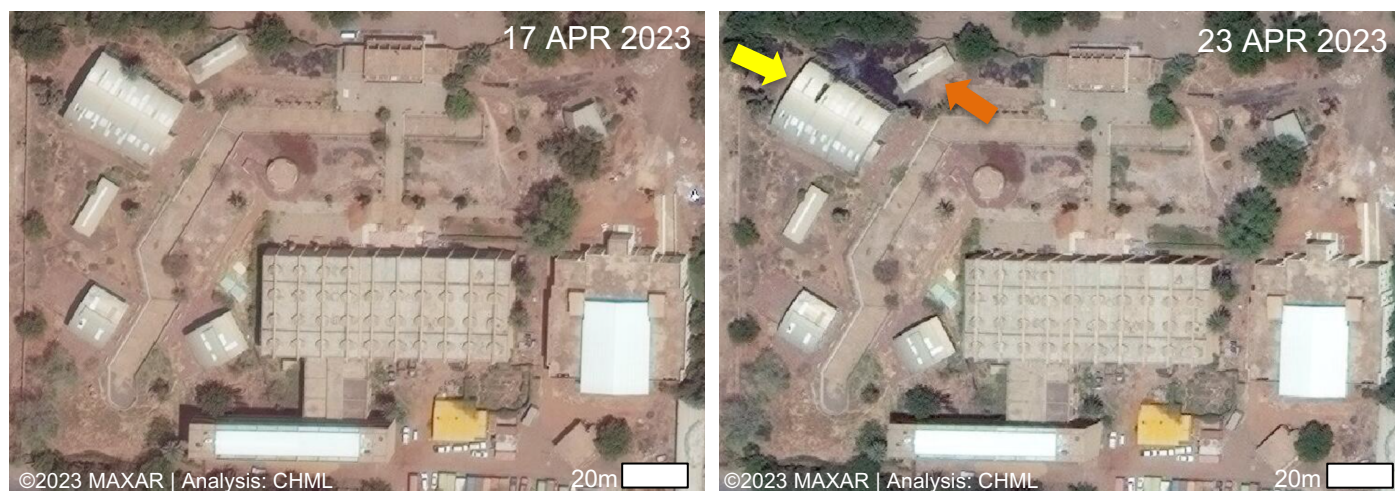


CULTURAL HERITAGE MONITORING LAB RAPID REPORT: Damage to the Sudan National Museum (18 May 2023)



On 18 May 2023, the Cultural Heritage Monitoring Lab (CHML) confirmed damage to the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum. Among other collections, the museum maintains an extensive collection of Nubian artifacts and architectural elements. On 26 April 2023, the Director of the Sudan Natural History Museum expressed concerns about looting at the Sudan National Museum.¹ **Using high-resolution satellite imagery, CHML analysts identified damage to two structures on the museum's campus: a structure containing the ancient Egyptian Temple of Buhen (right image, yellow arrow) and another structure containing a section of wall from the ancient Egyptian Temple of Aksha (right image, orange arrow).** The Temple of Buhen (also referred to as the Temple of Horus at Buhen) was built by Hatshepsut, the fifth pharaoh of the Eighteenth Dynasty of Egypt; the Temple of Aksha was built by Ramesses II, the third pharaoh of the Nineteenth Dynasty.² Both temples were relocated to the Sudan National Museum in Khartoum in the 1960s.³ CHML analysts determined that the damage to these structures occurred between 17 April 2023 and 20 April 2023. Imagery details indicate fire damage surrounding the structures and impacts to both structures' roofs. This damage corresponds to similar fire-related damage within a 0.5 km radius of the museum that occurred within the same time span.

Visit <https://www.vmnh.net/research-collections/chml> for information on CHML, <https://culturalrescue.si.edu/> for information on SCRI, <https://cidcm.umd.edu> for information on CIDCM, and <https://www.penn.museum/sites/chc/> for information on PennCHC.

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¹ Metwaly, A. (2023) Sudan's museums, and millenia [sic] of heritage, caught in the crossfire, *The Africa Report*, 5 May. Available at: <https://www.theafricareport.com/305330/sudans-museums-and-millenia-of-heritage-caught-in-the-crossfire/> (Accessed: 18 May 2023).

² Rilly, C. (2013) *The Sudan National Museum in Khartoum: An Illustrated Guide for Visitors*. [Online] Khartoum: Section française de la direction des antiquités du Soudan. Available at: https://sfdas.com/IMG/pdf/livretmuse_etenglight.pdf (Accessed: 18 May 2023).

³ Ibid.