

## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

#### Site Monitoring Report on Jamil Baptismal Font



The Byzantine baptismal font of Jamil is found in the center of Ain Larose village in Jabal Al-Zawiyah, Idlib governorate. There used to be a church next to it, of which only a few scattered stones remain. According to Christian tradition, the font must be outside to the west of the church, so that one went from there eastward to the church after their baptism.

The Jamil baptismal font is a piece of art in its own right. It takes the shape of a cross with different carvings on each side.

Carved on the east side of the baptismal is a cross under a circle surrounding a carving representing the virgin Mary.













The south and west sides bear faded plants and geometrical shapes







while the north side has an engraved cross



The unique size and shape of this font in northern Syria makes it archaeologically significant, in addition to the intricate craftsmanship



that went into giving it the shape of a cross both on the inside and the outside .



It sits on a base approximately 2m by 2m and is roughly 1.5m high. The edges are about 25cm thick. 0.5m deep on the inside, it becomes a bowl that is 1m at the top and 25cm at its bottom.





The area surrounding it has witnessed illicit digging which destroyed all historical structures in it including the church.





Also, some engraved stones are broken as a result of the digging



The uniqueness of this cross is what makes it so significant. Such fonts in such shapes are rare to come by. Its presence indicates that there was once a massive church where mass was conducted for locals and people from nearby towns. There are some ruins near it that attest to the presence of a church at one time.

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