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CIVVIH Resolution for Najaf Historic Centre in Iraq

Najaf is an historic city in southern Iraq. It is also a traditional centre for large scale pilgrimage. Its cemetery, one of the largest in the world, is on Iraq tentative list and will probably soon be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for inscription on the World Heritage List.

A planned extension of the site of the existing sacred shrine located in the centre of the historic town seems to aim at dramatically increasing the areas reserved to religious duties through the construction of a large scale built ensemble at the expense of the existing urban fabric.

CIVVIH expresses its deep concern and recommends a halt to the implementation of this project until its impact is fully assessed and alternatives are explored.