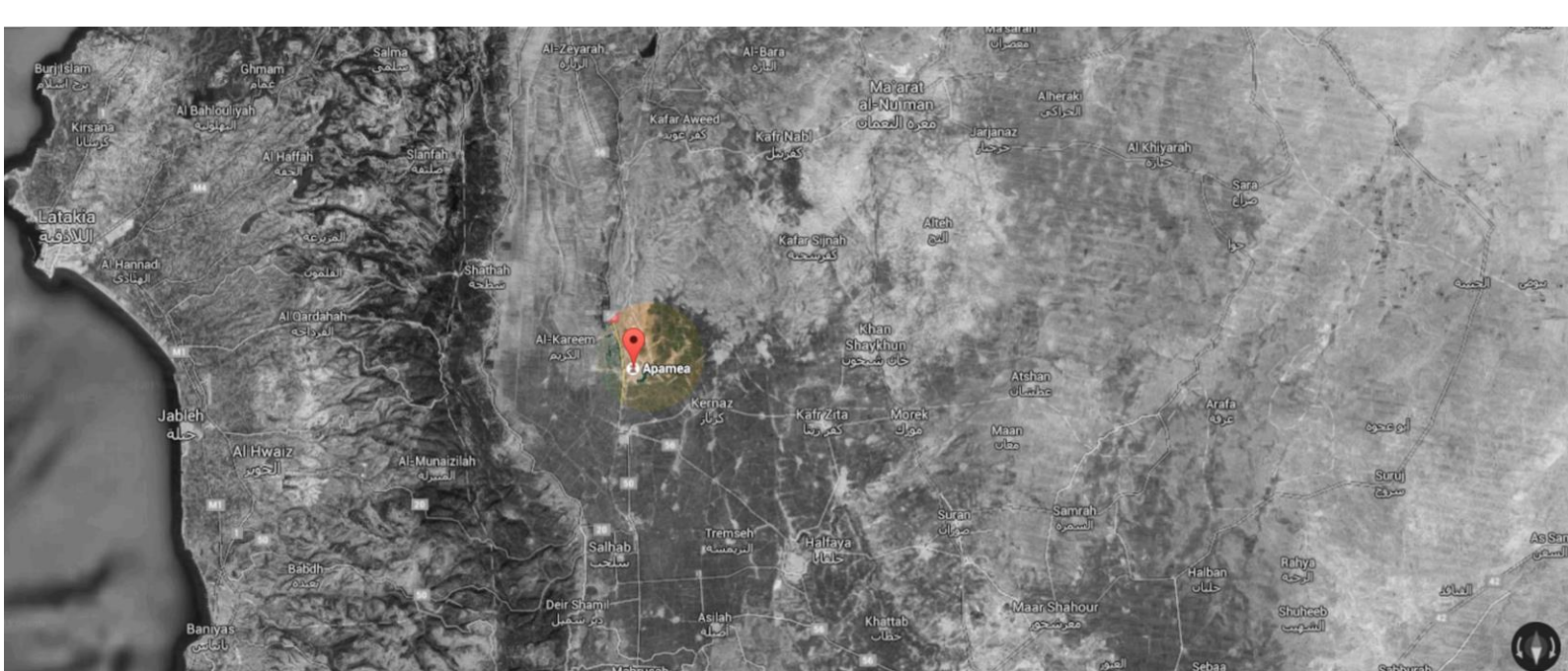


## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

### Site Monitoring Report on Al-Bara



#### Introduction:

The **Al-Bara** historic village is located in Jabal Al-Zawiyah in the Idlib governorate in northwest Syria. The site/village of Al-Bara contains historic buildings and monuments including one called Deir Sobat. It also has archaeological features and cellars that have olive wine presses engraved with the name of the Roman God of wine, Bacchus. Al-Bara also has three historic churches with three sections following the typical basilica design. There are a number of large tombs, each composed of a square base lined with dressed stones and topped with a square base pyramid. Carvings of plants adorn the structure and the entrance. There is also another tomb that lost its pyramidal top cover, leaving it only

with broken stones inside. These structures date back to the 5th and 6th centuries AD.

Around 20,000 people live in the modern town of Al-Bara which is right next to the archaeological ruins. Most of them are either internally displaced (IDP's) from Aleppo, Damascus, Al-Ghab, and Zabadani, or are out of the country in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and UAE. The town is famous for its olives, grapes, cherries, and figs. It also used to process other nearby town and villages harvest of olives and grapes as evidenced by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> century wineries and olive presses discovered.

On 2/1/2017, the Cultural Heritage Center's team visited Al-Bara site and noted damage to the site and to Deir Sobat to be the result of following causes:

- 1- Illicit digging.
- 2- Quarrying stones to be reused in new construction (of homes for IDP's).
- 3- Vandalism.
- 4- Weathering/environmental and exposure to the elements.
- 5- Armed conflict.





















Reported by:

Eng. Abdul Rahman Alyehia (Syrian Heritage Centre)

Arch. Khaled Hiatlih

**Site Monitors Project Coordinator**

**Dr. Amr Al-Azm**

