

# EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE TO SYRIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE

Damage report / Heritage Roots V.O.F  
DEN HAAG 2023



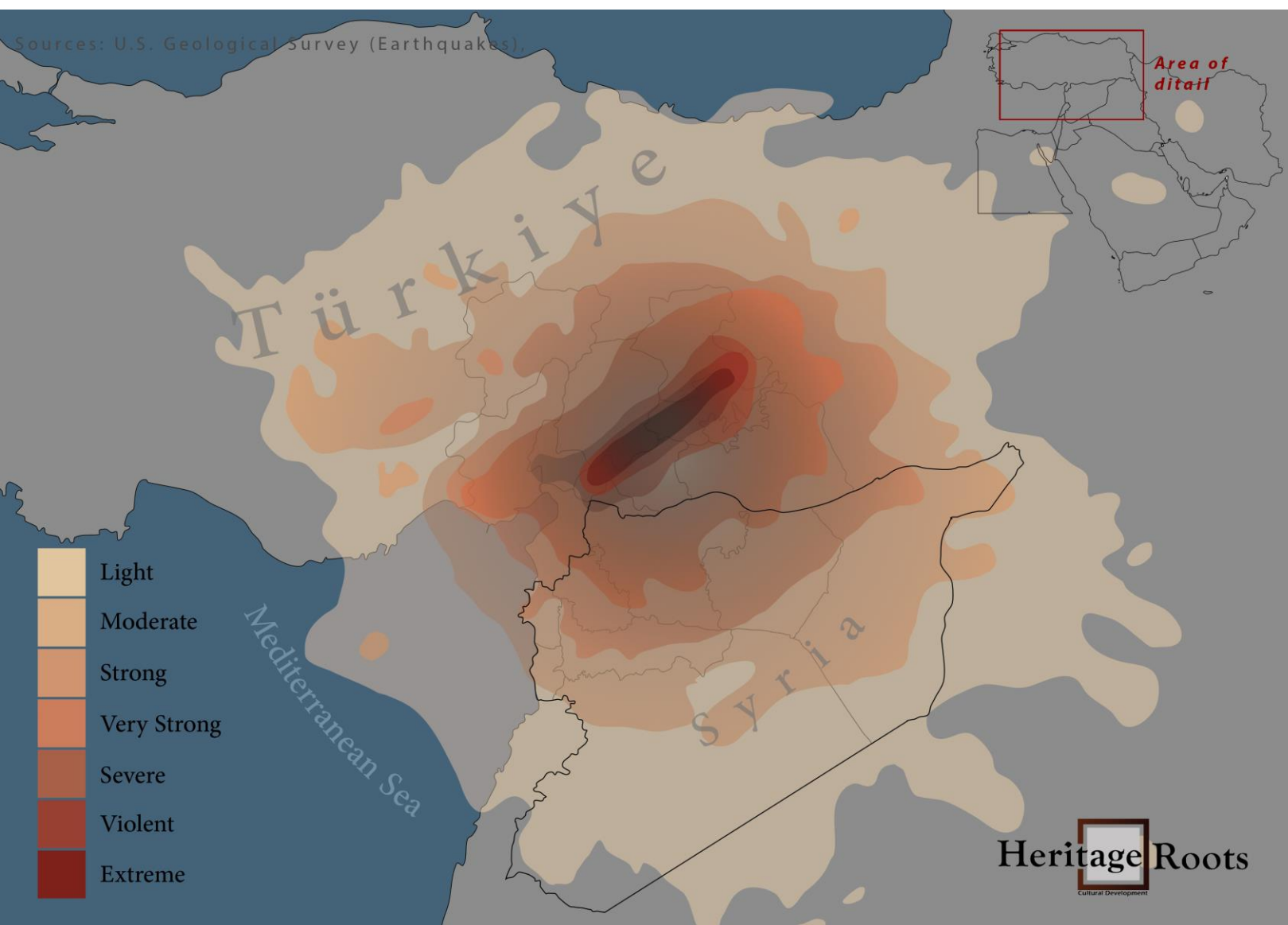
THE ANCIENT CITADEL OF ALEPPO, SCARRED BY SYRIA'S 11-YEAR CONFLICT, SUFFERED FURTHER DAMAGE IN THE EARTHQUAKE THAT RAVAGED SOUTHERN TURKEY AND NORTHERN SYRIA. HERITAGE ROOTS / 17 FEB. 2023

## The 7.8-magnitude quake harmed historic structures throughout Turkey and Syria.

The first earthquake—a magnitude 7.8 event—began in the early morning hours of February 6 near Gaziantep. Later that day, a second 7.5-magnitude aftershock followed.

Authorities are still sifting through the rubble, but by February 8 the death toll had topped 45,000, with tens of thousands more injured, reports [Al Jazeera News](#). The quake also damaged thousands of structures, including some that had stood for centuries.

Our organization seeks to mobilize experts to “establish a precise inventory of the damage” and “safeguard these sites with the cooperation of global authorities while being aware that their priority at this stage is an emergency disaster, rescue, and relief.”



# ALEPPO

Aleppo was Syria's pre-war commercial hub and considered one of the world's longest continuously inhabited cities, boasting markets, mosques, caravanserais, and public baths, but a brutal siege imposed on rebels left it disfigured.

Even before the earthquake, buildings in Aleppo often collapsed due to poor infrastructure after more than a decade of war and little oversight to ensure the safety of new construction projects. The old city of Aleppo has been on its list of World Heritage in Danger since 2013 due to the Syrian civil war.

A spokesperson for UNESCO, the global cultural organization “We are gathering information, but at [this] stage preliminary observations did not report serious damage to World Heritage Sites, and more detailed examinations will be carried out in the forthcoming days. We are monitoring the situation in liaison with the authorities.”

According to the General Directorate of Antiquities and Museums from some provinces indicated damage was caused to some archaeological sites as a result of the earthquake on morning 6 Feb 2023.

## Old city of Aleppo

Where the historic neighborhood of Aqaba, adjacent to the western city wall, was subjected to damages and collapses, which is not far from the Gate of Antioch. The same applies to the historical neighborhood of Al-Jalloum. There were severe structural damages, including the fall of dipping ceilings, walls, and parts of the facades.

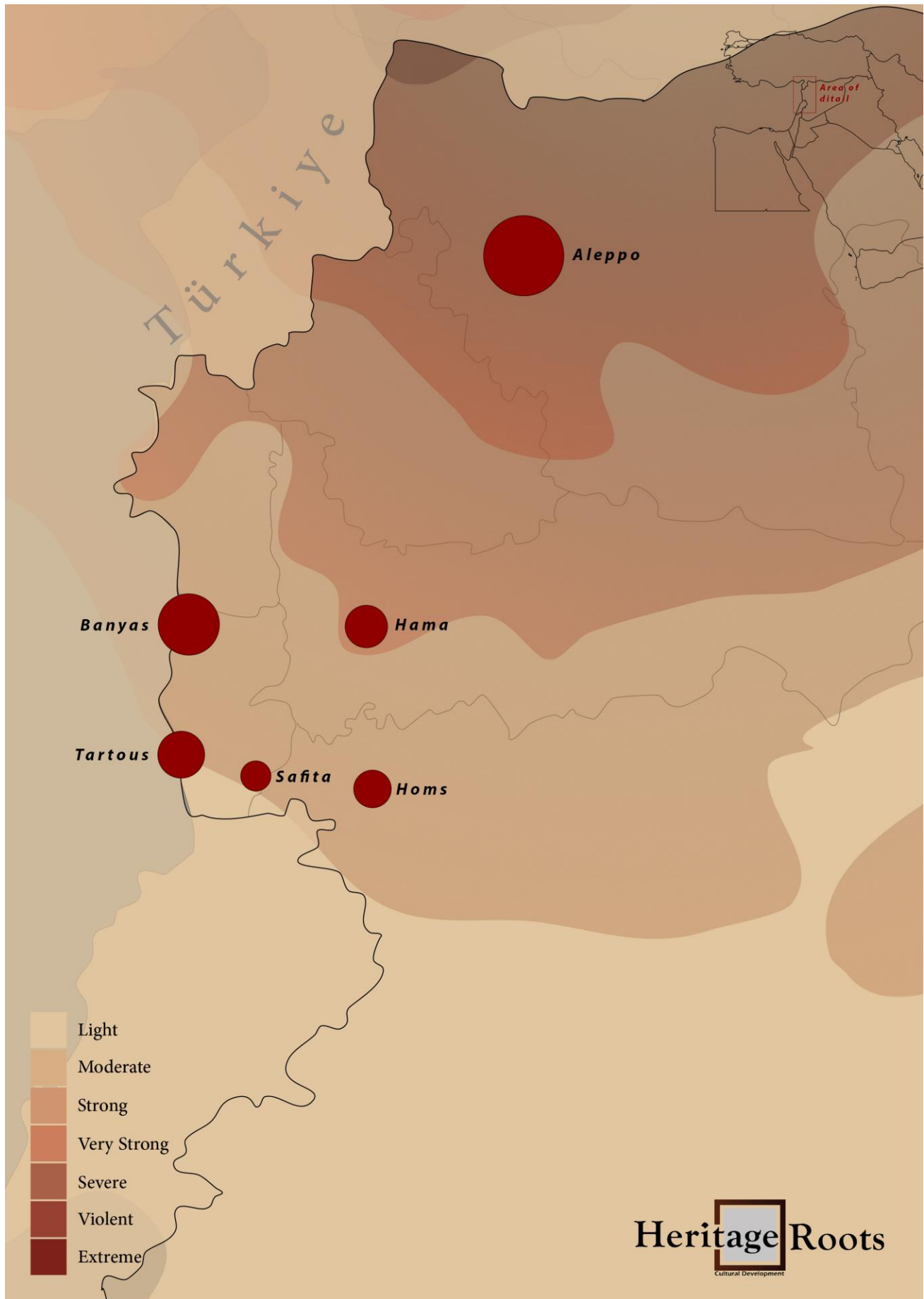
Historical private houses on Al-Khandaq Avenue were also affected, with moderate and minor damage.

Information also indicates the fall of several minarets of historical mosques in Aleppo.



General view of the Olds city of Aleppo







## Aleppo Citadel

suffered minor and moderate damages as following:

- The front entrance of the tower, which is the main gate of the citadel, was damaged by the earthquake. There was a drop in the ceiling of the arch holding the entrance, cracks in the entrance's tiles, and several fallen stones from the entrance archway.
- Parts of the northern, eastern, southern, and western of the barrack roof was also damaged.
- long cracks in the facades of the Ayyubid mosque minaret in the citadel, and the collapse of its spire.
- Collapse along with the upper cornice and the facades of the courtyard of the Ayyubid mosque from the inside.
- at the entrance to the Mamluk tower from the east (from the outside).
- Collapse Part of the southern wall of the Ottoman barracks and part of the barracks roof.
- A major collapse of the silo of the Ottoman mill and a crack in the eastern grinding room.
- Crack in the roof and facade of the Mamluk tower.
- Collapse in several bridges of the arch next to the entrance to the exhibition hall, and cracks occurred at the entrance to the Throne Hall.



Aleppo Citadel -Damaged for Minaret of the mosque inside of the UNESCO-listed citadel, February 6, 2023, following an earthquake (AFP)















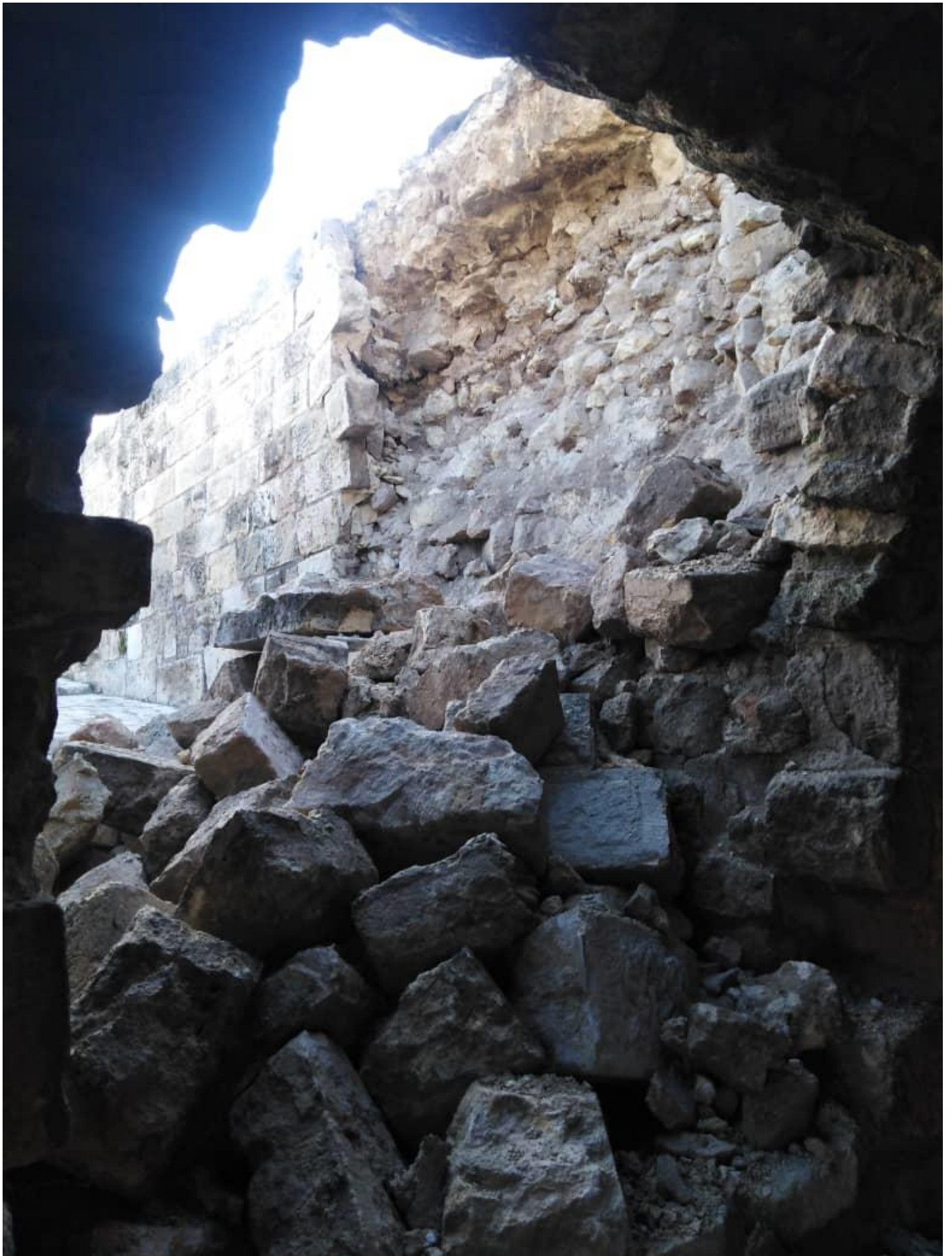










































































































## NORTH WEST SYRIA

In the ancient northwest city of Maarat al-Numan where the museum and the Ottoman Khan were impacted, our team based near northern Syria's "Dead Cities," 700 abandoned Roman and Byzantine settlements, reported that there were damaged in these sites, and until writing this report they are working on investigate that damage, and we are going to report that as soon as we have any UpToDate information about the heritage villages and towns in that area.

## HAMA

cracks occurred in the facades and walls of many heritage buildings, which led to the fall parts of the facades of these buildings, the most affected building is heritage property (Al-Jalaa segment), 9m<sup>2</sup> which totally damaged.

Huge damage and cracks in the façade of heritage building no.982, located in the neighborhood of Al-Bashoura.

In **Salamyieh city**, the reports indicated that 1m fell from the upper part of the minaret of the Imam Ismail Mosque, which led to a crack in the façade of the mosque due to the fall of the parts mentioned on it. Parts of the outer walls of Shmemis Castle were seen falling, and they were estimated at 10m<sup>2</sup>.



Hama, Heritage building damaged - February 6, 2023, following an earthquake (DGAM)



## HOMS

To date, we have not received accurate information from the city of Homs on any damages to the heritage sites, as well as the ancient city of Palmyra, and it is known so far that the minarets of the Great Mosque in Qusayr have completely fallen.



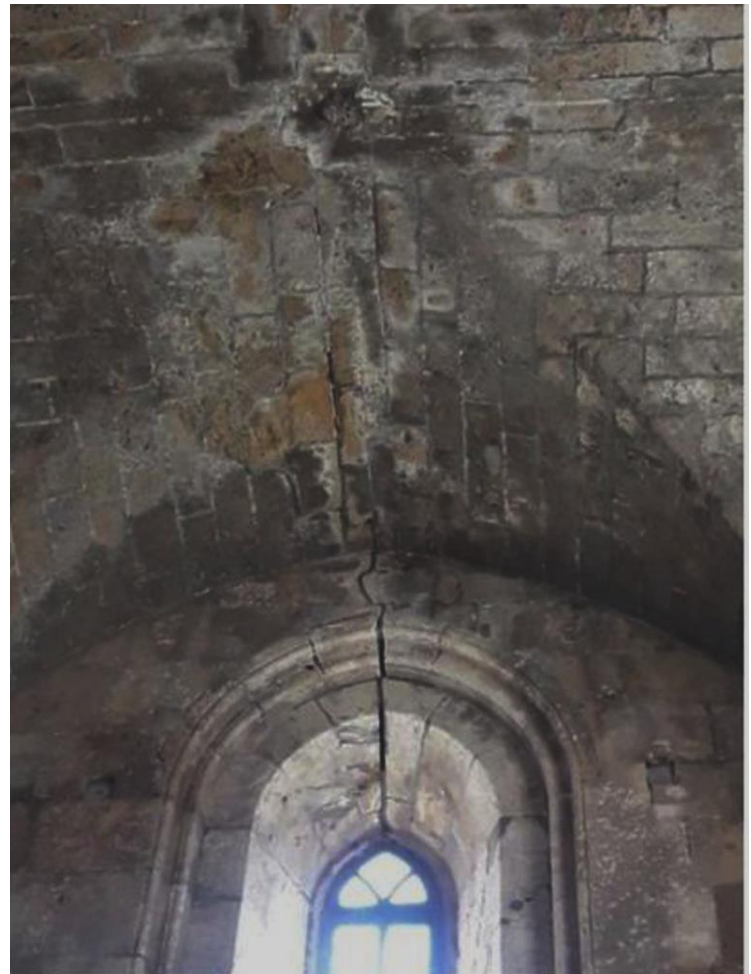
Homs, Heritage building damaged - February 6, 2023, following an earthquake (DGAM)

## TARTOUS

A report from DGAM stated that there was serious damage done to many heritage sites in Tartous city and its villages.

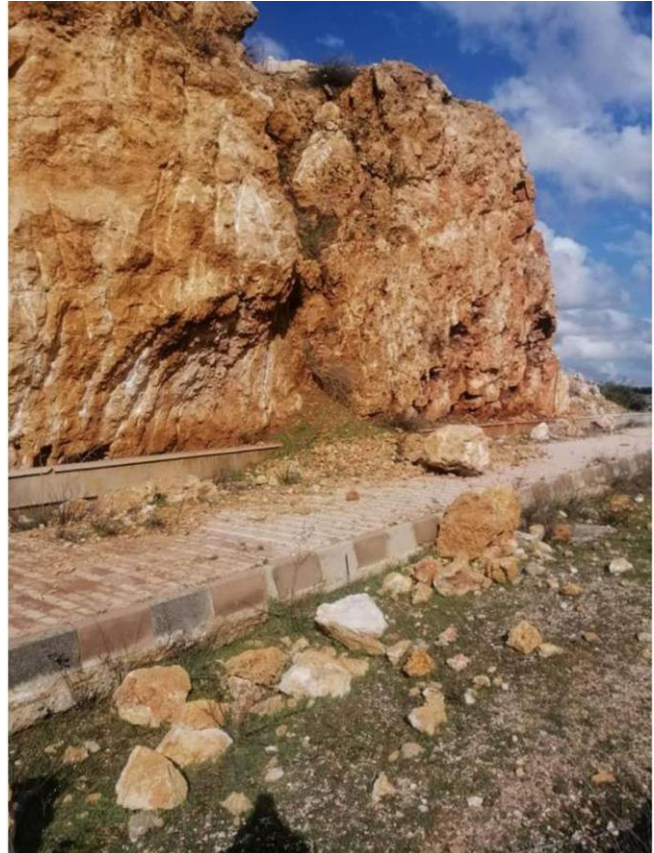
- **Tartous city:**

**Tartous Cathedral**, which is the building of the Tartous Museum, cracks occurred in the inner museum window to the right of the entrance, as well as serious cracks on the decorative columns of the windows from the inside, also there was a new crack appeared after the earthquake on the museum's southern façade.





**Al-Jama'a Cemetery-Tartos.** Collapse a lot of stones from the bearing part of the burial.





**Khanat Samryan-Tartos**, Collapse part of the remaining vaults.





### Al-Khaoaby Citadel-Tartos:

- Collapse of some heritage buildings in the upper castle (Haret Al-Aghwar)
- Collapse of parts of the dome bearing the damaged buildings
- Cracks inside the Citadel Mosque and parts of the mud
- Collapse of parts of the remains of the walls of the residential village



- **Baniyas City**

Many historic buildings suffered cracks in the walls and collapses in the ceilings.



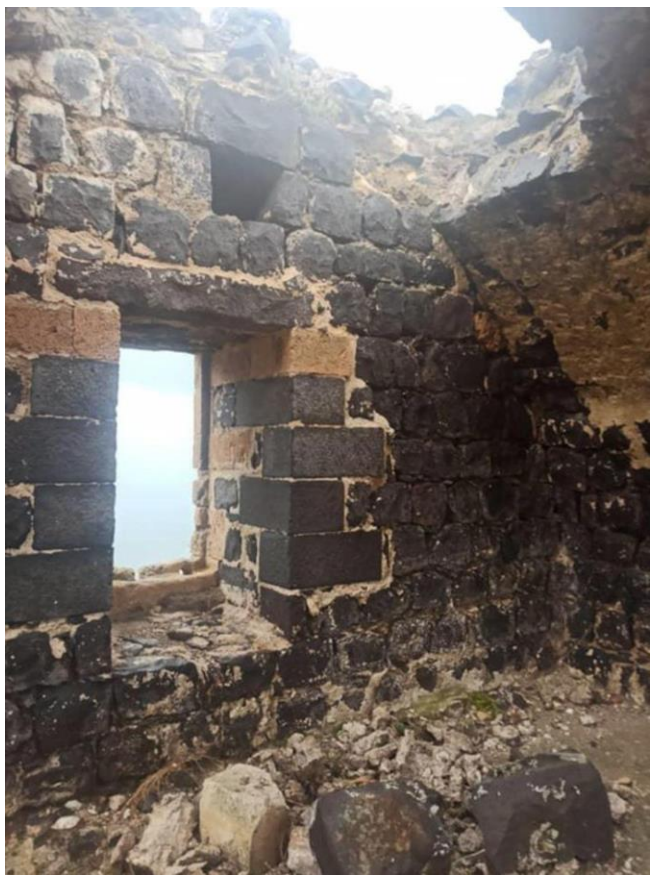
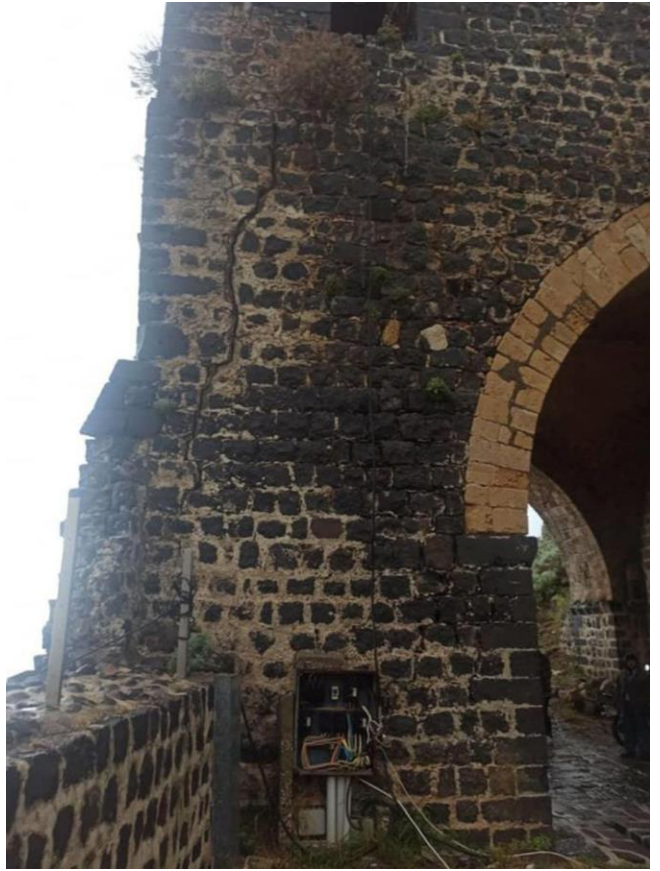


## Al-Marqab Citadel-Banyas:

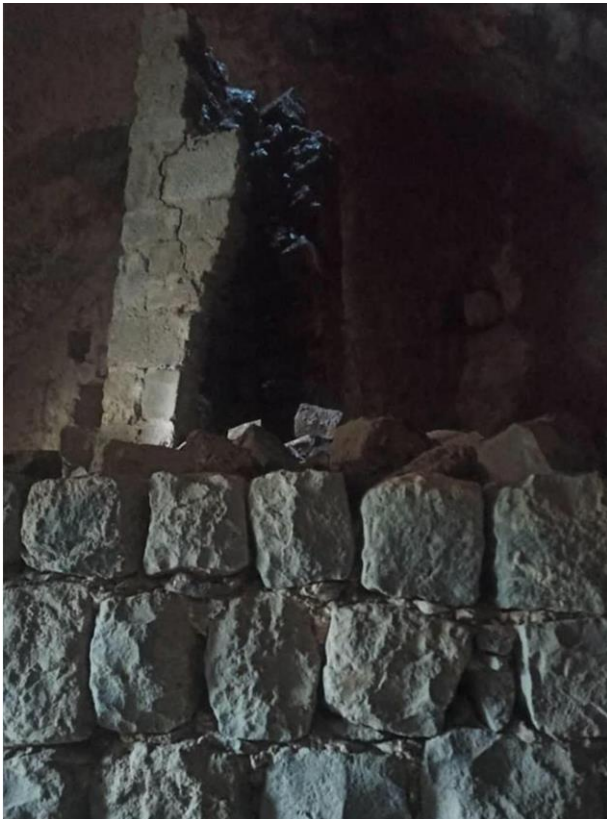
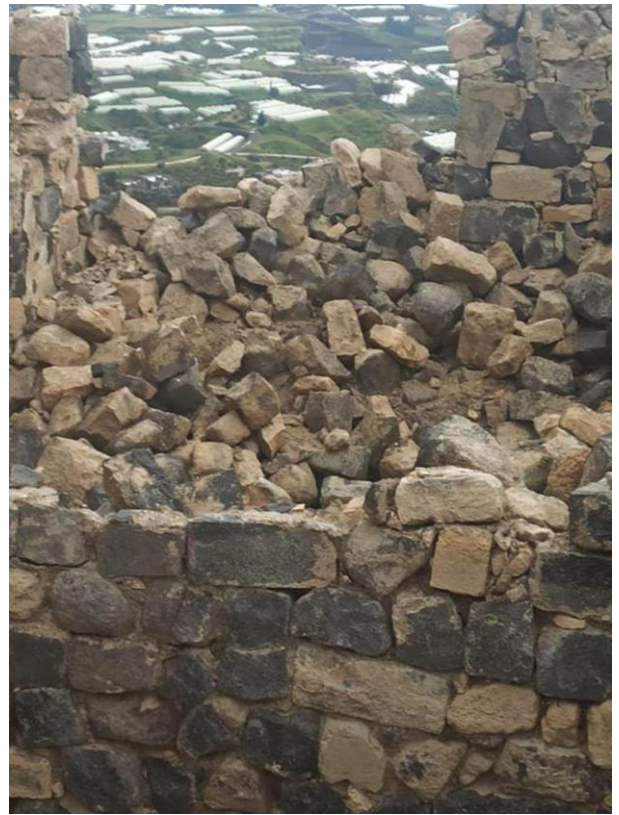
- Collapse of parts of the western façade of the second tower located north of the main gate.
- A crack in the southwest corner of the main gate tower
- Collapse of part of the roof and wall of the eastern pavilion
- Partial collapse of some walls on the roof of Qalawun South Tower
- Cracks on both sides of the tower adjacent to the east gate at the second-floor level
- Collapse in residential villages and the inner wall.
- Complete collapse of the water drainage channel in the south of the church
- Collapse Parts of the walls of the buildings north of the Ottoman Khan
- Partial collapse of the northern furnace chimney in the furnace hall
- Collapse Part of the walls at the top of the Donjon tower with cracks and displacements on the western side













### Al-Oleqa Citadel- Baniyas:

- A crack in the rocky cliff bearing the castle.
- Partial collapses in the southern wall of the castle, with cracks adjacent to the wall
- Collapse parts of the cellars and the presence of cracks in others
- Collapse of part of the eastern vault adjacent to the entrance to the castle, in addition to the appearance of cracks
- Partial collapse of the north tower of the castle







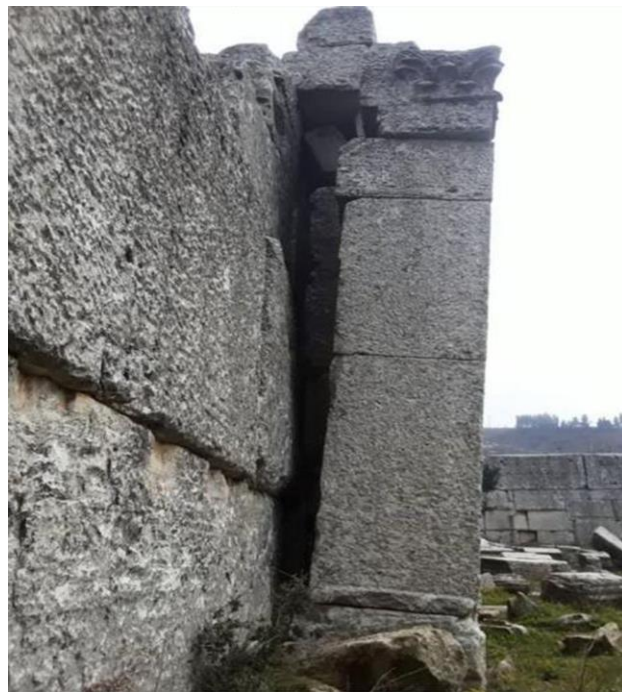
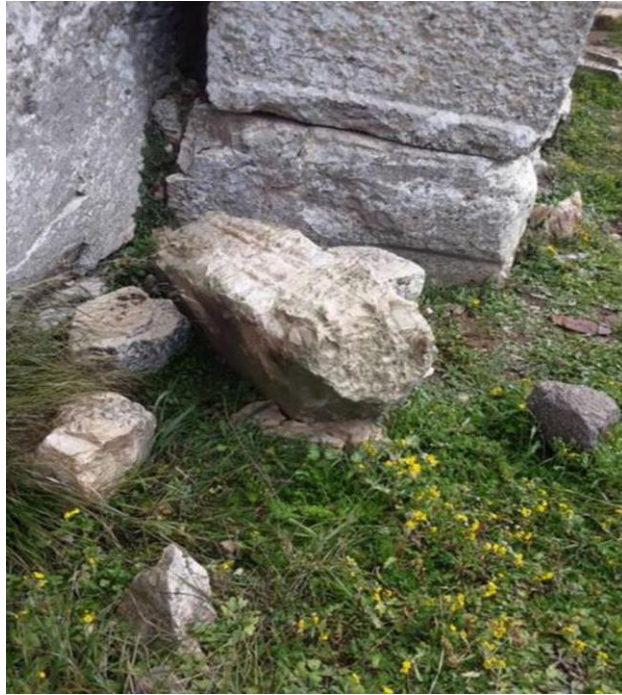






### Huson Suleman-Baniyas:

- Shifting and falling stones in the northern gate of the Great Temple



- **Safita City**

Safita old city- Safita Tower: A clear expansion of some old cracks, the emergence of new cracks, and the fall of some stones from inside and outside the tower, in addition to the appearance of a cavity in the floor of the first floor.







Umm al-Hosh tower-Safita, parts of the remaining tower collapsed.



- Qadmous City

Citedal, Al-Qadmous.

- Collapse some parts from the residential heritage buildings inside the castle, and the rest are threatened with collapse.
- Fallen stones from the arch of the main entrance to the castle.
- Some stones fall off the rocky cliff that holds the castle.
- Maqam Sinan Rashad al-Dien, collapse one wall.





Experts are still studying the full extent of the damage to the historical sites and surrounding historical buildings and neighborhoods. DGAM said Monday it had not received “accurate information” about damage in the city of Homs.

*Information resource from: DGAM*

*Pictures and maps: DGAM & Heritage Roots*



[www.heritage-Roots.com](http://www.heritage-Roots.com)