

Turkish Republic's Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Following the earthquake that occurred on 02.06.2023 and affected ten provinces, our Ministry has been overseeing to secure foremost the health of our personnel, the safety of our museums and archaeological sites, the state of our museum buildings and artifacts, and the protection of our cultural assets.

No damage occurred in our Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Kilis, Osmaniye, Diyarbakır, or Adana Museums, which were affected by the earthquake. Kahramanmaraş, Elbistan, Adıyaman and Malatya Museums suffered no damage except for minor cracks. Our museum collections were affected by no serious damage.

Given the possibility that surrounding buildings may pose a danger, the portable collection in our Kahramanmaraş Museum was transferred to another safe museum.

A section of the Hatay Archeology Museum was damaged. In line with our emergency action plan, our Ministry has provided personnel reinforcements to this museum swiftly and comprehensively. In addition, solar-powered camera systems were installed to prevent power cuts from causing security weaknesses.

It has been determined that there are slight slides in mudbrick walls and few collapsed areas on the temporary roof cover of Malatya Arslantepe, one of our World Heritage Sites, but no serious damage was observed on the archaeological site.

Small-scale wall collapse was observed in a limited part of Diyarbakır's city walls, and some stones at the entrance of St. George's Church within the city walls. No damage was detected in our other world heritage sites such as Şanlıurfa Göbeklitepe and Adıyaman Nemrut Dağı.

Detailed assessments of damage on registered historical buildings and museums in these cities, especially the Gaziantep Castle and the Malatya Yeni Mosque, are still ongoing, whether or not they are directly connected to our Ministry.

Security and expert personnel support from other museums was dispatched to the earthquake area and, where ever needed, assessments continue without interruption. Currently, all our museums and archaeological sites are safe and under control. From the very first moment, our entire organization has been working with great effort and exemplary cooperation in the field and in the directorate to support our personnel affected by the earthquake.

On this occasion, we wish mercy to our citizens and especially to our colleagues who lost their lives and a speedy recovery to those who were injured.