

## The Day After Heritage Protection Initiative

### Site Monitors Project

#### Damage Report Khan Asa'ad Pasha Regime Airstrike

July 2015



### A brief overview of Khan Asa'ad Pasha Al-Azm

The Khan was built by Asa'ad Pacha Al-Azm in 1753. The building comprises of four wings on the lower floor and an upper floor that was used to house wealthy merchants. The centre of the courtyard is occupied by a seasonal *musallah* (Islamic prayer space), used mostly in the summer. The building is located on the south side of Abi Al'Alaa Street across from the Khan of Murad Pasha. Separating the two buildings is a small square.

The building is currently part of the Ma'arra Mosaics museum complex and acts as an overflow storage and activity area for the museum. A part of the building had also been used recently as a medical facility housing

a CT scanner (since moved). There are plans to turn the Khan to a museum of local ethnography in the future, once the conflict ends.



As a result of the military operations by Syrian regime forces in the city of Ma'arra between 12/27/2012 and 6/ 27/2013, Khan Assa'ad Pacha suffered extensive damage. During that time period, an airstrike by the Syrian regime led to the partial destruction of the roof and the arches holding it up as shown in the photos. The room below the damaged roof had been used to house and operate a medical CT scanner.

The Khan was also exposed to mortar fire, which resulted in damage to the roof of the second floor and a partial collapse of some of the walls. This also led to major damage in the public utility rooms located on the first floor roof, as shown in the following photos.



Location of the missile

Partial collapse of the corridor in the eastern side



Area affected by mortar fire on the dome of the second floor



Partial collapse in the southeastern side of the second floor as a result of a missile.



Partial collapse of the corridor on the east side

Partial collapse of the corridor on the east side



Rubble resulting from the collapse of the corridor

The Khan suffered a second airstrike by the Syrian regime between 6/27/2013 and 8/1/2013. In that attack, the southwest area of the Khan was hit causing the partial collapse of the southwest walls and also the partial collapse of the minaret of the Masri Mosque right next to the Khan (see photos below).



Area affected by mortar fire in the western side of the west wing



Damage in the south western area near the minaret of the Al Masri mosque



Damage caused by mortar fire



A partial opening in the roof

Between 1/1/2014 and 8/7/2015, Khan Assa'ad Pasha suffered indirect damage caused by barrel bombs landing near the building. The damage to the walls includes partial collapse, cracks, and openings in the roof of the second floor (see photos below).



Partial collapse of the first wing as a result of an exploding barrel bomb landing near the Khan

Complete opening in the second floor, which was originally used as a guest house.



The heaviest and most destructive damage to Khan Asa'ad Pasha was caused by the latest airstrike on 8/7/2015. A large section of the second floor (the lobby) and a portion of the rooms in the western side of the building mostly collapsed as a result of this attack. The lobby on the second floor has two restored mosaics mounted on *Aerolam* boards that are now partially buried in the rubble. Both are in need of emergency extraction from the rubble and stabilization/repair (see images below).

The second floor lobby



The western side, which was used as a guesthouse.





Two Restored mosaics mounted on Aerolam boards partially buried in the rubble (also see image below)





The north side of the second floor showing damage following the latest airstrike



The eastern façade of the second floor showing partial collapse.

A partial collapse in the northern side of the first floor created a large opening in the wall, as shown in the image below.



The northern façade of the Khan, after being hit with Airstrikes



Rubble and stone masonry from the second floor collapsed onto the courtyard.



Cracks in the surviving section of the second floor that are a result of the explosion caused by the airstrike.



Furthermore, the airstrike caused the large gate at the main entrance to the Khan to come off its hinges and become inoperable. It is currently in need of emergency restoration work in order to return it to use (see images below).



The main entrance from the northern side and the northern façade of the building, which was directly hit with a missile



The north side of Khan Asa'ad Pasha after the latest regime airstrike



The northern façade of the building before the latest damage occurred

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