

Beat: Arts

UNESCO Director-General condemns destruction of the Tetrapylon in Palmyra

The theatre is A World Heritage site

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USPA NEWS - UNESCO received several reports and satellite imagery released today by UNITAR-UNOSAT confirming the destruction of Palmyra's tetrapylon and parts of the theatre's proscenium. "This destruction is a new war crime and an immense loss for the Syrian people and for humanity," said UNESCO Irina Bokova

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Palmyra's theatre, dating from the 2nd century AD, is built in the center of a semicircular colonnaded piazza located to the southwest of the main colonnaded street. Satellite images show damage at its formerly well-preserved proscenium wall, decorated with ten curved and nine rectangular niches placed alternately.

UNESCO reiterates its calls on the international community to stand united against cultural cleansing. An oasis in the Syrian desert, northeast of Damascus, Palmyra contains the monumental ruins of a great city that was one of the most important cultural centers of the ancient world. From the 1st to the 2nd century, the art and architecture of Palmyra, standing at the crossroads of several civilizations, married Greco-Roman techniques with local traditions and Persian influences. Palmyra was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 1980 and has been on the list of world heritage in Danger since 2013.

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