

“Stop the destruction of Syrian cultural heritage!” urges UNESCO Director-General

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Experts meet to coordinate action for safeguarding Syria's cultural heritage

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, called on all parties involved in the conflict in Syria to safeguard the country's cultural heritage and take all possible measures to avoid further destruction. The Director-General's appeal followed a meeting of experts held at the Organization's Headquarters today to examine an action plan aimed at preventing further losses and repairing damage where and when it will be possible.

“UNESCO is determined to use its expertise and its networks to help the Syrian people preserve their exceptional cultural heritage,” the Director-General said. “Protecting heritage is inseparable from protecting populations, because heritage enshrines a people's values and identities.

“We have heard today of the serious damage that has already been inflicted on Syria's heritage, The destruction of sites such as the historic souk in Aleppo has made headlines around the world, clearly reflecting the concern and distress of people everywhere.

“I urge all parties to take all necessary precautions to stop the destruction of Syria's cultural heritage, which includes some of the most precious in the world.”

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