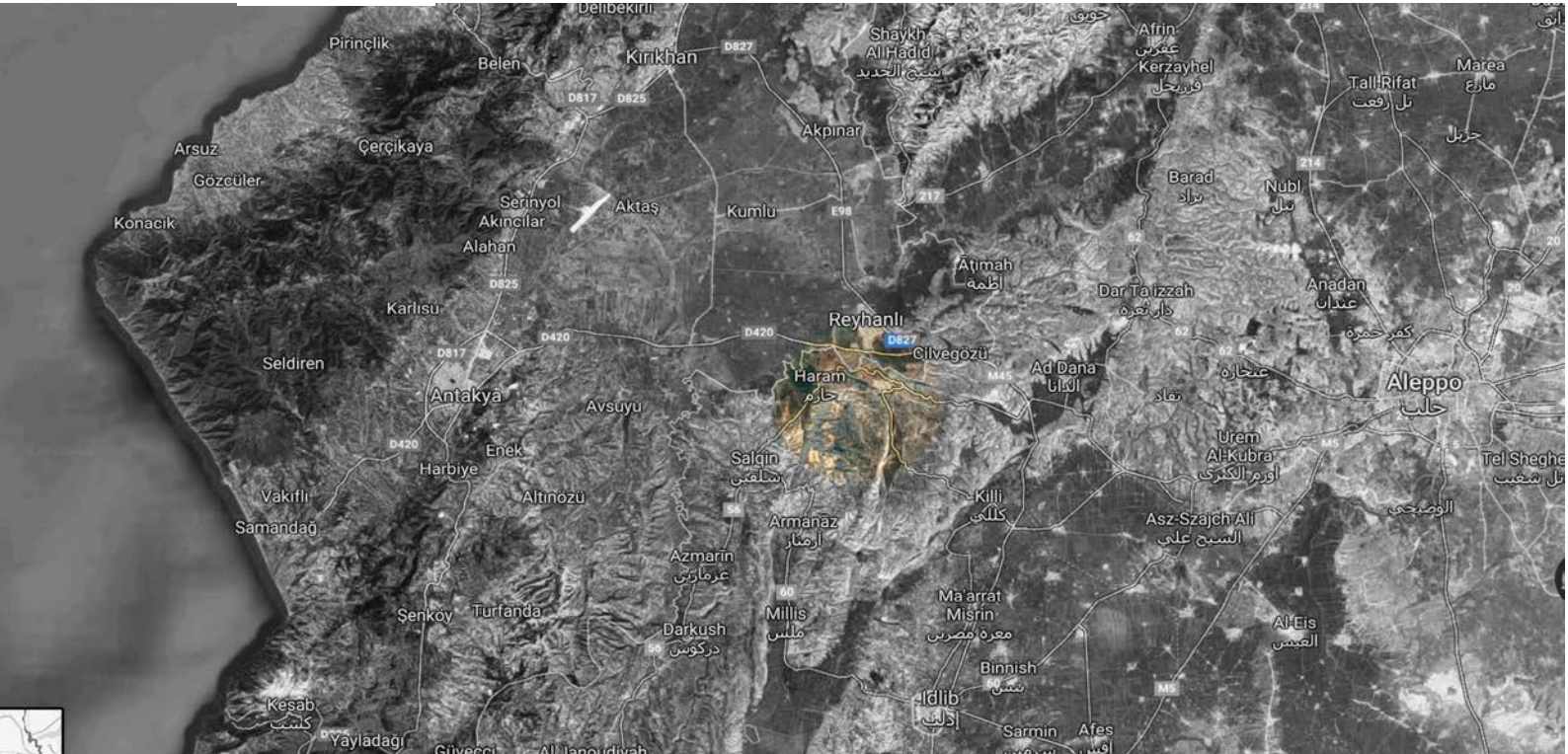


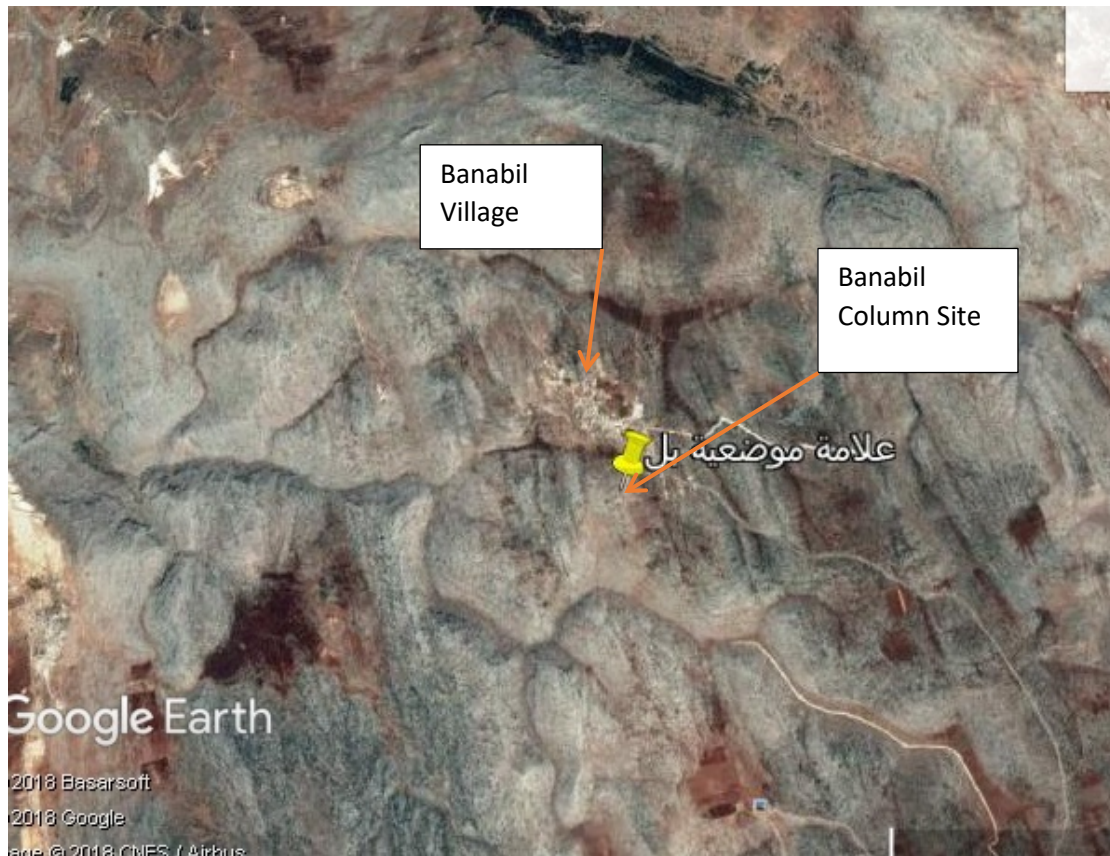
The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

Site Monitors Project

Damage Report on Banabel Column

24 April, 2018



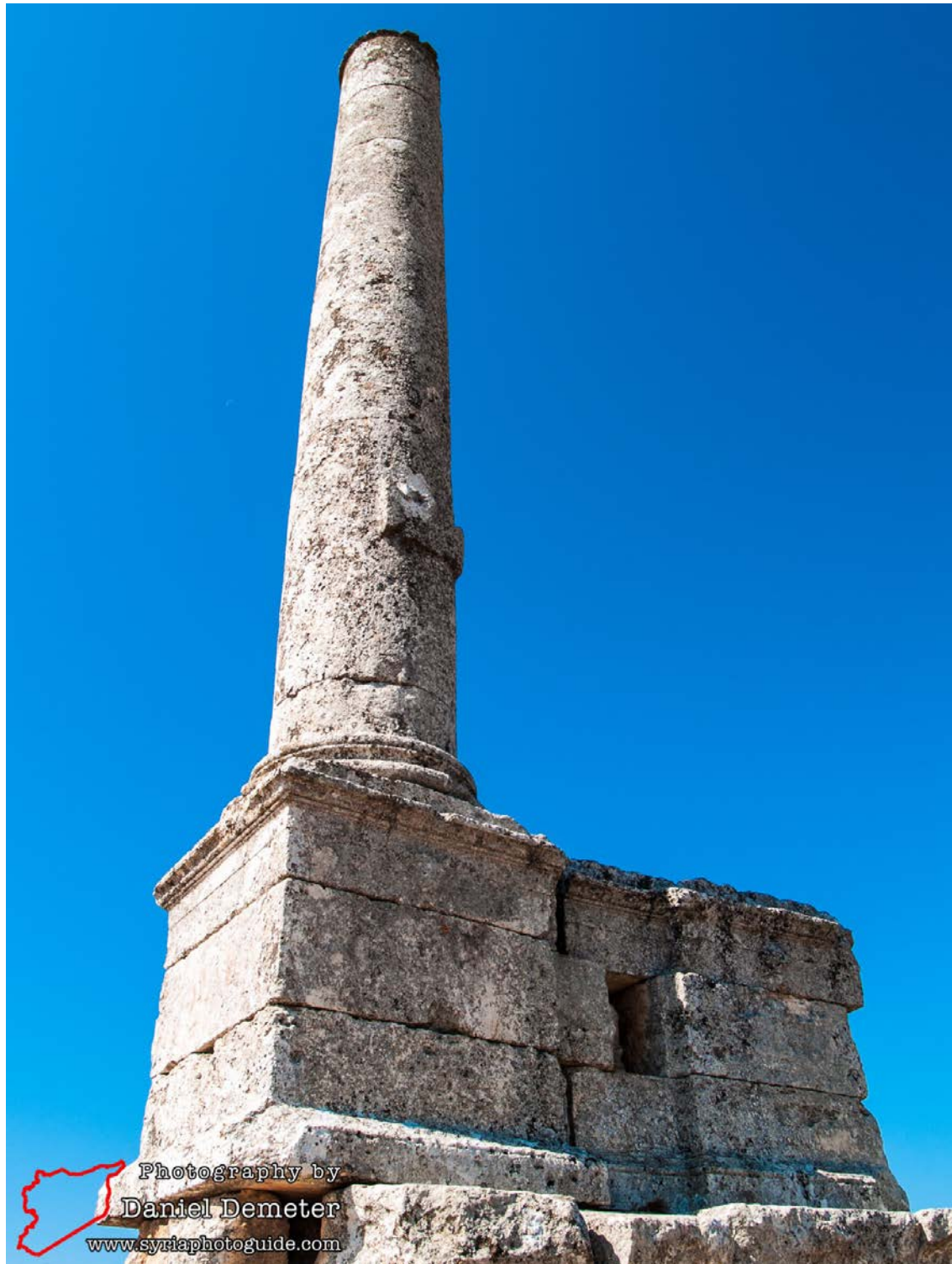


Jabal Al-Summaq (Or Jabal Sharqi), located 20 km north of Idlib city and 8 km east of Kafr Takharim, is home to nine villages of a mix of Druze and Sunni populations: Banabil, Qalb Lozeh, Bshendelti, Bshendlaya, Kafr Maris, Teltita, Hallah, Koko, and Kafr Kila” with a total population of about 15 thousand in all villages.

Qalb Lozeh is 13 km away from Kafr Takharim and 11 km from Qurqanya, while Banabil Village is closer to Harem which is 10 km away. The longest distance between any two villages on the mountain is no greater than 5km, while many others are 1 km or less apart. Jabal Al-Summaq residents grow olive trees on the rocky mountain, though few and far in between, and raise cattle like goats, sheep, and cows. The mountain has more rocky, unclaimed land than reclaimed ones.

On Tuesday, 4/24/2018, Cultural Heritage Center/TDA site monitors conducted a field survey of Banabil Village and documented the damage to the Banabil Column. The site and column were destroyed by looters in

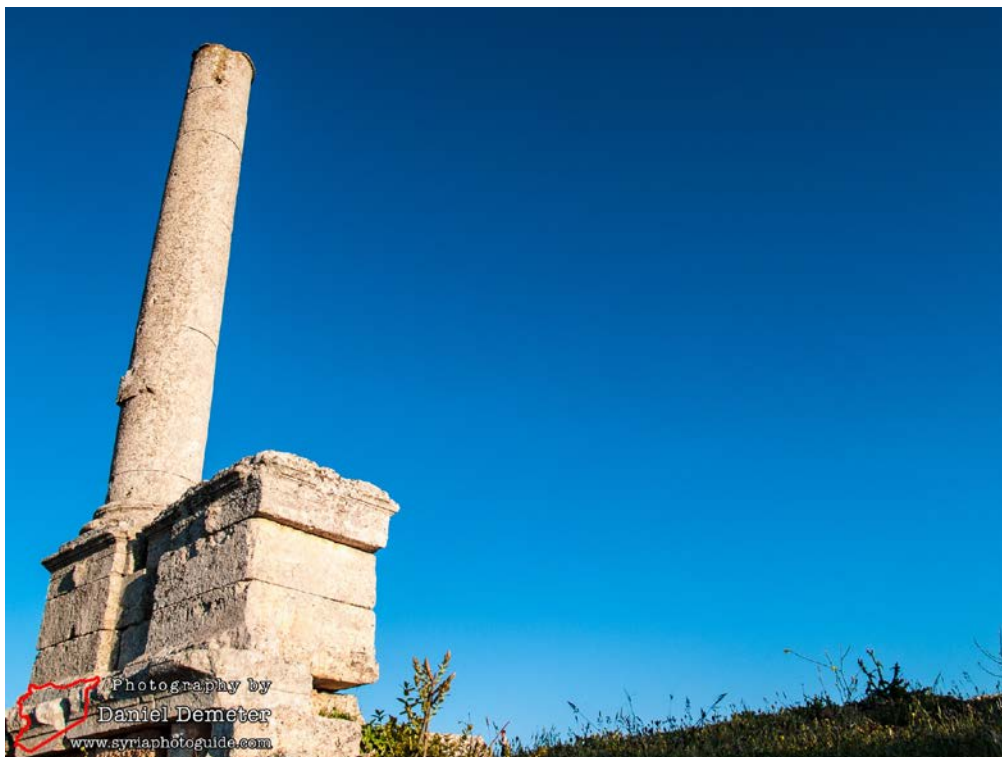
an effort to uncover would be treasure they assumed to be buried treasure underneath the site. The looters are believed to be members of one of the local brigades affiliated with Hay'at Tahrir Al Asham (HTS)



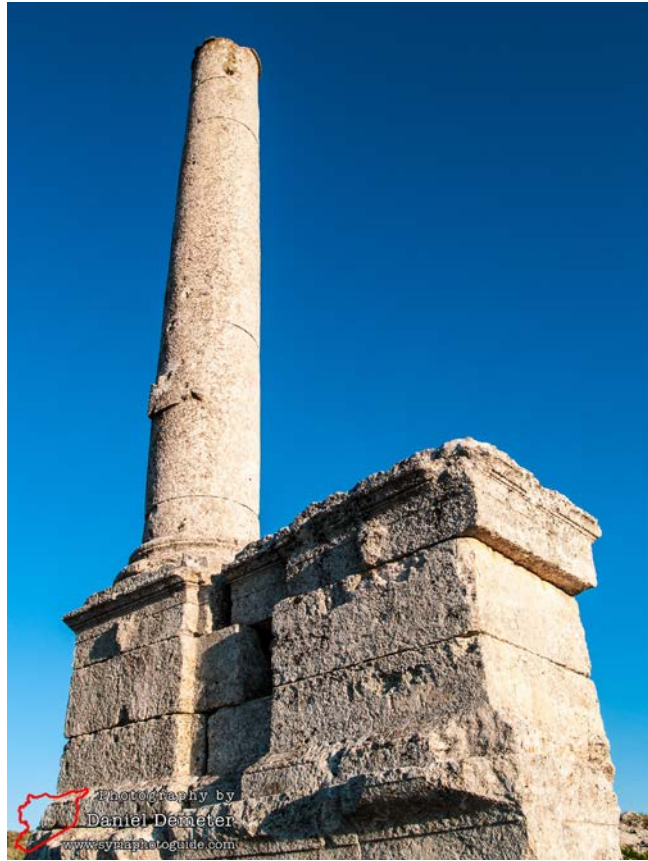
Banabel Column before destruction



Banabel Column before destruction



Banabel Column before destruction



Banabel Column before destruction

All damage has been documented.



Destruction of the column with soil and stones moved by bulldozer



Clearing soil and stones



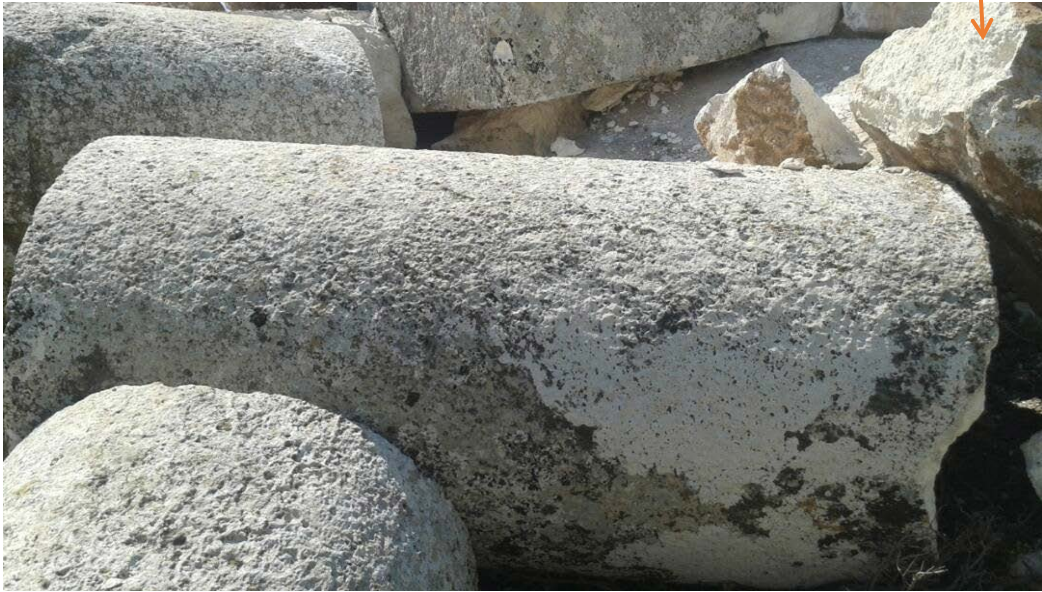
Stone masonry and columns damaged/broken and pushed to the side.



Stone masonry and columns damaged/broken and pushed to the side.



Damaged and smashed stone masonry and columns



Damaged stone masonry





Illicit digging



Reported by:

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