

PORTFOLIO

HERITAGE FOR PEACE



**WE BELIEVE THAT HERITAGE CAN SERVE AS A KEY FOCUS ON
DIALOGUE BETWEEN COMMUNITIES, NATIONS, AND ETHNIC
GROUPS: HERITAGE CAN, IN FACT, BECOME A TOOL FOR
PEACEBUILDING.**

Heritage for Peace

What is Heritage for Peace?

Heritage for Peace is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support all countries in conflict in their efforts to protect and safeguard cultural heritage during armed conflict. As an international group of heritage workers, we believe that cultural heritage, and the protection thereof, can be used as a common ground for dialogue and therefore as a tool to enhance peace.

Heritage for Peace differs from other heritage organizations. While we can work with all parties, governmental and intergovernmental organizations can only work with heritage authorities that are supported by the recognized state authority, and with whom there are existing diplomatic relations. International professional heritage organizations can only support those heritage organizations that are a member of their professional organization, and many are constrained to work only with departments of the formally recognized government.

We are concerned with tangible and intangible heritage, including archaeological

Heritage for Peace was founded in Girona in March 2013 under Catalan law, where its office is based. Crucially, it has no paid staff,

sites, historic monuments, museums, libraries and archives, religious heritage, crafts etc. We believe that all forms of heritage and the beliefs and values associated with them should be valued equally as all people have a right to their own cultural expressions and are committed to promoting these goals. It is exactly the acceptance of this diversity that is conditional for a lasting peace. Like UNESCO our motto is: Unity through Diversity.

What is our mission?

Heritage for Peace's unique mission revolves around the protection of cultural heritage in zones of conflict. Our organization engages its staff's local knowledge and previous expertise in conflict situations to promote capacity-building and knowledge transfer in order to create self-sufficiency in heritage management among heritage workers and local communities. As a neutral NGO unaffiliated with any government, Heritage for Peace is in a unique position to work with all parties in the conflict and reach all parts of the country with its programmes.

Our team

but is composed entirely of an international network of volunteers.

Over the years, these volunteers have included academics, heritage professionals, and independent consultants from Australia, Denmark, Italy, the Netherlands, Syria, Spain, the UK, Turkey, France and the United States, all of whom were dedicated to working to protect the cultural heritage of the countries in conflicts.

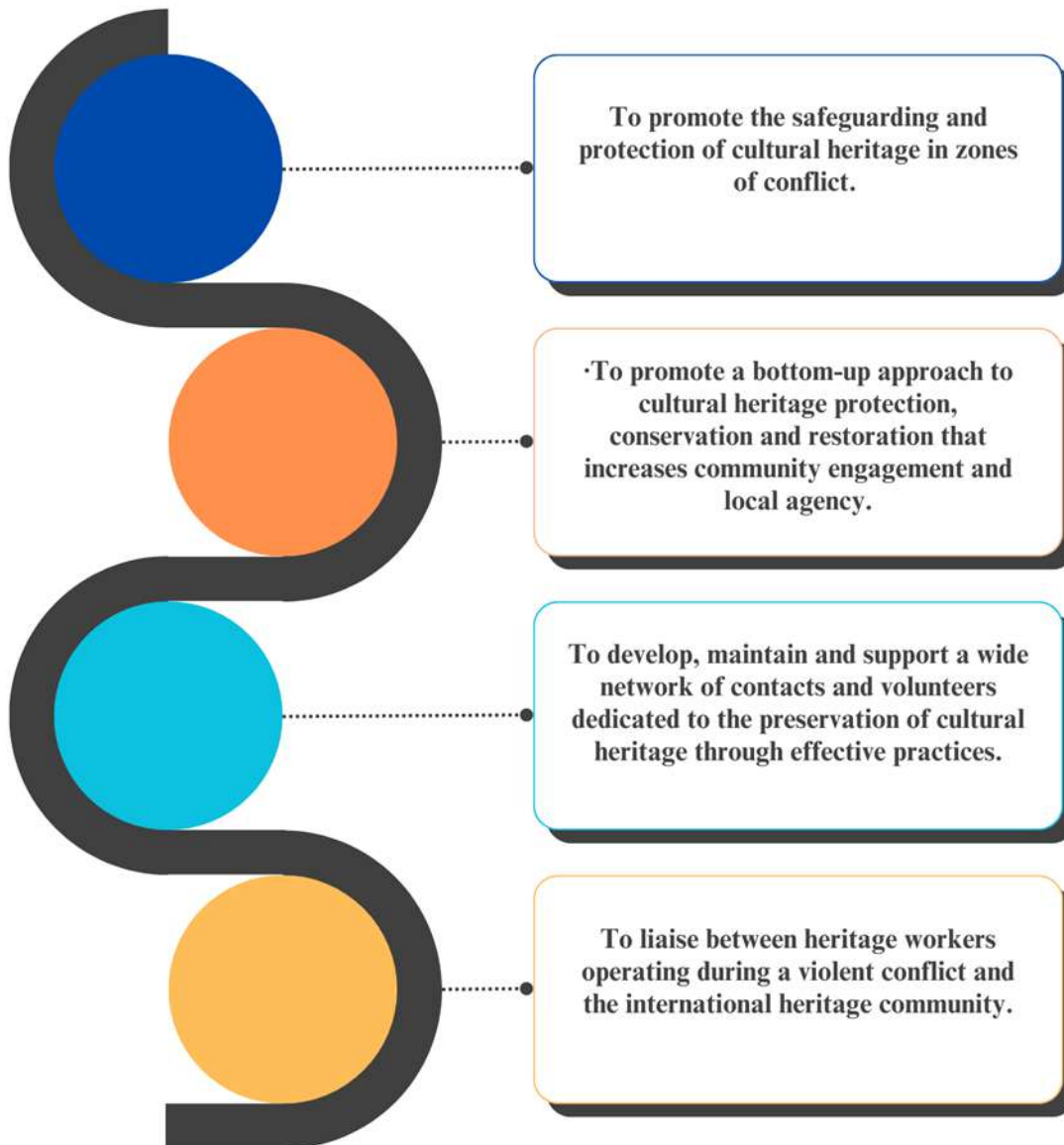
In 2013, when it was founded, Heritage for Peace was unique in that its special focus is on protecting cultural heritage during conflicts.

By providing training and support in heritage protection to our colleagues, the NGO works to assist with mitigation and/or stop the damage to the nation's cultural heritage, as well as laying the groundwork for reconstruction.

Heritage for Peace's work engages local knowledge and the previous expertise in conflict situations of its international staff to promote capacity-building and knowledge transfer in order to create self-sufficiency in heritage management among heritage workers.



OBJECTIVES



Explore Our Global Projects

Dive into our diverse portfolio of projects, each designed to address unique challenges and make a tangible impact in communities around the world.

AL-QAHIRA CASTLE

Project Summary

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

contact@heirtageforpeace.org

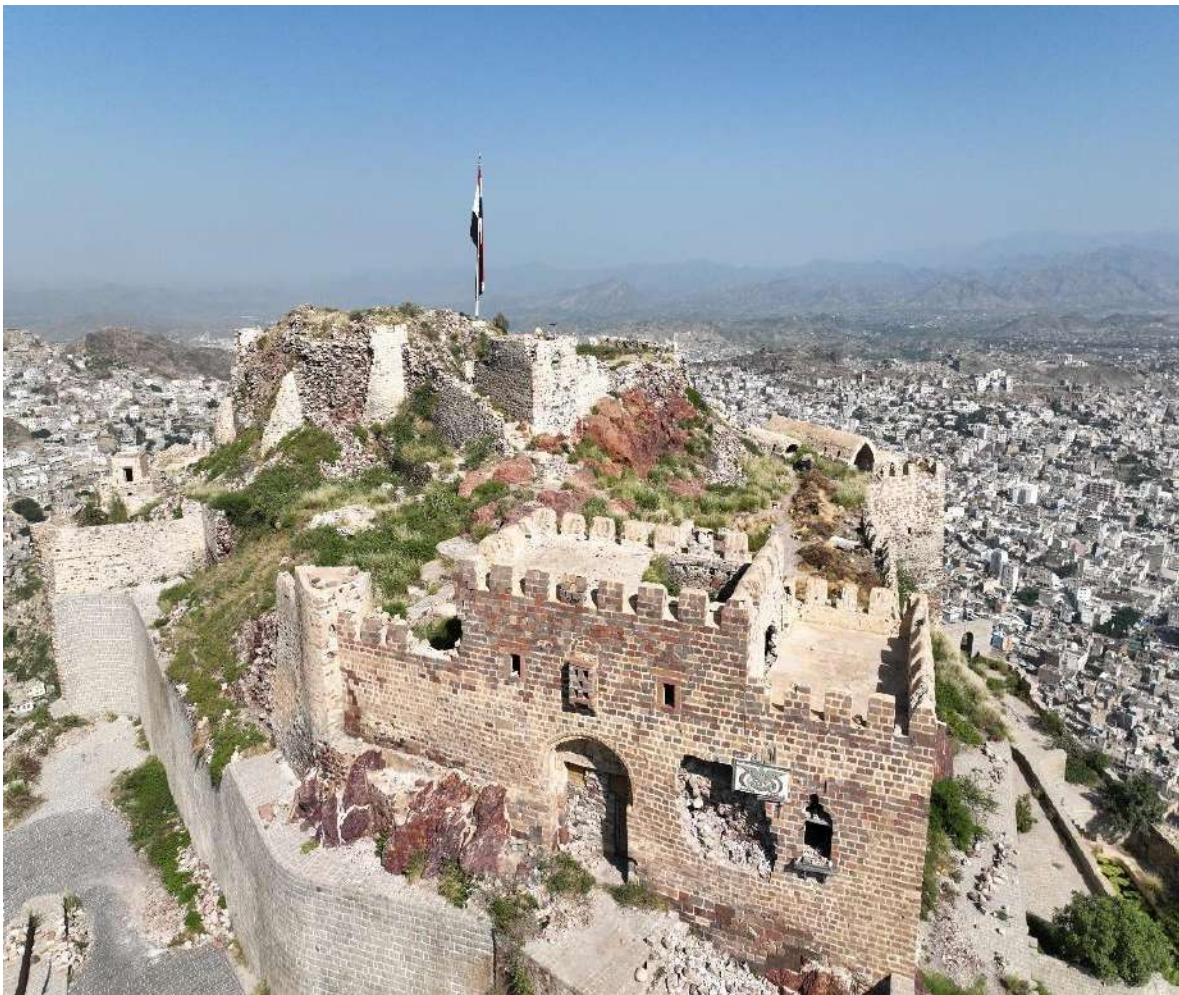
www.heirtageforpeace.org



Overview

Al-Qahira Castle of Taiz is located on the northern slope of Sabr Mount, over a rocky hill that overlooks the city. It was destroyed by the Islamic State in June 2015 and Heritage for Peace has been working on a reconstruction project to bring the castle back to its splendour.

The project worked on inventorying and documenting the damage to towers, buildings, courtyard floors, and ponds by removing trees and plants, and removing and cleaning waste. This documentation resulted in a detailed floor plan of the castle annotated with the distribution and intensity of the damage.





Mission and Objectives

1. Revitalizing Fortress Integrity

The project embarked on a transformative journey to mitigate risks and safeguard lives by meticulously reconstructing collapsed walls and fortifying vulnerable sections. Priority was given to those sections at imminent risk of threatening human safety in the neighbouring vicinities. Through innovative techniques such as reinforcement and injection, it not only restored structural stability but also instilled a renewed sense of security among the inhabitants nestled beneath the castle's protective embrace.

2. Combatting Degradation and Expansion

The combined conservation and stabilization methods applied to the castle structure ensured that the accelerated deterioration associated with combat damage and subsequent insufficient maintenance, necessitated by the political instabilities of the region, was addressed and decelerated. Through strategic interventions like the clearance of water channels, drains, and debris, deterioration progression was reduced, ensuring the preservation of the castle.



3. Empowering Educational Initiatives

The project's educational programs didn't just impart knowledge; they ignited a sense of pride and ownership among school students regarding Al-Qahira Castle. By immersing them in the significance of this historical monument, the programs inspired students to become advocates for heritage preservation within their families and communities.

4. Expanding Access to Knowledge

Beyond mere restoration efforts, the project acted as a gateway for students from various educational institutions to explore the depths of Al-Qahira Castle. By facilitating organized visits, it transformed these students into eager learners, enabling them to delve into the castle's intricate architecture, storied past, and its pivotal role across different historical eras.

5. Catalyzing Academic Research

Through its collaboration with universities, the project not only revitalized physical structures but also rejuvenated academic discourse. By steering scholarly endeavours towards heritage conservation and archaeological studies, it fostered a new wave of research aimed at unravelling the mysteries and significance of the castle's historical context.

6. Fostering Cultural Integration

Cultural events held alongside the project didn't just serve as mere entertainment; they served as bridges connecting local communities to their shared cultural heritage. By highlighting Al-Qahira Castle's central role in shaping local identity, these events instilled a renewed sense of cultural pride and unity among residents.

7. Rebuilding Trust and Collaboration

The project didn't just repair physical damages; it repaired fractured relationships between citizens and international organizations. By delivering tangible results and fostering meaningful engagement of international organizations.





Progress

The project worked to remove large trees, combat their regrowth and further root development, and protect the walls from further disintegration and cracking.

The project worked to protect the residents living under the castle from falling stones from the fort area by creating retaining walls that prevent falling stones.

The project worked on preserving and assembling the decorative doors and windows that were spread throughout the castle and storing them in a secure warehouse inside the castle.

The project worked on training young people in construction and reinforcement work, teaching them the craft of working with traditional materials and techniques while the restoration work was ongoing. Through the project, a general plan of the castle was made. It is possible to determine the damages based on this plan.

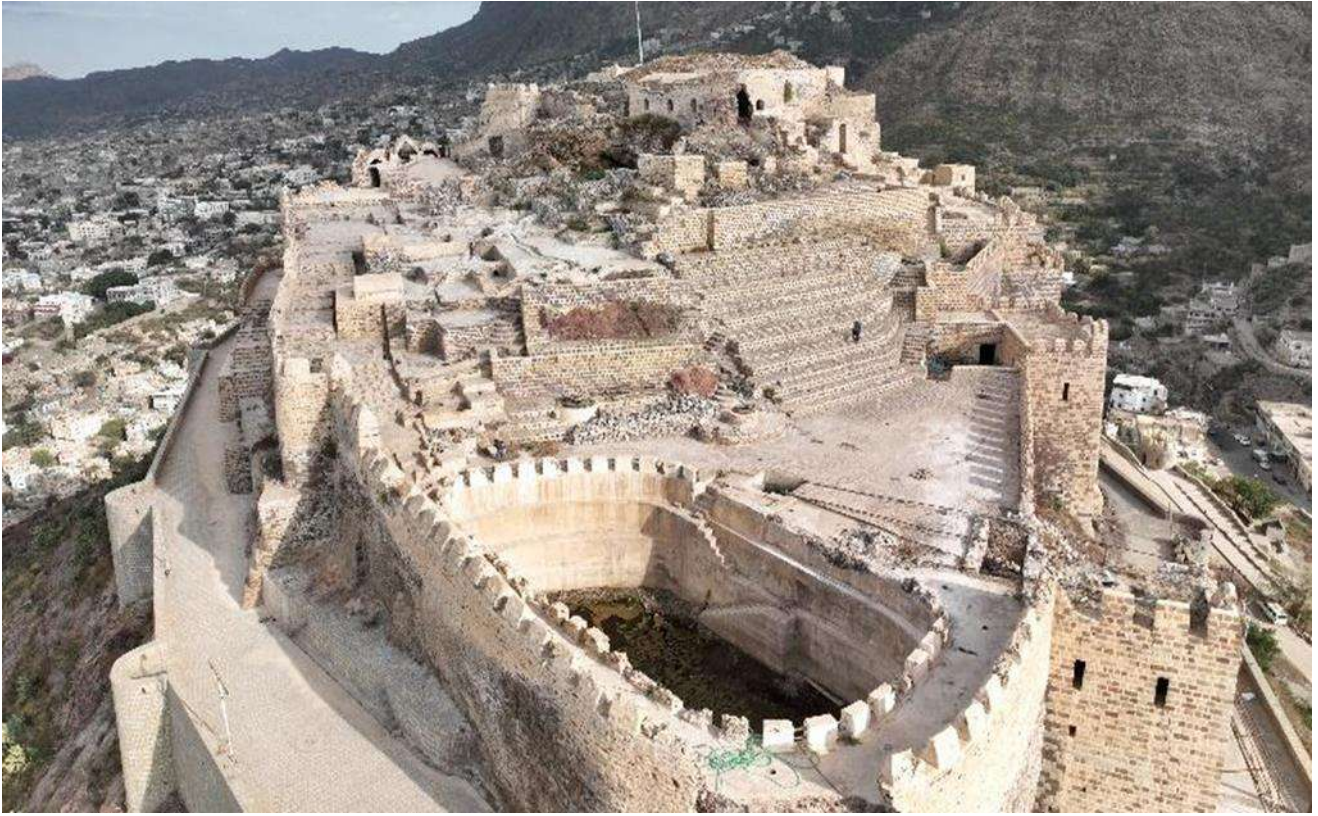
With art of the castle now secured through the restoration work, it is now partially available for citizens to undertake leisure and cultural activities.

The project provided job opportunities for several youth living in the vicinity of the castle. The data gathered was converted to a 3D photogrammetric point cloud by the UWE team, providing a full insight into the extent of the damage directly attributable to conflict. The next step will include a full assessment of the volumetric changes achieved through the restoration and stabilization work.

Link:

<https://ion.cesium.com/stories/viewer/?id=39032a92-b6b9-4e4e-b11f-8654745891cf#slide-id-194755>





Funders & Partners



**International alliance
for the protection
of heritage
in conflict areas**

**UWE
Bristol**

**University
of the
West of
England**

ANSCH

Project Summary

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

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www.heritageforpeace.org



Overview

ANSCH (Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage) is a joint initiative of the non-governmental organization Heritage for Peace (H4P) in coordination with several Civil Society Organizations in different Arab countries. It has been established with the financial support of the International Alliance for the Protection of Cultural Heritage in Conflict Areas (ALIPH), as a heritage initiative. It works with government agencies, CSOs and non-profit organizations to identify, manage, plan and conserve archaeological sites, historical monuments, museums and other cultural heritage resources. The work is now concentrated in Syria, Iraq, Libya Sudan, Gaza and Yemen.

The values of the initiative revolve around helping local communities become more actively involved in heritage management and increase multivocality in the heritage sector, as well as striving for access for all people to their heritage, stimulating diversity and dialogue within and between heritage communities to appreciate each other's identities, build on collective memories, and encourage a mutual understanding of different heritage views. ANSCH is directly in

line with the statement of the Committee on Culture of the United Cities and Local Governments (May 2018) that 'Cultural aspects play a pivotal role for the 2030 Agenda to be successful. Cultural rights, heritage, diversity and creativity are core components of human and sustainable development



Mission and Objectives

1. Creating a network of civil society organizations

Bringing together representatives of Arab civil society organizations via a sustainable platform capable of facilitating communication between the participating organizations and providing room for exchange of experiences, knowledge, and resources.

2. Identifying and defining heritage protection projects needed in Arab countries

The civil society organizations involved are designing projects aimed at reflecting the heritage values of the local communities through the engagement of local voices. Additionally, they're actively seeking public support for their projects. The main projects are on heritage safeguarding measures, the reduction of illegal excavations and the illicit trade in looted artifacts, as well as increased education and awareness of the necessity of heritage and its protection.

3. Empowering local communities' participation in the management of cultural heritage

Giving local communities a place at the table is not enough, they must be actively involved

in the governance of the projects with the support of civil society organizations. In our projects, we include all aspects of civil society including citizens, professionals, volunteers, researchers, non-profit organizations, NGOs, schools and associated groups with indigenous people.

4. Fostering an inclusive social development

Involving community members in projects will strengthen the social fabric of the community and increase resilience. The more diverse the group of participants, the more sustainable the social development will be. Extra attention in our projects is paid to gender as we strive for gender equality.

5. Fostering an inclusive economic development

The projects proposed help the local community economically. The best practice is to concentrate on small and medium-sized projects around arts & crafts (traditional building crafts, handicrafts) and cultural tourism (diffused accommodation, slow tourism, and eco-tourism).

6.Promoting the protection of the environment.

Reconstruction and conservation projects of built heritage influence natural surroundings.

Strengthening local communities involves boosting their protection against natural hazards. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is an integral part of heritage management projects, a practice that should not omit local knowledge.

7.Enhancing the visibility of civil society organizations and their work

It is essential for organizations to receive funding and support for their projects, both inside and outside of the heritage sector.

Challenges



Political instability and conflict

Operating in countries like Syria, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Gaza and Yemen means dealing with ongoing conflict, which can disrupt project implementation.

Limited resources and funding

Limited funding and access to technology, expertise, and materials can hinder the effective conservation and management of cultural heritage sites.

Environmental threats

Climate change and natural disasters pose significant risks to cultural heritage sites, requiring adaptation and mitigation strategies





Progress

Report on the impact of the 2023 earthquake on the archaeological locations on the Syrian coast

A comprehensive report on the damage to cultural heritage because of the earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey on the 6th of February 2023.

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

A report analyzing the damage in Northwest Syria due to the ongoing conflict in the area as well as the damage the region sustained since the earthquake.

Protection of Heritage at Places in Conflict through Digital Tools, The Role of Civil Society

Project led by CSIC-IMF and funded by the BBVA Foundation which uses digital tools to support local NGOs and organizations dedicated to the protection of historical and archaeological heritage, to develop databases on heritage assets in danger in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen.

SHELTr (Syrian Heritage Law Training)

A project currently under development in partnership with Save Muslim Heritage with

the aim of providing legal training to court staff in the opposition-held Syria, on matters pertaining to cultural heritage.

Conference on the empowerment of civil society for the protection of cultural heritage in conflict and post-conflict areas

Held on the 3rd and 4th of March 2022, the conference was aimed at connecting representatives from Libya, Yemen, Iraq, and Syria, and civil society organizations to speak about their experiences in protecting the cultural heritage in conflict and post- conflict zones as well as presenting scenarios of challenges and opportunities in this space.

LINKS

- <https://ansch.heritageforpeace.org>.



ABUAB / DOORS

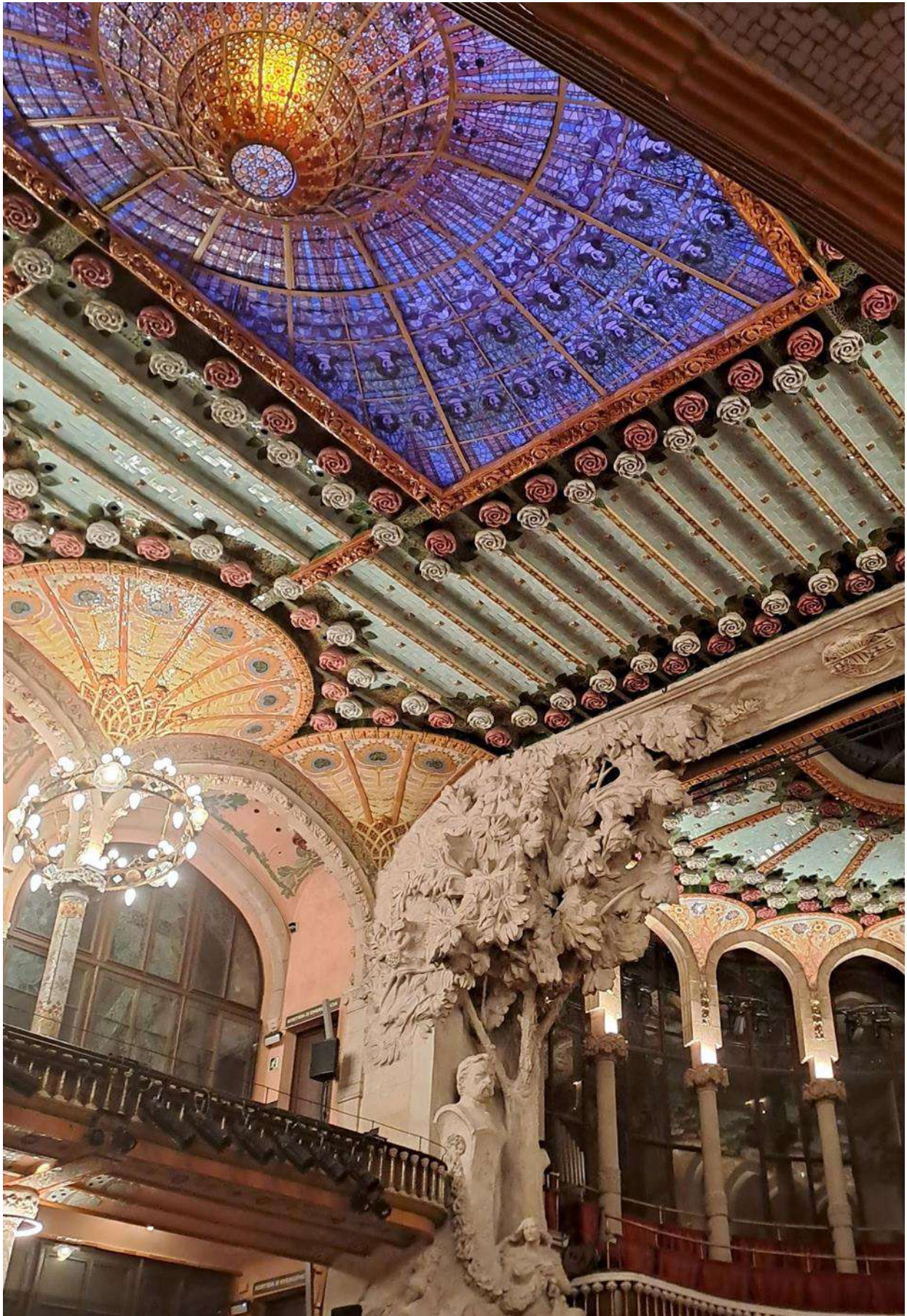
Project Summary

April 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

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heritageforpeace.org



Overview

Abuab or Doors is a project that aims to work in the use of cultural heritage as in instrument of social integration for Arabic-speaking refugees/immigrants. It has been proposed by the Institution Milà i Fontanals of the CSIC and Girona University and depends on the essential participation and collaboration of museums in the city of Barcelona. It is a multi-disciplinary project that works on the management of heritage, anthropology, art history, education and archaeology with the collaboration of staff in the different museums that join this initiative.

Abuab aims to help to resolve a socio-political problem of great importance at the present time, which is the conflict between Islamic fundamentalism and the West, by collaborating in the construction of a tool for mutual understanding that consists of encouraging intercultural dialogue on the values represented in cultural heritage. The aim is to have an impact on both the new-arrivals and the local populations. The former will discover the values of the host society through their heritage creations, at the same time as they appreciate the heritage contributions that their countries of origin have made to universal culture. The latter will discover the interest of the arrivals in understanding what the host society values.

This dialogue can help to create complicity in the construction of a society undergoing transformation.

Knowing and appreciating the creations of others is important for a positive reception and mutual understanding. New arrivals can also understand the values and ways of life of the host country through knowledge of cultural heritage. Additionally, when immigrants rediscover heritage elements from their own countries that are on display here, it can help them recover self-esteem that is often lost due to their situation of helplessness. For us, understanding the reaction of the migrants to cultural heritage is also a way of knowing their values and sentiments.

The proposal seeks to improve the immigrants/refugees' quality of life, with a special interest in the women, by attempting to widen their scope for social interaction with other Arabic-speakers and with local society.

Bearing in mind these concerns, the way in which these people from the Near East and North Africa receive the cultural heritage will be analysed. The aim is to learn from these people what their reactions and feelings are in their contact with the heritage of the host

country and with their own heritage which they had to abandon when they left their home countries.



Mission and Objectives

1.Cultural Heritage for social integration

The project works on the use of cultural heritage as an instrument of social integration for Arabic-speaking refugees/immigrants.

2.Improve the quality of life

Improvement in the quality of life of refugees/immigrants, with a special concern for females, aiming to increase their capacity of social interaction with other Arabic-speakers and with local society.

3. Support fragile communities

Experiment the use of cultural heritage in the social integration of communities exposed to fundamentalist discourses.

4. Discover the host society

Use the museums in the city of Barcelona as a place where immigrants/refugees can discover the cultural reality of the host society.

5.Create and strengthen links

Promote effective and cultural links of immigrants/refugees with the cultural heritage of Catalonia.

6.Promote intercultural dialogue

Help and promote intercultural dialogue amongst immigrants/refugees and between them and local society.

7.Work on female empowerment

Contribute towards female empowerment amongst the immigrant population, favour women's access to culture and promote their social interaction network.

8.Create a model

Strengthen the theoretical and methodological framework of the use of cultural heritage as a tool for the social inclusion of immigrants/refugees.

9.Counteract fundamentalism and xenophobia

Increase the capacity of the use of cultural heritage as an argument contrary to Islamic fundamentalism and xenophobia in host countries.

Challenges

The immigration phenomenon has become increasingly important in Europe in recent years. The integration of the new arrivals in their host societies is currently one of the main challenges for governments and civil society. The cultural contrast between immigrants and locals is sometimes the cause of tension for both communities (tension is usually caused by xenophobic movements; local conflicts between migrant and national populations tend to have economic and political foundations rather than cultural ones).

In the face of this problem, cultural heritage can act as a tool for social integration. When we speak of social integration, we are referring to the integration of citizens with equal rights and opportunities, which affects the immigrants and the host population, not to cultural integration as a form of assimilation. Through participation in cultural heritage as proposed by ABUAB, public policies can be carried out that are the opposite of the segregationist and discriminatory tendencies that the states themselves generate





Progress

Group visits to different museums in the city of Barcelona by Arabic-speakers and Ukrainian speakers from countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean and the Near East carried out in standard Arabic and in Ukrainian.

Enablement of **a study** for a better understanding of how cultural heritage can be used for social integration in populations threatened by situations of conflicts and extremism.

After the visits, a **debate** will be held among the participants. It will take place with refreshments of tea and cakes, as is usual in Arab countries, which will help to create a comfortable and friendly atmosphere.

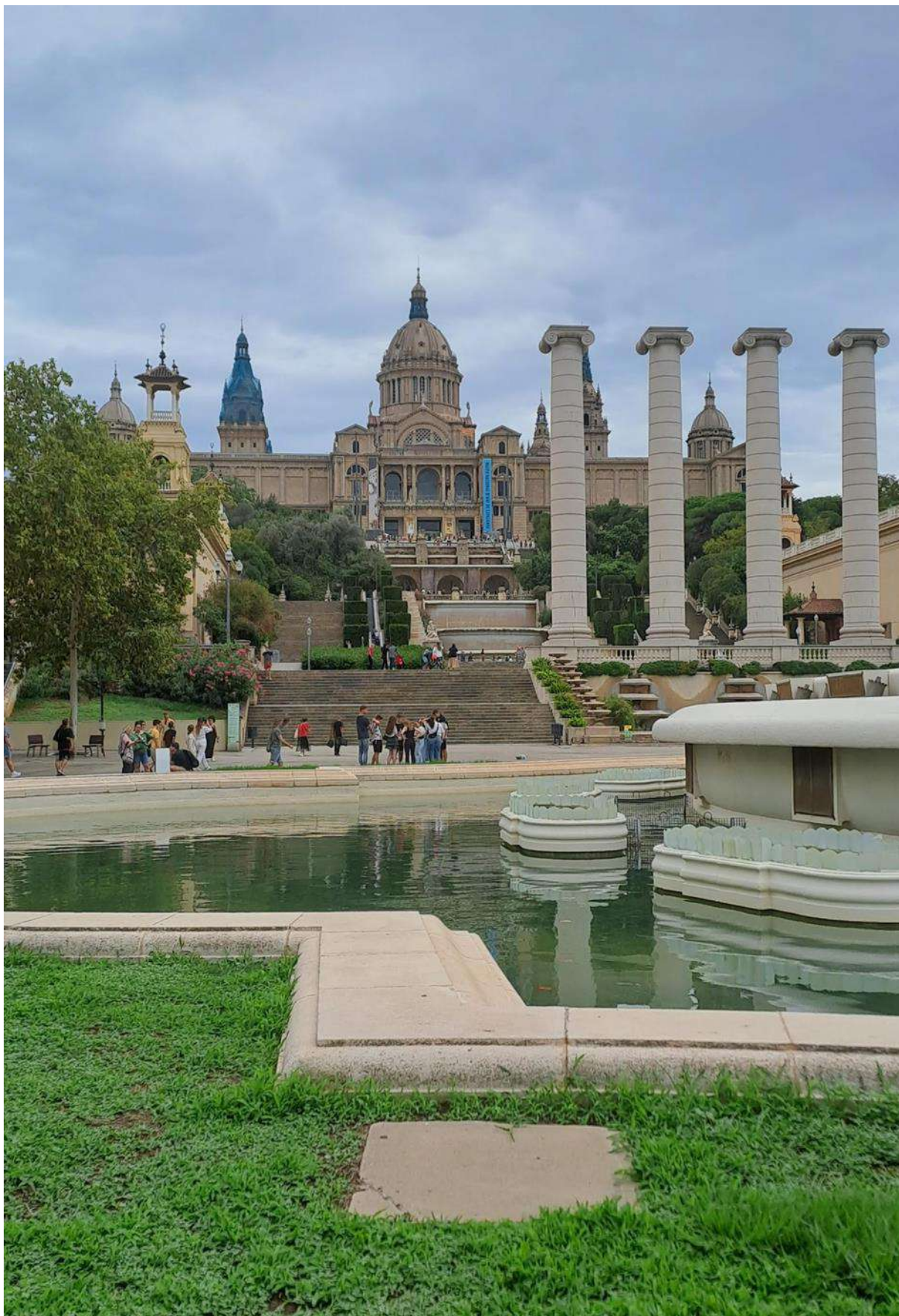
A **workshop** will be held to present the results of the research carried out during the project, and international experts who have carried out similar projects on the use of museums in connection with refugees and immigrants will be invited. The presentations at that workshop will be edited in a book to be published in paper and electronic formats.

200 visits will be made, with between 10 and 15 people in each group, so that from 1000 to 2000 people may benefit directly from the project

Links

<https://www.abuab.org/>





HIERAPOLIS

Project Summary

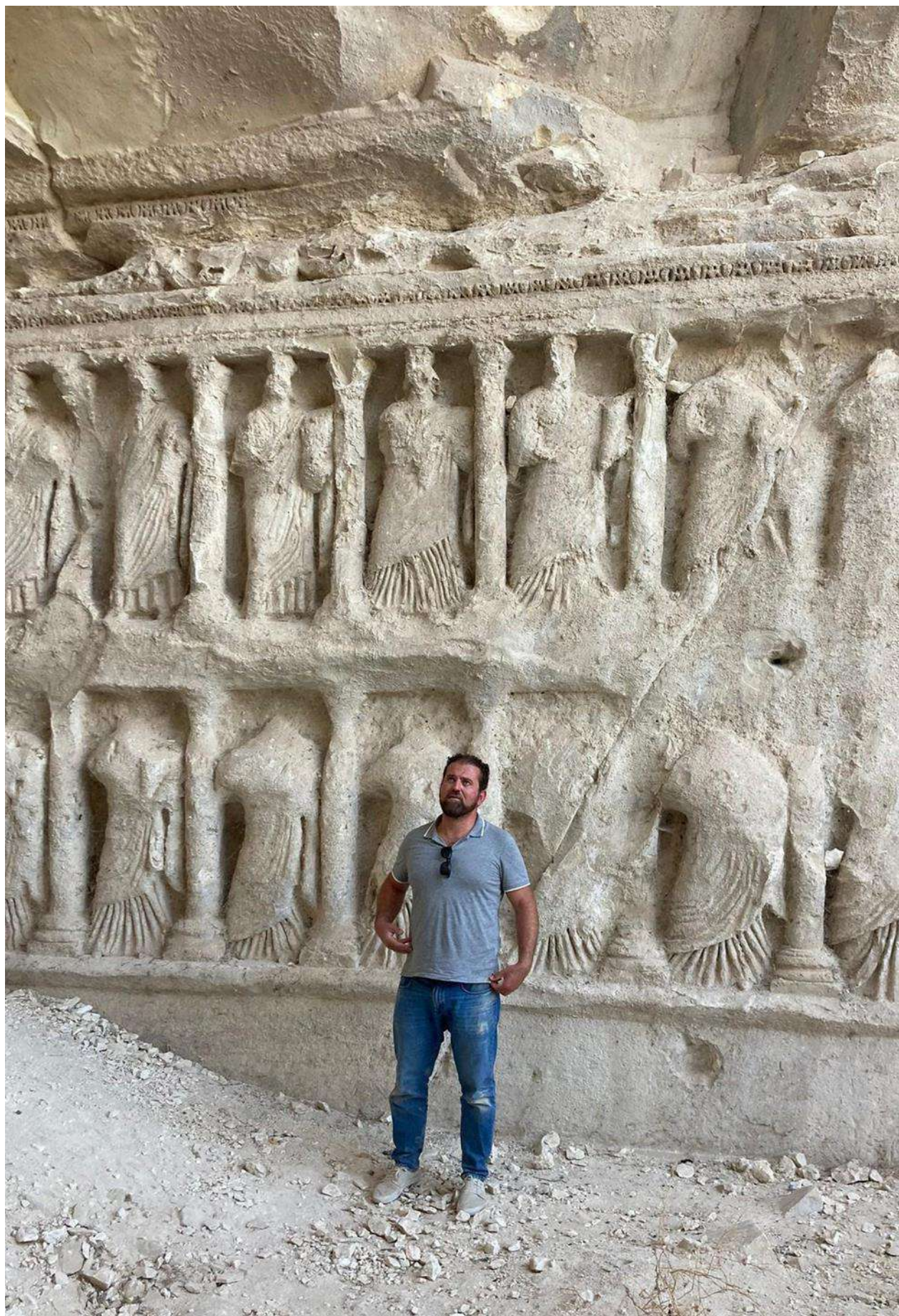
Emergency Intervention & Damage Assessment in Manbij

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

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Overview

The city of Manbij has an extensive historical timeline, with multiple archaeological sites and monuments from the Bronze Age, Roman, late Byzantine, and Islamic periods. It was a site of regional significance during the Grecian era when it existed as Hierapolis, a major transit hub and centre of worship for the Goddess Atargatis. Its location between Turkey and Syria has played a pivotal role in modern times as an escape city during the first six years of the war, and as a conflict zone between Syria and Turkey in the last six years of the conflict. ISIS occupied Manbij from 2014 to 2016. During this period cultural heritage suffered massive damage.

Preliminary information documented some damage through media outlets and newspapers such as the Damage Mailing List by Heritage for Peace, whereas several other violations were witnessed by the local community. Heritage here faces three main threats: urban encroachment, looting, and deterioration due to neglect. Each of these risks are a direct result of continued instability arising from the ongoing conflict. The continuous population displacement because of airstrikes has created a sense of immediacy among residents that often leads to the misuse of cultural heritage sites as points of utility.

The project aims to implement emergency interventions at three heritage sites dating from the late Byzantine to early 20th century. The sites are located within the city of Manbij in Northern Syria and include the Al-Antabi tomb, the Syriac Church, and an Ottoman bathhouse



The Ottoman Bathhouse

Constructed in 1901, the old bathhouse of Manbij is located within the ancient city wall next to Manbij Souk. It is an Ottoman building erected during the caliphate period, and later used to host displaced Palestinians fleeing the 1948 crisis. After 2011, and during the ISIS occupation of Manbij, it was used as a centre for ISIS and a prison.

As a result of the ISIS occupation, the building underwent changes to its western façade in the form of black paint, and internal alterations due to the addition of bathrooms and electrical installations. Furthermore, it has sustained major structural cracks, collapse, and fractures within its windows and doors.

The Al-Antabi Tomb

The tomb is located outside the old city wall within the eastern neighbourhood cemetery, whose interior contains a unique fresco and geometric drawings dating to the Byzantine period. It is currently under the protection of the directorate of Antiquities of Manbij. The tomb's frescoes have sustained severe damage as the result of looting during war, and structural water damage due to neglect.

The Syriac Church

The Syriac Church is home to mosaics dating to Grecian times, and as a place of worship

dates to the third or fourth century A.D. Both the building and internal artwork have been severely damaged because of looting and illegal excavations during the conflict. It is currently within the villa of a private citizen and being monitored by the Manbij department of antiquities.

Continued airstrikes and ISIS occupation have damaged the structural integrity of the Ottoman Hammam which led to cracks in the domes. Used as a military centre, part of its internal form was changed and without emergency stabilization the buildings of all three locations will suffer further decline. During ISIS' caliphate the city of Manbij served as a depot & marketplace for looted antiquities. Throughout the conflict archaeological sites in Manbij have been damaged by looters, who have removed many of the areas depicting the faces of individuals. The unstable economic situation provides an incentive for looters to continue the removal and destruction of these sites.

In the case of Manbij this is evident in the use of the Al-Antabi tomb as a place to dump trash. Without intervention it is likely that the heritage sites in question will witness further damage as the result of urban repurposing.

Over the course of the project, in coordination with the directorate of Antiquities of Manbij, heritage professionals

(archaeologists and architects) will be trained in emergency response, assessment, and recording techniques including Structural stabilization of monuments, and architecture; Manual and digital recording of buildings, monuments, artifacts, and in situ artworks; Physical stabilization and cleaning of in situ artworks.

Mission and Objectives

1. Specialist Training

The professional development of 15 local architects and archaeologists in the field of heritage protection.

2. Evaluation Plan

Detailed evaluation document concerning the archaeological sites and historic monuments of Manbij.

3. Consolidation Activities

Documentation and preventive consolidation of the Al-Antabi tomb, the Syriac Church, and the Old Hammam.

4. Mapping

An interactive map of heritage sites and areas of intervention. Visit Manbij Heritage map https://umap.openstreetmap.fr/en/map/manbij-heritage-map_975998#16/36.5304/37.9524

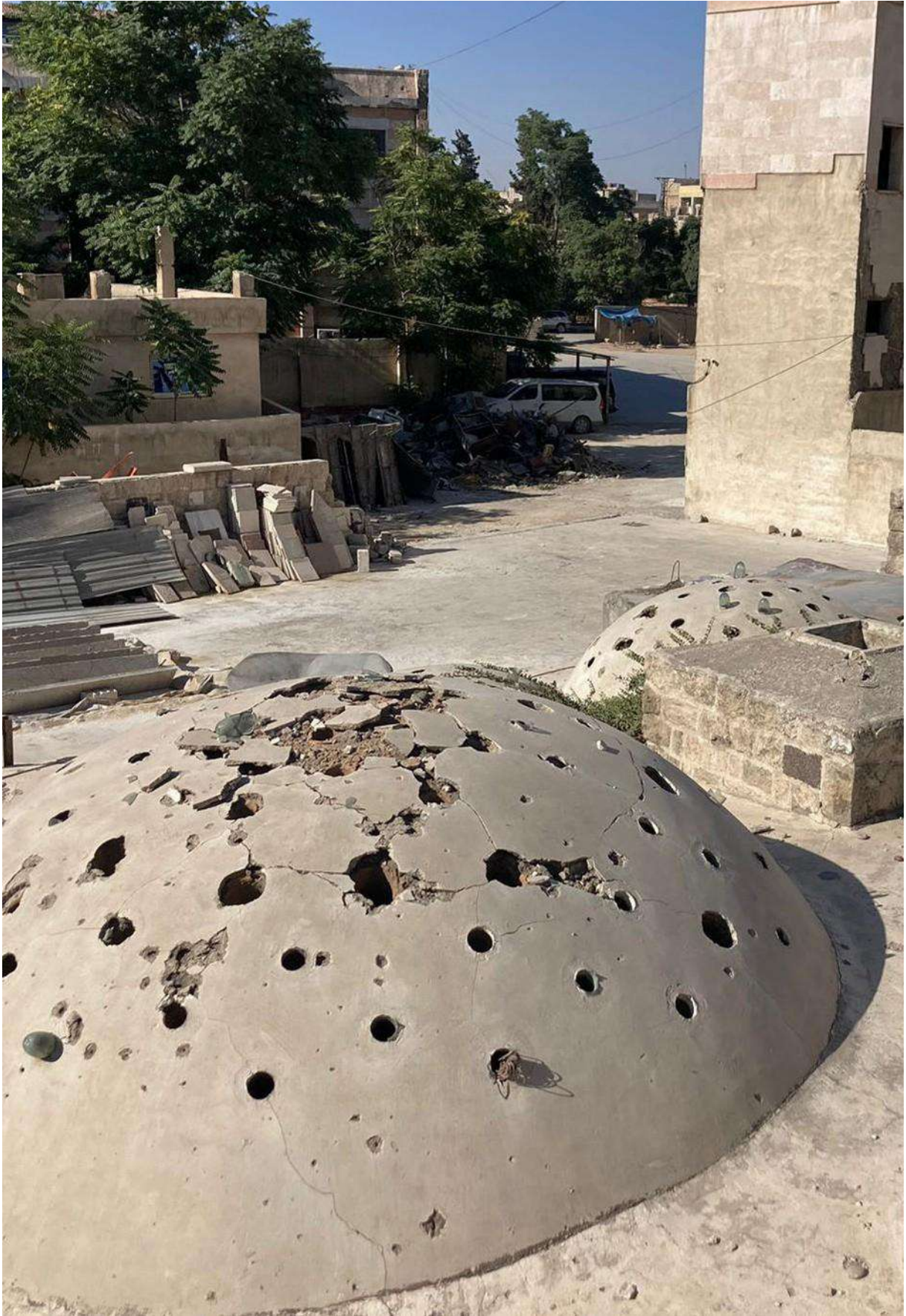
5. Civil Society Involvement

The cultivation of value for the heritage in Manbij among the local population and the international community.

6. Documentation

A publicly available digital and physical depository of the completed works and a short film documenting the program





Progress

This project seeks to address minimal and emergency interventions to ensure the stabilisation of three monuments and to stop further destruction and looting of the heritage sites in Manbij. The project will have five phases:

1. **Training on damage assessment, monitoring, preservation techniques, and the value of the monuments, structures, and cultural heritage artefacts after conflict.** Theoretical content and methodological tools will be presented to the 15 identified professionals (online and face to face) but the essential part of the training will be implemented in the field.
2. **Documentation and evaluation of archaeological sites and historic monuments** (value and state of conservation), including a comprehensive survey of the entire historical city of Manbij, by the trained 15 professionals.
3. **Emergency and consolidation interventions to the above-mentioned heritage sites:** Al-Antabi tomb, Syriac Church, and Old Hammam. These interventions include maintenance, stabilisation, support, cleaning, and documentation works that

form a first step in preventing looting and future collapse as a result of neglect. For this task, 30 workers and restoration specialists will be employed.

4. **An interactive map** highlighting the implemented works, locations, characteristics, and values of the historical monuments and archaeological sites of the whole city, will be elaborated, and distributed.
5. **Awareness program** which will include lectures, brochures, film about the cultural heritage in Manbij, and the basic skills to preserve it for the future generations. Targeted to the local community.

Actions completed over the last three months by our partner on the ground, Orient Association:

- A. First approval of the project concept from the heritage authority in Manbij.
- B. Compiled a list of the archaeological sites and historical monuments which will be documented.
- C. Identified the three monuments on which the project will carry out the interventions.
- D. Identified the first list of 15 trainees who will participate in the project.

Because of our relationships with local Syrian experts, institutions, NGO's, and initiatives on the ground, our networks are growing to

facilitate the needs of the project and gain the insight necessary to ensure its success





Funders & Partners



Department for
Digital, Culture
Media & Sport



Palmyrene voices

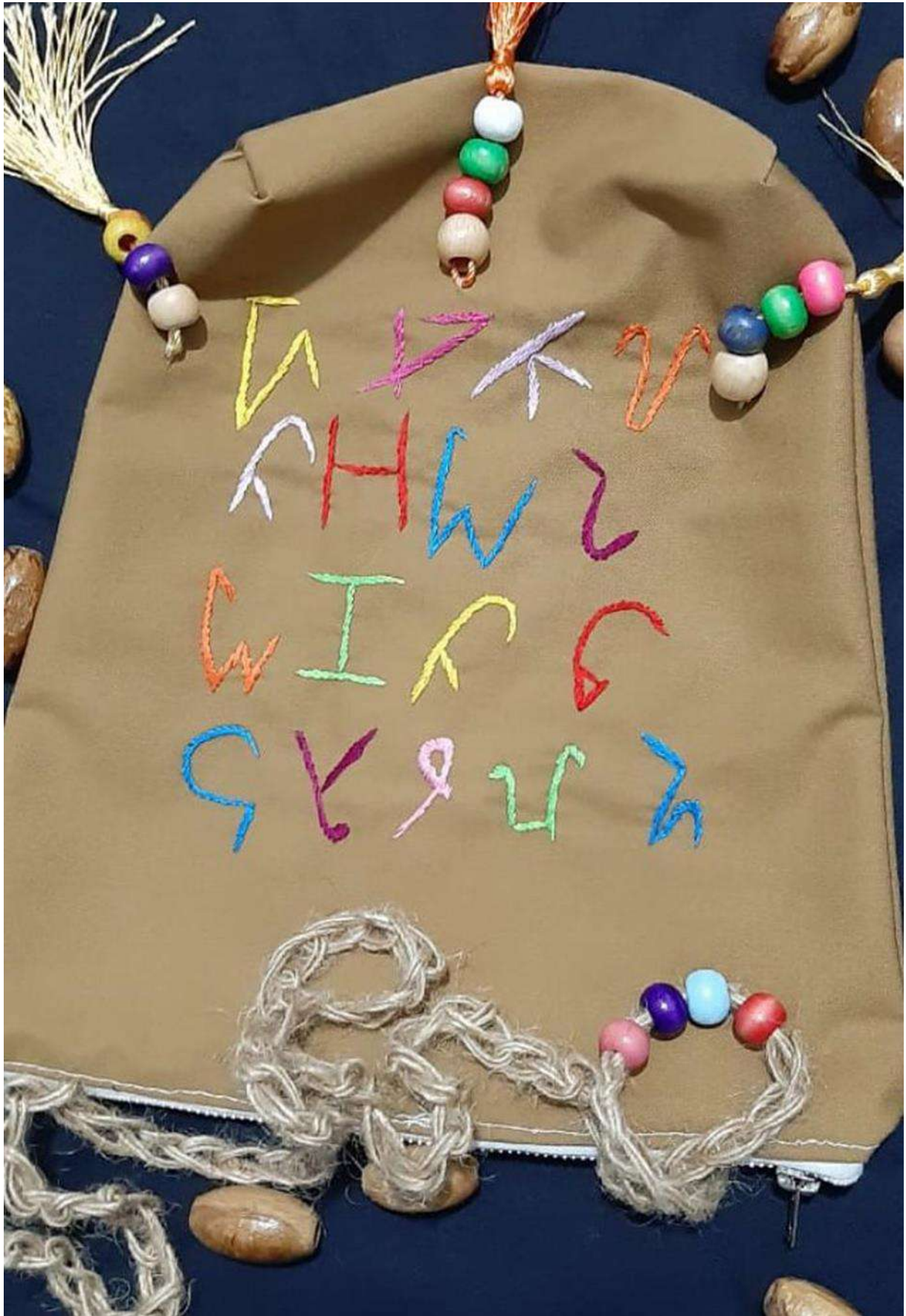
Project Summary

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

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www.heritageforpeace.org



Overview

Palmyra is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is considered one of the most beautiful, ruined cities in the Middle East. Palmyra's outstanding universal value is a testimony of the unique aesthetic achievement of the wealthy caravan oasis from the Roman period.

Palmyrene Voices is a civil society initiative whose mission is to provide a platform for the voices of the Palmyrene people to reach the international community; to support all Palmyrene people in the diaspora in their efforts to come back to Palmyra; and to help them to rebuild their city in a way that

guarantees their dignity and preserves their identity



Mission & Objectives

- To convey the voice of the Palmyrene people to the international community
- To preserve the memory of Palmyra's people along with their cultural and natural heritage
- To provide a safe road for the return of the Palmyrene people to Palmyra
- To preserve the links between Palmyrene people wherever they are
- To help to provide job opportunities for Palmyrene people in the diaspora
- To present the voices of the Palmyrene people in the reconstruction of Palmyra where they will be able to join in the discussions about its reconstruction



Challenges

The earthquake on February 6, with a magnitude of 7.8, devastated southeastern Turkey and northwestern Syria, claiming over 46,000 lives and leaving 110,000 injured. This natural disaster not only caused immense loss of life and injuries but also inflicted severe damage to infrastructure and cultural heritage sites in both countries. The earthquake worsened the already dire humanitarian situation in northern Syria and Turkey, where more than 4 million displaced Syrians reside, adding to their challenges.

One of the most affected groups are the Palmyrene people, with 8,500 displaced individuals in Turkey, 70% of whom live in earthquake zones. In cities like Antakya in Hatay, 300 Palmyrenes lost their lives, with families still waiting for their loved ones to be recovered from the rubble. The survivors, including those in other eastern Syrian states, are now homeless and facing the harsh winter conditions. The main challenge lies in providing immediate assistance to these displaced individuals, ensuring they have access to shelter, water, electricity, and heating services. Additionally, there is a need to support the Palmyrene craftsmen and women who are unable to work, risking the loss of their traditional knowledge and

income.



Progress

Heritage for peace has conducted a census of the diaspora of Palmyrene people in Turkey in 2020, which showcased that there are over 8,500 displaced people. Additionally, we have monitored the impact of the earthquake in Turkey on the displaced people of Palmyra in collaboration with several civil society organizations and people currently inside Syria.

Ultimately, our goal remains to provide support to craftsmen and women affected by the earthquake. With funding from the ALIPH foundation, we have been able to establish an online marketplace for the craftspeople to showcase and sell their products as well as helping them continue creating their crafts.

Currently, we are working on preparing a document on the intangible heritage of Palmyra to support the craftspeople of the region.

LINKS

- <https://palmyrenevoices.org/>
- <https://scholarlypublishingcollective.org/psup/jemahs/article-abstract/12/1/79/385554/Preserving-Palmyra-s-Heritage-through-a-Community?redirectedFrom=fulltext>





RAFEKATUNA

Project Summary

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

contact@heritageforpeace.org

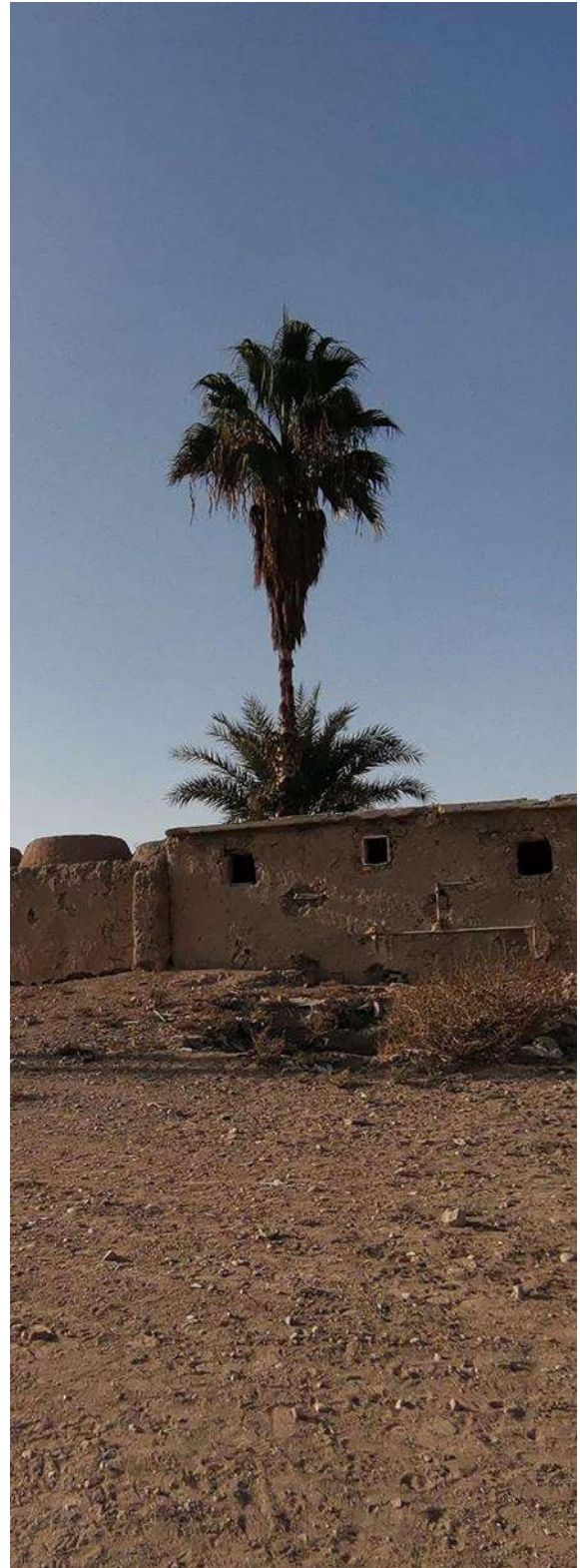
www.heritageforpeace.org



Overview

Rafekatuna is a civil society initiative aiming to protect cultural heritage in Raqqa, focusing on documenting and preserving heritage sites amidst conflict. It operates through partnerships with institutions like the Milá y Fontanals Institute, RehabiMed, and is supported by the Cultural Protection Fund of the British Council. Efforts include emergency preservation measures and capacity-building for heritage preservation.

Raqqa's cultural heritage, significantly damaged by conflict and ISIS occupation, is highlighted by the destruction of historical and religious sites, emphasising the need for such protective initiatives. The Raqqa Digital Museum represents an effort to safeguard both tangible and intangible heritage, serving as a repository and expressive space for Raqqa's cultural identity.



Mission & Objectives

The mission of Rafekatuna revolves around the safeguarding and revitalization of cultural heritage within Raqqa. This entails a comprehensive approach to document the current conditions of historical and cultural sites, deploy emergency interventions to preserve these sites from further degradation, and build local capacities for ongoing heritage conservation. The initiative strategically partners with various international organisations to pool resources, expertise, and funding, primarily supported by the Cultural Protection Fund of the British Council, to address the complex challenges faced by Raqqa's cultural heritage due to prolonged conflicts and occupation by hostile forces. This mission aims to protect physical structures while also to fostering a sense of identity, continuity, and resilience among the communities connected to these historic landmarks.

1. Documentation of Cultural Sites

Systematically recording the current state of Raqqa's built heritage to assess damages and priorities conservation efforts.



2. Emergency preservation measures

Implementing immediate intervention to stabilise and protect vulnerable sites from further damage.

3. Capacity building

Developing local expertise in heritage preservation through training and education, ensuring sustainable management and conservation practices

4. Community Engagement and Awareness

Promoting the value of cultural heritage among local communities to foster support for preservation efforts.

5. Collaborative Partnerships

Working with international and local organisations to pool resources, expertise, and funding for a broader impact.





Challenges

Damage Assessment: Extensive damage to cultural sites due to ongoing conflict, requiring thorough documentation and prioritisation for conservation efforts.

Illicit Activities: Instances of looting, vandalism, and deliberate destruction by ISIS, notably the destruction of historical monuments and conversion of religious sites for their purposes.

Capacity Building: The need to train local individuals in heritage preservation amidst such adversity, ensuring that conservation efforts can be locally sustained.

Community Engagement: Engaging a population traumatised by war in the importance of cultural heritage, which can be challenging yet vital for long-term preservation success.



Efforts

- Document Raqqa's cultural heritage to assess and prioritise conservation.
- Implement emergency measures for site preservation.
- Train locals in heritage conservation for sustainable management.
- Create a digital museum for tangible and intangible heritage, ensuring access for future generations and fostering a connection to Raqqa's rich cultural history.

LINKS

<https://www.rafekatuna.org/>



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Department for
Digital, Culture
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RehabiMed



SHeLTr

Syrian Heritage Law Training Project

Project Summary

August 2024

Prepared by Heritage for Peace

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Overview

In response to the catastrophic destruction and loss of Syria's heritage by Daesh (or the Islamic State), Heritage for Peace in a joint effort with Save Muslim Heritage (SMH) has developed the SHeLTr project. SHeLTr stands for 'Syrian Heritage Law Training Project' and it aims to assist those managing legal cases in the Syrian courts in the Idlib region to understand the legal obligations under international, national and Islamic law relating to heritage protection. Heritage for Peace and their partners have researched the intersections between these three branches of law relating to the safeguarding of heritage and we have invited community leaders, heritage professionals and law officials to partake in E-learning training on the legal framework that forbids the destruction of heritage, looting and the illicit antiquities trade.

Syria holds a rich cultural history. Having witnessed the rise of great empires and the spread of major world religions, it holds six declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites as well as eleven inscriptions on the World Heritage Tentative List. In addition, there are numerous rare and important collections of

antiquities housed in the museums of Damascus, Aleppo, Raqqa, Homs, Hama, Daraa and many others. In 2015, most of Syria's cultural sites were located within conflict areas and are still today affected by the general breakdown of law and order. They have suffered from various threats, resulting in a range of effects from slight damage to destruction and looting varying from a few holes to wide-scale devastation. However, Syria's heritage is not only about physical remains: it transcends its material significance insofar as it represents the people's identity and stands as a symbol between society's past and future. As the conflict changes, so does the nature of the destruction. Whilst damage from the fighting and looting are still significant threats, today a large amount of damage is connected to mismanagement, and illegal development. The law courts in the Idlib region of Syria are currently faced with numerous heritage cases daily. Through this project, Heritage for Peace aims to provide training for court staff and heritage professionals to better handle these cases. Funded in March 2016 by Gerda Henkel Stiftung, the project has a planned completion date of 2024.



Progress

Developing an E-Learning Platform

Online courses consist of ‘articulates’ designed by Ahmed Galal an innovative eLearning developer based in Egypt. The ‘articulates’ are a dynamic presentation format with scripted voice-overs to offer an original online training method. The presentations, which are in both English and Arabic, will be supported by practical exercises to enable the participants to apply their learned theory to likely situations. A ‘Train the Trainer’ booklet is being developed to assist the in-situ trainers to deliver the course. The programme is divided into three parts with a total of 13 online ‘articulate’ presentations and is delivered in a five-day training course in Idleb, Syria

Offering a Comprehensive Online Training

The training will be divided into three main parts: International Heritage Law, Syrian Heritage Law, and Islamic Heritage Law.

1. International Heritage Law: the first part of the course will introduce the participants to the international conventions put in place to protect cultural heritage. This includes the 1954 Hague Convention specifically and customary international law more generally. Other relevant international legal instruments will be discussed together with the role of the International Criminal Court in prosecuting crimes against heritage. The course will conclude with discussions on the relevance and the practical application of these legal instruments within the local Syrian courts. Syrian Heritage Law.
2. Syrian Heritage Law: the second part of the course will look at the role and structure of Syrian cultural heritage institutions, specifically the DGAM (Directorate-General of Antiquities and Museums), but also international institutions, such as UNESCO who operate in Syria. It will cover the history of their work, and the role they have played during the conflict. Specific focus will be given to the current Law of Antiquities 222, and its limitations. This will lead on to an analysis of the initiative for the new Syrian cultural heritage law.
3. Islamic Heritage Law: the third part will focus on Islam Law and its role in safeguarding cultural heritage. The key principles and concepts of Islamic Law will be discussed, as well as its primary sources. This will be followed by an explanation of cultural heritage in Islam,

and a discussion of law relating to movable and immovable heritage. Finally, extremist justifications of heritage destruction will be considered, together with a brief consideration of countering these views using the religious texts of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah.

LINKS

<https://sheltr.heritageforpeace.org/>

We have developed an e-learning plan comprising 13 comprehensive lessons of content in English and Arabic. The plan is targeted and open to individuals from all skill levels.



Challenges

- **Translating the material in Arabic:** ensuring that our content is accessible and easily understood.
- **Community Engagement and Awareness:** promoting our course to local communities and heritage practitioners to reach a wider and more diverse audience.
- **Collaborative Partnerships:** Working with international and local organizations to pool resources, expertise, and funding for a broader impact.



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STIFTUNG



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Sudan Heritage Protection Initiative

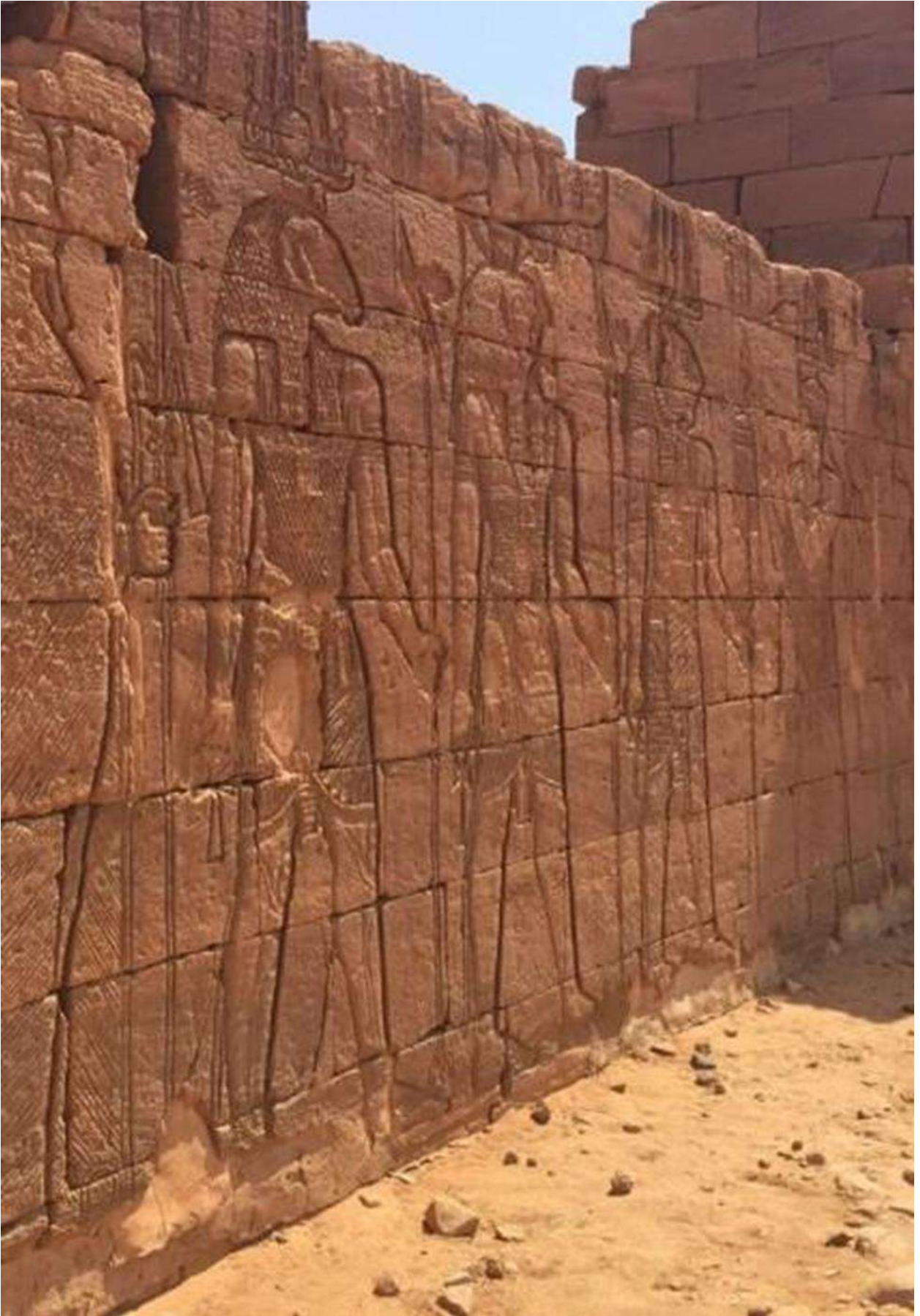
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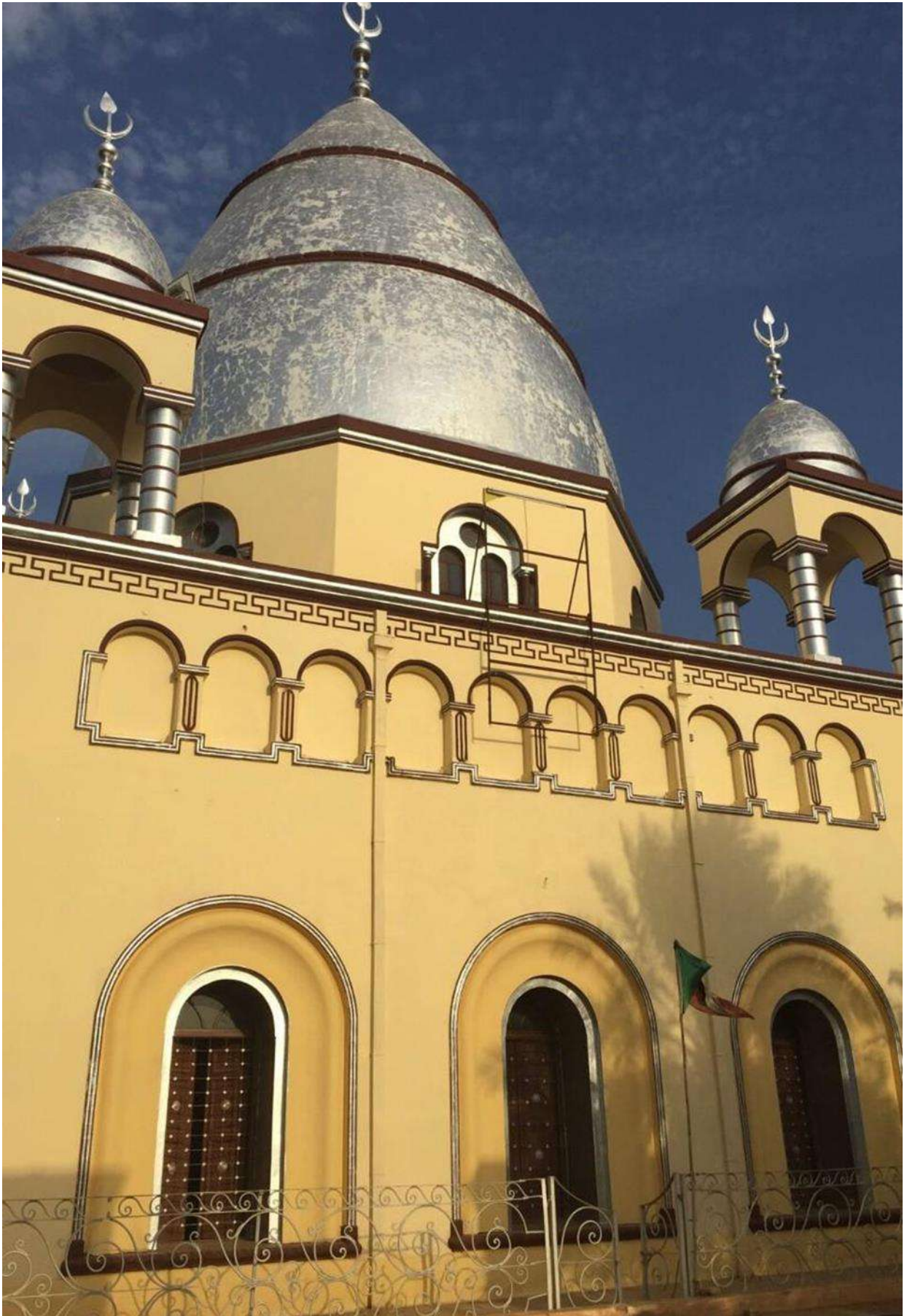
Overview

Sudan has faced in the last decades different conflicts, ethnic tension, and competition over resources. Sudan suffered from two major civil wars. The first one was between the northern government and southern Sudan which killed 1.5 million people, and led to a cession of the country, the Republic of Sudan and South Sudan. Conflict in the western region of Darfur is continuing, has displaced 2 million people and killed more than 200,000 people. The recent armed conflict between the rival forces of the military of Sudan began on the 15th of April 2023. The fighting mostly concentrated around the capital city of Khartoum and the Darfur region. As of the 16th of May, at least 1,000 people have been killed, more than 5,100 others have been injured, 3.7million people have been displaced.

Sudan is a culturally and linguistically diverse country with a history that goes back to over 100,000 years. It has two World Heritage sites: Jebel Barkal and the sites of Napatan region and Archaeological Sites of Island of Meroe, known for over 200 pyramids built by the powerful Kingdom of Kush that also ruled Egypt for a century. The ongoing conflict poses an imminent threat to its rich cultural heritage. The most vulnerable sites are the National Museum, Ethnographic Museum,

Khalifa House Museum, Palace Museum, Mausoleum of Mahdi, National Archive in Khartoum, the Sheikan Museum in el-Obeid, and Darfur Museum in Nyala. Irreplaceable damages are already reported at the Natural History Museum; the precious collection of the Muhammad Omar Bashir Centre for Sudanese Studies at Ahlia University in Omduruman (the city besides Khartoum) was looted and lost in a fire in its entirety. Some damages to temples displayed in the garden of the National Museum in Khartoum are also reported.

Sudan heritage Protection Initiative is an initiative created under the umbrella of Heritage for Peace in collaboration with several academics, and Sudan civil society members in and outside of Sudan.



Mission & Objectives

- Raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding and protecting cultural heritage in Sudan, irrespective of its religious or ethnic identity.
- Document and preserve knowledge about the damages inflicted upon cultural heritage in Sudan during the conflict.
- Develop, maintain, and support a network of contacts and volunteers dedicated to the effective safeguarding of cultural heritage in Sudan.
- Provide training, practical knowledge, and simple technologies to protect and preserve cultural heritage in Sudan, even in challenging circumstances.
- Facilitate communication and collaboration between heritage workers in Sudan and the international heritage community.



Progress

Drafting the First and Second and third Report on the Destruction of Cultural Heritage in Sudan:

- <https://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SHPI-final-report-27.06.2023.pdf>
- <https://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/SHPI-Second-report-2-November-2023.pdf>
- <https://www.heritageforpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/THE-THIRD-REPORT-CULTURAL-HERITAGE-SITUATIONS-IN-SUDAN.pdf>
- <https://menasolidaritynetwork.com/2023/08/14/report-cultural-heritage-situations-in-sudan/>

Webinar in collaboration with the V&A

Culture in Crisis programme: Bringing together voices from different disciplines within the Sudanese heritage sector, we will hear about the current threats posed to cultural heritage, as well as the emerging initiatives such as the Sudan Heritage Protection Initiative which are designed to

promote, protect, and preserve it. [*Speakers: Dr. Esam Alhadi, Director of Curatorial Affairs, Exhibitions and Archives, The International Museum of Muslim Cultures (USA); Dr Ismail Hamid Elnour, University of Birmingham (UK). Member of the Sudan Heritage Protection Initiative; Dr Galia Garelnabi, Director, National Museum of Sudan (former Director of National Corporation of Antiquities and Museums (NCAM)); Dr. Isber Sabrine, President, Heritage For Peace. Director of The Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations to Safeguard Cultural Heritage (ANSCH). Member of the Sudan Heritage Protection Initiative.*]

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94QrCXAg5cc&t=2291s>
- <https://cultureincrisis.org/news-and-events/upcoming-online-event-culture-in-crisis-spotlight-on-sudan>



