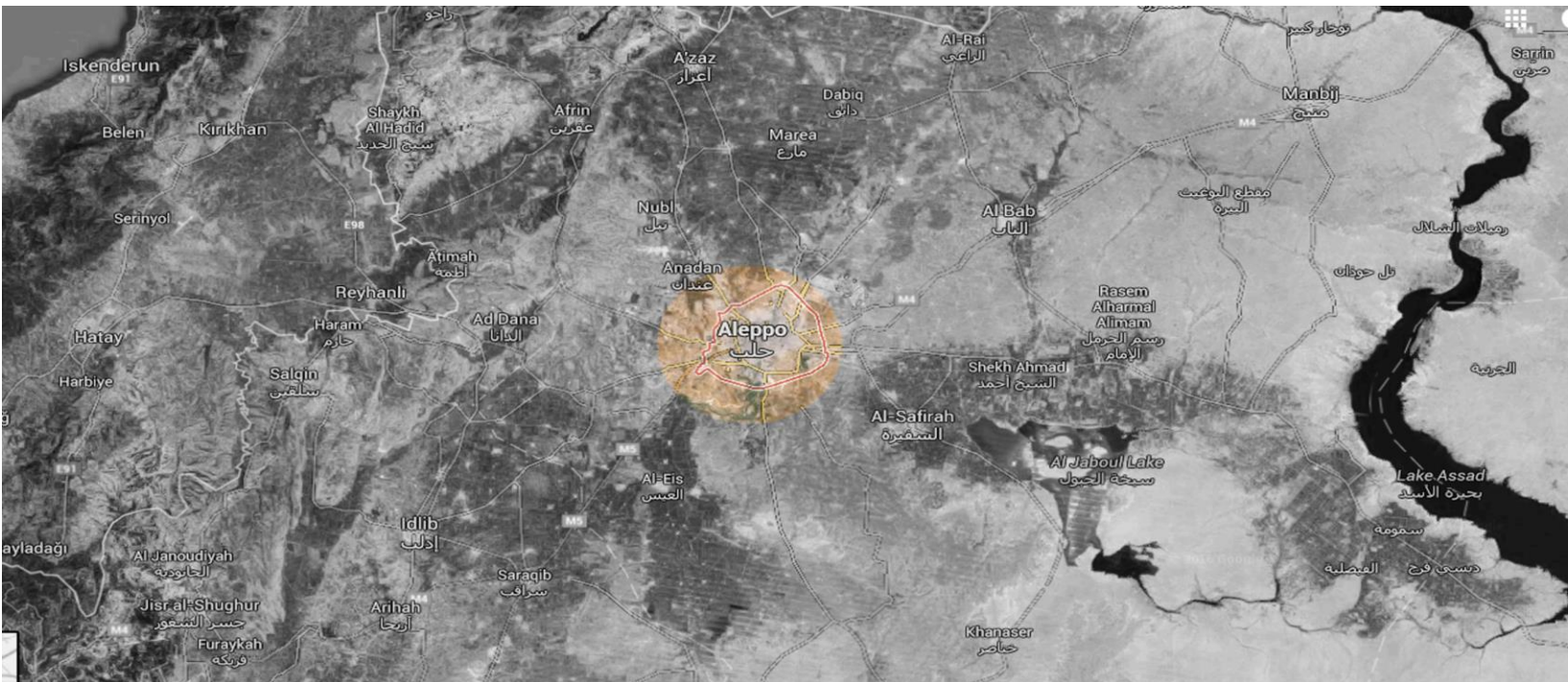


## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

#### Damage Report St. Simeon Russian Airstrike

May 12, 2016.



St. Simeon (previously known as Tellanissos) is a monastery that lies to the north east of the city of Aleppo. It is named after Saint Simeon Stylites who was born in the year 389 AD in the town of Sisan, south of Mount Simeon (part of Jabal Al-Zawiya). He fled to Tellanissos in 412 AD and spent more than 40 years on top of a 15-meter high pillar without food or water for days at a time as a form of worship. People and his disciples would climb up to visit with him.

The Church of Saint Simeon was built in the year 490 AD on Mount Simeon and served as an impregnable fortress during the days of Saladin. St. Simeon was a popular destination for tourists and worshippers from all over the world and is part of the “Dead Cities” listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

On Thursday May 12th, 2016, the site of St. Simeon was targeted by the Russian air force shortly after midnight causing devastating damage to the site. Site monitors from the TDA –HPI in cooperation with the Syrian Cultural Heritage Preservation Center documented the damages and recommend immediate action be taken to avoid further destruction.



General view St. Simeon prior to the airstrike.



Photo (facing north) showing the site prior to the airstrike with the remains of St. Simeon's pillar resting on its pedestal (Wikipedia 2010).



View of the damage caused by the airstrike.



Location of the strike in the nave of the main cruciform church. Photo facing west



Damaged areas of Simeon Castle after the air strike.



Close up of the damage shown in the photo above.



The pedestal (badly damaged) with the remaining fragment of St. Simeon's pillar knocked over to the right.

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