

Statement of the Deutschen Verbands für Archäologie e.V. to the murder of Khaled al-As'ad in Palmyra, Syria

August 20, 2015

On August 18, 2015, former Palmyra Antiquity director, Dr. Khaled al-As'ad, was brutally murdered by IS militant thugs in Palmyra. News of this horrible act was transmitted by the General Directorate of Antiquities:

<http://www.dgam.gov.sy/index.php?d=314&id=1773>

Khaled al-As'ad was an outstanding archaeologist, possessed a profound understanding of Palmyrenian art and culture, and was always a good friend to German archaeologists who cherished and adamantly supported international scientific cooperation.

Like his colleagues from the General Directorate of Antiquities, guardians of archaeological excavation sites and countless others, he tried to protect mankind's collective cultural heritage and paid for this cause with his life.

As members of the DVA, it is our sincere wish to offer our condolences and deepest sympathy to the family of Khaled al-As'ad. We also wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to him and all the people who have chosen to engage in the daily fight against murder and destruction for their courage and dedication.

At the same time we appeal to politicians worldwide, to finally initiate action and employ the necessary means to put an end to the catastrophe that has ravaged the Middle East over the last four years!

Executive committee of the Deutschen Verbandes für Archäologie e.V.

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