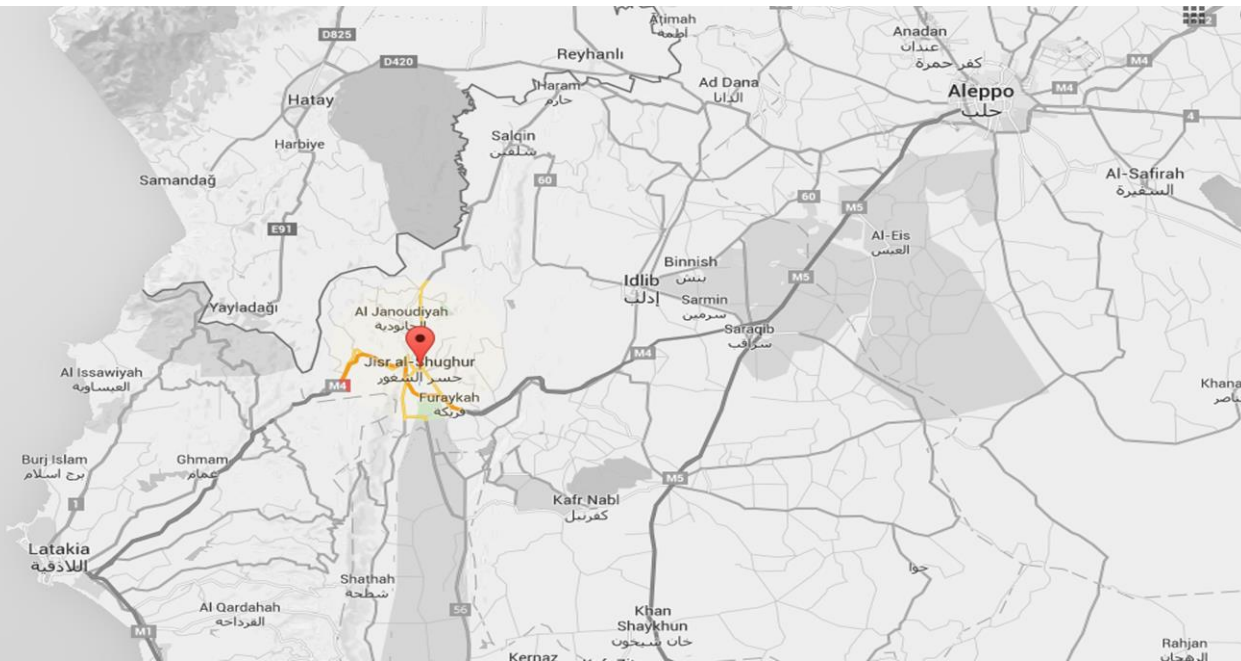


The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Damage Report The Turkmen Mosque in

Jisr Al-Shughour December 2015



Jisr Al-Shughour is a city in the northwest part of the province of Idlib. It lies on the Orontes River (*Al-A'assi*) and has a population of 44,322 according to the 2010 census.

The city's strategic location on the highway between Aleppo and Lattakia makes it a hub that connects the industrial capital of the country with the coastal cities.

History

Historical records indicate that the city was established the early 17th century. Some travelers noted the city's relatively young age as evidenced by the presence of an inn, a mosque, and a bathhouse to serve caravans travelling between Aleppo and the coastal regions. Families then moved to the city to enjoy the public amenities provided by the Ottoman Sultanate.

The city's historic sites include the Grand Mosque (*Al-Jame' Al-Kabeer*), the inn (*Al-Khan*), the bathhouse (*Al-Hammam*), and the historic Castle District (*Al-Qala'a*) where it is illegal to demolish or alter any structures due to their historical value.

Houses in (*Al-Qala'a*) district, dating back to the mid to late 19th century, have the distinctive courtyard layout. The district earned its name from sitting on the highest elevation in the old city.

The area of Jisr Al-Shughour boasts many historic sites and bridges across the Orontes River (*Al-A'assi*) dating back to the Roman era. On the way north towards Sheikh I'ssa bathhouse, there is a water fountain from the early 20th century inscribed with the Quranic verse: "*and their Lord will give to them to drink of a Wine Pure and Holy*".

Turkmen Mosque

The Turkmen Mosque is located in the Turkmen district in the northern part of Jisr Al-Shughour, and dates back to the Ottoman era. Many areas of the mosque have been updated such as the restrooms and the ablution (*Wudu'*) spaces.

The mosque was targeted by Russian air strikes on December 23rd, 2015 causing severe damage to the structure and to the surrounding area as shown in these photos:







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