ancient village in Syria, administratively affiliated to the district of Ihsim and the Ariha region. It is located between the folds of Jabal Al-Zawiya in Idlib Governorate, northwestern Syria. The Romans called it Kapro-Pira, and it contains many antiquities dating back to different eras. Among these ruins are the stone houses, parts of which are still standing, such as a house called Deir Sobat. Some of the old cellars that contain olive presses, as well as wine presses, have the name of Bacchus, the god of wine, engraved on them. There are also three ancient churches



distributed throughout the city, with a basilica design in three wings. The shrines consist of a cubic base paved with trimmed stones, surmounted by a quadruple stone pyramid, the building and the door are decorated with prominent floral motifs. These buildings date back to the fifth and sixth century AD..

It is famous for cultivating olives, grapes, cherries, and figs. Most importantly, it used to press the crops of olives and grapes from neighboring villages. Evidence for these archaeological presses discovered in the village dates back to the fifth and sixth centuries AD.

Damages to the site:

The damage to the site is divided into damage that occurred before the earthquake, and damage sustained since.

Prior damage:

- 1- Unauthorized excavations
- 2- Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damage resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
- 5- Damage resulting from the repurposing of stones in modern construction works
- 6- Exceeding construction within the boundaries of the archaeological area

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. Collapse of walls within the Abu Sufyan castle
2. Collapse of walls in the fortress church
3. Loosening of some stones in Deir Sobat





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## 2) Wadi Marthoun

Wadi Marthoun is an ancient Byzantine settlement located in the Idlib Governorate in Syria. The ruins of "Wadi Martahoun" rise to overlook the valley from which it was named. These antiquities represent a mixture between the Roman and Byzantine civilizations, which is indicated by the archaeological sites that mediate the antiquities of "Shinshirah" and "Rabi'a" from the south, the antiquities of "Al-Bara" from the east, and the "Nabi Ayoub" hill from the northwest, to be the meeting point for these centers.

Prior damage:

1. Unauthorized excavations
2. Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damage resulting from changes in weather
4. Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None

## 3) Majlaya

Majlaya is located on the inner side of the borders of the modern road that leads to Kafranbel, 2 km south of Al-Barah. The village was at first independent. The basilica dates back to the beginning of the fifth century, and in the north, stands a polygonal church from the sixth century. In the south, there are rich baths and funerary edifices.

Prior damage:

1. Unauthorized excavations
2. Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damage resulting from changes in weather
4. Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
5. Use of the jars in modern construction





The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

Nothing

#### 4) **Petrasa**

Petrasa is located directly next to Majlaya, and this site is famous for the site of the sculptor, then this site was partially excavated in the rock. It is distinguished by its carved designs on its internal walls. Duvouguet has meticulously documented it. This building gives information about the specialized activities such as carving that were practiced by farmers during the season in which they are not working. The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

1. Random excavations.
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
5. Breaking some stones and using them in modern construction

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None

#### 5) **Bashila**

This village has high quality preserved ruins with its elaborately built walls and an excellently preserved monumental gate. Outside the village we find a series of reservoirs, sarcophagi, and tombs.

Prior damage:

- 1- Unauthorized excavations
- 2- Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands



3- Damage resulting from changes in weather

4- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

5- Breaking some stones and using them in modern construction

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None

#### 6) **Dalloza**

Dalloza is located 33 km south of Idlib. It is an archaeological site dating back to the Roman period, and it contains a church dating back to the fifth century AD.

Prior damage:

1- Unauthorized excavations

2- Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands

3- Damage resulting from changes in weather

4- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None

#### 7) **Serjilla**

An archaeological site to the south of the limestone massif. The archaeological survey and excavation work began in this region in the 1930's, through an archaeological mission headed by the French researcher Georges Chalenko, and later by George Tate. These works gave abundant information about the history and civilization of these cities and showed that stability and settlement in this region had begun in the first centuries AD. It reached the peak of its development and prosperity with the spread of the Christian religion between the fourth and sixth centuries AD, and witnessed a great urban movement that pervaded all regions and villages.



Sergila is considered one of the most important and beautiful archaeological sites in the cities of the limestone cluster. Its name is of Syriac origin, Serj-Ela, meaning: the lamp of God or the light of God. Today it is devoid of residents, but the remains of its buildings are in a wonderful state of preservation, the most important of which are the baths, whose construction dates back to The end of the fifth century AD. Its plan differs from the plan of the residential houses and represents a model for the Byzantine baths, as it consists of a rectangle divided into two parts that includes the parts of the bathroom, and connects them with passages. Next to it is a huge water tank, carved in the rock and covered by large stone slabs.

### **The caravanserai in Serjilla**

There is a square-shaped meeting hall, which consists of two floors, and dates back to the end of the fifth century. This hall is preceded by galleries carried on stone columns.

Among its ruins is a three-part church dating back to the fourth century AD, and the remains of many residential homes and houses of various shapes and sizes, that have been modified at intermittent intervals, most of them were of two storeys and with galleries carried on pillars, of which the ground floor was used for living and storage of tools and materials, and the upper floor for living.

Serjilla, like the rest of the cities of the limestone massif in northern Syria, went through two phases

The first stage: It is located between the first century and the middle of the third century AD, after which there was a deterioration due to epidemics, especially the plague that swept the region.

The second stage: It extends from the middle of the fourth century until the middle of the sixth century AD, and was characterized by prosperity and economic, social, and urban development. This was followed by a state of stagnation and then deterioration with the end of the Umayyad era, and as soon as the tenth century AD arrived, it was completely abandoned, only to be resettled at the beginning of the twelfth century AD when the Ayyubids recovered it from the Franks.



Prior damage:

- 1- Unauthorized excavations
- 2- Damage resulting from changes in weather
- 3- Damage resulting from negligence, lack of emergency intervention, and absence of oversight

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. The collapse of walls within one of the buildings





### 8) Biodah site

One of the villages of the limestone group located in Jabal Al-Zawiya. It is located to the southeast of the village of Al-Bara. It is two kilometers away from Al-Bara. It includes a group of houses, various cemeteries, and a church. It belongs to Al-Bara Park. It dates back to the Byzantine era.

Prior damage:

- 1- Unauthorized excavations
- 2- Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damage resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
- 5- Use of stones in modern construction

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None



### 3. **Jabal Al-Ala Park (Qalb Lozeh)**

which includes:

#### 1) **Qalb lauza**

Away from the city of Idlib / 50 / km to the north, is a church that is considered the pearl of the highest mountain. It represents the Church of the Holy Trinity, dating back to the end of the fifth century AD. It consists of three corridors that represent the story of the Syrian architecture of the Byzantine era.

Prior damage:

1- Unauthorized excavations



2- Damage resulting from changes in weather

3- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. Cracks in one of the walls caused by the displacement of some stones











## 2) Qarqibeza

Qarqibeza is 50 km away from the city of Idlib. It has a church and mills dating back to the middle of the fourth century AD

Prior damage:

- 1- Unauthorized excavations
- 2- Damage resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damage resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damage resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
- 5- Repurposing of stones in modern construction

Damage resulting from the earthquake:

1. None

## 3) Kefir site



The Al-Kafir archaeological site is located in the northwestern part of the Idlib Governorate. The site is about fifty kilometers from the city. It is located within the Al-Jabal Al-Ala Park (Qalb Lozeh Park), the sixth park. This site is divided into two parts, east and west, within an isolated place between two mountain masses, far from human settlement.

The most important characteristic of the site is the church, which is located between the two sections, and it has a single nave that includes a bima, and the hemispherical apse is equipped with stone pillars from the outside.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 3- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
- 4- Breaking some stones and using them in modern construction

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

Simple displacement in one of the walls.









#### 4. **Barisha Mountain Park (Baqirha)**

It includes:

##### 1) **Bagraha archaeological site**

An amazing urban system on the northern slope of Mount Barisha, about 35 km northwest of the city of Idlib. It was included in the World Heritage List in 2011.

It is one of the important archaeological villages that were established in the archaeological mass during the Roman and Byzantine eras. Many of its ancient buildings are in a good state of preservation, which helps to understand the nature of its architectural development during the Roman and Byzantine eras.

The urban system according to which those houses were built is developed and distinguished and bears witness to the development that that deserted city experienced thousands of years ago. for housing. Each house is topped by two porticoes, south and north, whose columns are distinguished by the crowns above them and by their elaborate decoration.



The Temple of Zos Pomos is the most important of its temples, which was built in 161 AD and is surrounded by a dilapidated wall, except for its huge door, in addition to two basilica churches.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

Cracks in some walls due to the displacement of some stones









## 2) Derona

The site dates back to the sixth century AD and is located northwest of Idlib, about 500 AD away from Baqirha. It was included on the World Heritage List in 2011 AD as one of the forgotten cities in northern Syria.

The name of the monastery is a diminutive of the word “monastery”, which differs from the church in terms of the architectural style.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing



### 3) Qitta Monastery

A deserted city that flourished in the 5th century A.D. Among its ruins are /3/ churches, oil presses, and villas

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing

### 4) Khirbet al-Khatib

It is an ancient village dating back to the first century AD. It contains some pagan monuments dating back to the second century AD. On the site are two churches dating back to the Byzantine period.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
- 5- Breaking some stones and using them in modern construction

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing



#### 5) **Bansara**

The site of “Bansara”, which overlooks a steep valley, and there are two adjacent churches, and it contains many cemeteries and rock-hewn caves, medium houses and presses, and most of its buildings are ruined.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing

#### 6) **Kafr Aqab site**



The Kafr Taqab archaeological site is located in Jabal Al-Wastani, 26 km west of Idlib Governorate, and reflects a wonderful cultural scene between humans Nature reflects the cultural diversity of the region, including a large human heritage as a result of the spread of multiple archaeological sites

And nearby, which dates back to important historical periods, and the construction of Kafr Aqab dates back to the classical period, which includes

The Byzantine and Roman eras, and it is one of the most beautiful, ancient and ancient sites in the region, which shows the extent of civilization

And the urban sophistication that the region witnessed during that period, and there is a church dating back to the fifth or the beginning of the sixth century.

The site is characterized by its vastness and its diverse buildings, including churches and monasteries, as well as residential homes

Tombs, caves, and rock-hewn presses.

During the past ten years, this site has been subjected to various systematic excavations and vandalism, starting from manual excavation and ending with the use of trucks, bulldozers, and modern metal detectors.

These operations led to the disappearance of the site by 90 percent, to the extent that only the wall of the church at the southern end and two buildings at the western end were rehabilitated by displaced residents and lived in them.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing



## 5. Park Samaan Mountain (Samaan Castle)

It includes:

### 1) Simon Monastery

Monastery of Simeon or Monastery of Thallanos is a monastery in Syria near the Syrian city of Aleppo. The Monastery of Simon was named after the Syrian saint and hermit - Simon Al-Amoudi, who was born in the year 389 AD in the town of (Sisan) south of Mount Simon (part of Jabal Al-Zawiya) and took refuge in the Monastery of Thalanisos, which was later known as the Monastery and Castle of Simon, and that was in the year 412 AD, when he used to fast for days. Without food or drink, he would remain for days standing, praising God and worshipping. Simon the Pillar retired in this place as a worshiper and ascetic. He lived on a column with a height of about 40 cubits / 15 meters for more than forty years.



In Mount Simeon, there is an archaeological area that includes the Monastery of Simeon and the Church of Simeon, which was built in 490 AD, which is considered one of the most wonderful Christian churches, which was at one time a fortified castle during the days of Salah al-Din. The Monastery of Simeon, with its facilities and buildings, still exists today and is visited by tourists and religious people from all over the world.

Omar bin Abdul Aziz, the fifth of the Rightly Guided Caliphs, was appointed as Emir of the Principality of Deir Semaan, and he remained as its governor until the year 86 AH. The governor died in Deir Simon and was buried there.

Sat ALrum:

The tomb of "Isodotus" and the church of "Sitt al-Rum" from the ruins of "Aleppo countryside"

The tomb of "Izodotus" consists of two columns connected from the top by a chandelier, and they stood above a tomb carved in the rock underground, where a staircase descends to them. /201/ On the fifth of the month of Hyperberitaus, "Izodotus" son of "Ptolemaeus" did all this for himself and for the sake of his wife, "Marcia", the daughter of "Codratus", and he will lie in his tomb, which is the third in the first cemetery to the right of the interior). The date corresponds to the month of October of the year 152 AD. .

As for the Church of Sitt al-Rum, he said about it: A few minutes' walk north from the tomb of Isodotus, there is a monastery and church of Sitt al-Rum. It is clear that this name came in relation to the Virgin Mary, or perhaps the head of the monastery was the Lady of Rome.

Today, nothing remains of the monastery except for some of the stones of the walls near the small church located to the north. On the ground, the surface of the church is rectangular, and each of its three facades has a door, in addition to another door south of the dilapidated rectangular altar. There are five high windows in each of the southern and northern facades, and three in the eastern and western facades. In the middle of the church there is a raised platform (bima) outside the church, specifically.



On the eastern side, we find a floor room, a toilet, which is lying among the rubble. Regarding the history of the church, the church dates back to the fifth century AD.

## 2) Rafada

The ruins of the ancient village of Rafada: An ancient village located within the "Forgotten Villages" group, northwest of "Aleppo", and includes a group of ruins of residential houses dating back to the Roman era, many of which have preserved their general shape until today. Regarding the name of the site: "Rafada" in Syriac means "steeler", "creeping" or "the liquid", and it is not known why the village was given this name. It was described by the traveler Butler as "the fairest of all the desolate little towns in this region of the hills", and the traveler Chalenko as "the aristocratic village . . . of the proud great proprietors".

Where visitors can reach the archaeological site of "Rifada" through one paved and non-asphalt road coming from the southern side through the famous "Sitt El Rom" church. Darat Azza - "Semaan Castle", knowing that the distance between the Church of Sitt al-Roum and the site is approximately 1.5 km.

The village of "Rafada" belongs to the group of antiquities and historical sites in the mountains of "Sama'an" and "Halaqa", which extend from the village of "Kafrajneh" in "Afrin" in the north and end in the northern plains of "Idlib", which are called "forgotten cities" or "dead cities". It is located on the top of one of the hills of "Mount Sam'an". On this site there are archaeological ruins of various shapes that appear to be residential houses and villas distinguished by their urban system based on the principle of floors and the presence of toilets in them as evidence of the population's interest about 1500 years ago in public and personal hygiene. There is also on the site A high tower with several floors, and on each floor two rooms, dating back to the sixth century, in addition to tombs carved into rocks and cisterns for collecting and storing rainwater.

As for the archaeological researcher, Eng. Abdullah Hajjar, he talks about the history of the village of Rafada, and says: It is a village deserted for centuries, entirely composed of the remains of private homes, without shops, public buildings, or a



church, and there is only one observation tower. Most of its floors are of a well-preserved type, including its arcades overlooking the inner courtyard with its two-tiered columns, most of which date back to the sixth century AD, and there is an inscription on the left end of a decorated stone piece that may have been part of a door chandelier or pillar head located in a pile of rubble north of Uhud. The houses, 45 meters southeast of the columns in the center of the village, the height of the stone with the inscription is 52 cm, the length of the rest is 67 cm, and the beginning of the three lines are completely present. This inscription is dated in the year 122, corresponding to the year 73-74 AD, and this stone piece is the oldest piece of a dated building in the north of the country. “Syria” in its entirety. As for the inscription that follows it in the past, it is found on the “Al-Bureij” room and dated from the year 82 AD on the wall of the “Sheikh Barakat” temple.

Hajjar adds: The floor of the second floor of one of the villas still retains a toilet protruding from the outside with its floor opening, which was opposite it in the ground to the technical hole. The southern quarter of the ruins of the village. Three layers of its western wall remain in their entirety, part of the upper layer, and the writing belt that separated the ground layer from the first layer. As for the inner space of the tower, it is divided into two large and small rooms.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing

### 3) Al-Qatora





Located in the village of "Al-Qatora" within the northwestern countryside of the city of "Aleppo", an archaeological site is characterized by its magnificent ruins, which include Roman cemeteries and civil and religious buildings. It is one of the 700 archaeological sites in the region.

"Al-Qatora" means "rock" in Syriac, and it may have been named in relation to the huge rock located to the west of the village on the road leading to the nearby archaeological village of "Zarzita". To the second and third centuries AD, in addition to the homes and villas dating back to the same period, and to the fifth and sixth centuries AD as well. Greek inscription, surmounted by another Latin one surmounted by the statue of the buried person lying down and his wife erect near his head, while the image of the Roman eagle spreading its wings was engraved above the shaded ceiling of the statue, and the engraved writing came on an area of 140 \* 59 cm and consists of six Latin lines at the bottom of which are six Greek lines meaning One, and the following is its translation: (Titus Flavius Julianus, one of the ancient warriors in the band called Augusta, presented his monument and that of his wife Titia Flavia, as an eternal memorial to his ancestors. To the gods and other spirits from the underworld, and to his heirs and their descendants, since none of them act in any way in this edifice, farewell), and it is known that the eighth division "Augusta" or some of its factions have been stationed in "Syria" since the days of Caesar "Augustus", and it seems that they were staying in "Beirut" and then moved to "Baalbek" during the days of Emperor "Philip the Arab".

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing



#### 4) Sheikh Barakat

Mount Simeon Park (Brad), which includes: Barada, Kafar Nebo, Burj Haider, Kaluta, Khurbat Shams,

Mount Simeon Park (Sinkhar), which includes: Sankhar, Batuta villages, Sheikh Suleiman

#### 5) Harem Castle

One of the most prominent features of the city of Harem is its majestic Islamic castle, at a height of nearly fifty meters above the level of the city's land within an artificial archaeological hill carved with rock, in an important strategic location that overlooks the fertile plains of "the depth" and controls the roads connecting between "Aleppo" and "Antakya". and "Bait al-Maqdis".

The Muslims conquered it in the year 637 AD at the hands of "Abu Ubaid bin Al-Jarrah", who set out from it to conquer Antioch, and it continued in the hands of the Muslims until the death of "Saif al-Dawla al-Hamdani", where the Byzantines took advantage of the death of "Saif al-Dawla", so the Emperor "Nicephorus Phokas II" seized the fortress of "Harm In the year 978 A.D. it added to its building and fortifications, and it continued in the hands of the Byzantines until the Seljuk Turks came under the leadership of "Suleiman bin Qalamish" and liberated it with "Antioch". The castle remained in the hands of the Muslims until the Franks besieged it in 1098 AD under the leadership of "Tancred", who occupied it after a nine-month siege. And it remained under the control of the Franks for about fifty years. They increased its fortifications and architecture to form a line of defense for Antioch. In the year 1164 A.D., Nur al-Din Zangi was able to liberate it and put two beacons in it that burn throughout the night to guide Muslim prisoners fleeing from the hands of the Franks. After Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi arrived at "Aleppo" in the year 1183 AD, the castle was handed over, and it remained until the death of his son, al-Malik al-Zahir, "Ghazi bin Salah al-Din."



During the time of "Ghazi Ibn Salah al-Din", the castle took the form of the Ayyubid Islamic fortress that we see today, as he re-fortified the walls and built the entrance tower and added to it many towers and buildings inside the castle, warehouses and cisterns. The castle did not receive much attention during the Mamluk era, and it was destroyed by "Hulagu In the year 1260 AD, he killed its inhabitants, destroyed it, and burned its crops, at the same time that "Al-Zahir Baybars" was leading the battle of "Ain Jalut", in which he defeated the Mongols in a decisive victory. With the Franks of Acre, however, the castle was destroyed again by the "Tatars" led by "Tamerlane" in the year 1400 AD.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 3- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

It led to the collapse of some walls and the destruction of some foundations

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

The collapse of parts of the front walls and the collapse of the ceiling in the inner part, as well as the collapse of some walls, which need urgent intervention







#### 6) Kafr Losin site

The site of Kafr Lusin is located in the far north of the city of Idlib, in Jabal al-Halaqa, 5 km northwest of Dana. Not far from the border, 3 km from Bab al-Hawa, east of the village of Kafr Lusin, 500 m.

The site dates back to the Byzantine period and is registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the ancient villages, dead cities in northern Syria in 2011.



The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands:
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

A collapse in one of the walls of the church



## 7) Sarjableh site

Which is located in the area near Bab al-Hawa in the mountainous hills, 5 km east-northeast of the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, and 6 km northwest of (Dana).

- Sargebla is an archaeological site, and its name is derived from the Syriac, meaning Prince of Kala.

- This site dates back to the Roman period Byzantine as indicated by the writings on some Its ruins and Sarjableh is considered one of the large cemeteries in the region.

It includes multiple and diverse buildings. Close to old buildings with historical monuments without recording any violations of the city's history, and the modern buildings that were established did not show any aggression, vandalism, or tampering with any historical monument on the site, and the residents of the region preserved these monuments.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:



1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake  
nothing

### 8) Bardakli Mosque

The village of Bardaqli is located in the north of Idlib governorate, close to the Bab al-Hawa area, in a fortified rocky area, about 35 km north of the city of Idlib, and about 2 km west of the city of Dana. The name Al-Bard Qalli is a name of Turkish origin, and it is a word composed of two syllables, the first of which is (Al-Bardaq), which means the cup of pottery (Li) and means (Sahib), and thus the meaning of calling it the owner of the pottery cup . The history of the traces of the hailstones of that small village dates back to the second century AD, when it was then a small inhabited town, as evidenced by the burial site in it, dated 164 AD. Which is located at the top of the town and has a vault, and there is also an underground burial dating back to the year 310 AD

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 3- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake





The presence of a collapse in the walls, as well as the stone arches were affected by the earthquake, which led to the displacement of some stones







9) Arsheen site



Arsheen sits on a mountain elevation west of Harbnoush and north of Kfar Beni. To the southwest of the city of Maarat Misrin. It is an archaeological site dating back to the Roman-Byzantine period, with only a two-story villa left of its buildings. It dates back to the fifth century AD, and it has a basilica-style church, of which only its beautiful apse remains, dating back to the sixth century AD.

There are still remnants of existing walls, some capitals of columns, and decorations among the rubble of large stones that were subjected to a large wave of vandalism and bulldozing in search of hidden treasures, according to their claim. The church of al-Kafir, and the beholder may not see anything worth mentioning at first glance due to the large number of excavations and random excavations, but he can see a wonderful example of the Syrian village in the Roman-Byzantine era.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

- 1- Random excavations
- 2- Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
- 3- Damages resulting from changes in weather
- 4- Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing

### **10) Bangusa Site**

An ancient city dating back to the Roman era, as evidenced by the antiquities found at the site and the writings and drawings they carried dating back to the time period in which it was established.

It is believed that the appellation means the house of the bell, given that (ba) in Syriac means house and naqousa from the word naqous. The three churches that were found



in this archaeological site are among the most important monuments of Anqousa, which showed a clear picture of the civilization of this city.

The history of the northern church dates back to the fourth century AD, and it is considered one of the first basilica churches in Syria. Only the southern façade and part of the northern and western façades remain of its features. Its apse is straight and slightly protruding towards the front. The church contains a martyrs' house, a reliquary box, and a burial ground. It includes decorations, various drawings, and some column capitals.

The Monastery of Bangusa, known as the Palace of the Girls, is one of the most important monuments on the site. Durbangusa dates back to the 4-5th century AD. It is located on the top of the hill in the northwestern side of the site. It includes parts of the walls and foundations of a monastic chapel and the House of Martyrs carved out of rock. It contains reliquaries, a southern gallery of the church, and a burial chapel with a small tower on the west side and a tomb carved into the rock. Most of the monastic buildings are destroyed and their stones are scattered throughout the site. The buildings on the western side date back to the 4-5th century AD, and the buildings on the eastern side date back to the sixth century.

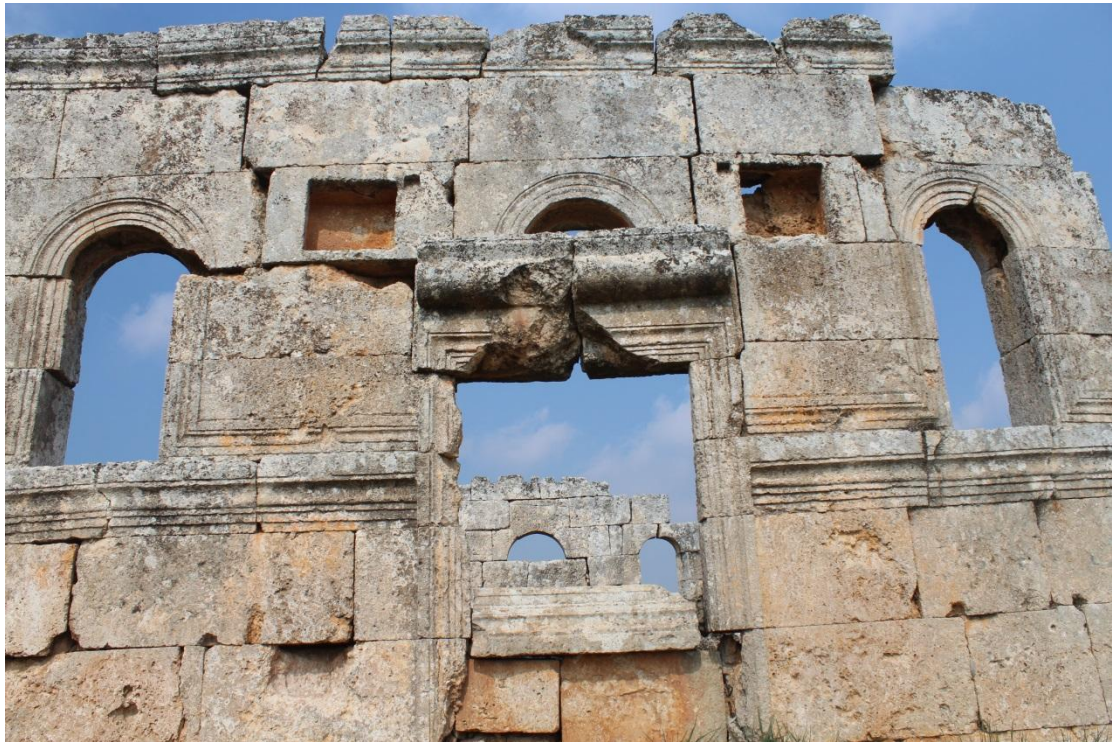
The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing





### 11) Mardnial Monastery site

The Monastery of “Mar Daniel” is located to the northwest of the city of Sarmada and south of the Dana Plain, 40 km north of the city of Idlib, on a mountainside along the Harem-Aleppo road. The neighborhood is surrounded by mountains, and it still maintains its general shape to be the most beautiful monasteries in the region.

The monastery bears the name of Saint “Mar Daniel”, and he is one of the companions of Saint “Mar Matta” from Amed. He settled on the bank of Khabur after being persecuted and established there a small monastery. The monastery is also called “The Monastery of Beetles” due to the appearance of small black beetles covering its ruins for three days. .

The monastery consists of three buildings, most of which are standing and in good condition, each of which consists of three floors. The first is the “church” and “the house of craftsmen.” The church is small in the middle of the monastery, and its façade is towards the east. It also has two small windows that light the altar of the



church, and to its north is the bookcase of sacred books. There is also a small room above the church that is believed to have been a residence for the monks.

As for the “Dar Al-Sana’a”, it is located behind the church and it consists of three floors. Its walls are still standing and preserving their shape because they are cut from the mountain. In the foreground there are columns carrying the corridors of the walkway. The ground room is a large olive press, while the second room was used for weaving robes. Monks or carpets and mats.

As for the second section of the monastery, it is the “hermit’s tower” and the residence of the novice monks and the cemetery. The hermit’s tower consists of three rooms on top of each other, the first is for the assistant monk and the second for the hermit’s sleep, and it is without windows, and the third room is illuminated and has no door, it is designated for the hermit to spend the rest of the work. In his day, an internal wooden staircase was used to reach these rooms, and he found in the silo about 50 crosses engraved with art and creativity.

As for the “cemetery”, it is excavated in the heart of the mountain, its roof is made of large stones resting on two stone arches, in which there are three graves from the east.

The third section is the “Presidential House” and the guesthouse. It is a three-storey building with round windows similar to those of a church. Its entrance is from the east. The ground floor of it has been designated as a stable for animals, as there are many urns in it that are used for animal fodder.

Within the monastery, there is also a rock-cut water cistern, 8.4 m long, 6 m wide, and 6 m deep. It is mostly filled with rainwater by rock-cut canals for the monastery’s residents to drink from. It is more like a building with columns and floors, and its roof was used as a spacious courtyard for the monks to rest.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:





1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing

### **12) Dardourin Monastery**

This monastery is located with the remains of Roman burials and sarcophagi, in addition to some foundations of buildings, water cisterns carved into the rock, and olive presses scattered throughout the monastery in the northeast of the town of Kfaruma, a distance of 3/ km from it, and there were several monasteries spread between Apamea and Antioch And the leadership of these monasteries goes back to the Monastery of Bassus, among which the Monastery of Dorn (i.e. Dardurin today) was mentioned.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts. The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing

### **13) Rafada site**



An ancient village located within the "Forgotten Villages" group, northwest of "Aleppo", and includes a group of ruins of residential houses dating back to the Roman era, many of which have preserved their general shape until today.

Regarding the name of the site: "Rafada" in Syriac means "steeler", "creeping" or "the liquid", and it is not known why the village was given this name. It was described by the traveler Butler as "the fairest of all the desolate little towns in this region of the hills", and the traveler Chalenko as "the aristocratic village . . . of the proud great proprietors".

Where visitors can reach the archaeological site of "Rifada" through one paved and non-asphalt road coming from the southern side through the famous "Sitt El Rom" church. Darat Azza - "Semaan Castle", knowing that the distance between the Church of Sitt al-Roum and the site is approximately 1.5 km.

The village of "Rafada" belongs to the group of antiquities and historical sites in the mountains of "Sama'an" and "Halaqa", which extend from the village of "Kafrajneh" in "Afrin" in the north and end in the northern plains of "Idlib", which are called "forgotten cities" or "dead cities". It is located on the top of one of the hills of "Mount Sam'an". On this site there are archaeological ruins of various shapes that appear to be residential houses and villas distinguished by their urban system based on the principle of floors and the presence of toilets in them as evidence of the population's interest about 1500 years ago in public and personal hygiene. There is also on the site A high tower with several floors, and on each floor two rooms, dating back to the sixth century, in addition to tombs carved into rocks and cisterns for collecting and storing rainwater.

As for the archaeological researcher, Eng. Abdullah Hajjar, he talks about the history of the village of Rafada, and says: It is a village deserted for centuries, entirely composed of the remains of private homes, without shops, public buildings, or a church, and there is only one observation tower. Most of its floors are of a well-preserved type, including its arcades overlooking the inner courtyard with its two-tiered columns, most of which date back to the sixth century AD, and there is an



inscription on the left end of a decorated stone piece that may have been part of a door chandelier or pillar head located in a pile of rubble north of Uhud. The houses, 45 meters southeast of the columns in the center of the village, the height of the stone with the inscription is 52 cm, the length of the rest is 67 cm, and the beginning of the three lines are completely present. This inscription is dated in the year 122, corresponding to the year 73-74 AD, and this stone piece is the oldest piece of a dated building in the north of the country. "Syria" in its entirety. As for the inscription that follows it in the past, it is found on the "Al-Bureij" room and dated from the year 82 AD on the wall of the "Sheikh Barakat" temple.

Hajjar adds: The floor of the second floor of one of the villas still retains a toilet protruding from the outside with its floor opening, which was opposite it in the ground to the technical hole. The southern quarter of the ruins of the village. Three layers of its western wall remain in their entirety, part of the upper layer, and the writing belt that separated the ground layer from the first layer. As for the inner space of the tower, it is divided into two large and small rooms.

The damage to the site is divided into two parts

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from the reclamation of agricultural lands
3. Damages resulting from changes in weather
4. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention
5. Breaking some stones and using them in modern construction

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

nothing

#### **14) Al Shughour Castle**

Among the high mountains, between waters, springs, caves, and caves, and at an altitude of 378 meters above sea level, the castle of "Al-Shughur-Bakas" is located 10



kilometers northwest of the city of "Jisr Al-Shughour" and 60 km west of "Idlib". / km, and about / 65 / km from Lattakia to the east.

The castle is characterized by an important strategic location in Idlib Governorate, at the crossroads of ancient roads of great importance between Lattakia-Aleppo and Antioch-Afamia, which made the castle one of the main stations in the region. The castle was named after the village of Al-Shughour and "Al-Shukar" means vacant housing, and "Thoghar" means "border." As for the name "Bakas," it means an inverted cup, and around it is the rock from which water flows.

The first people to inhabit the castle of "Al-Shughour" were the "Arameans", indicated by Aramaic writings indicating their presence in the castle that was built during their era, then the first Arabs of the "Thamudians" and "Palmyrians" inhabited it, and witness to that Roman and then the Ayyubid era, and is considered "Salah" Religion" is the first to conquer and liberate the castle from the Crusaders

The first section is damages before the earthquake, which consisted of:

1. Random excavations
2. Damages resulting from changes in weather
3. Damages resulting from negligence and lack of emergency intervention

The second section is the damage caused by the earthquake

The collapse of some stones and the displacement of some walls, which resulted in cracks in some walls







Center of Syrian Cultural Heritage Protection

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