

# Gawr Tepe, A New MiSAK Project in Iraqi Kurdistan

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Nel 2023, la MiSAK, Missione Storico-Archeologica Italiana in Kurdistan, ha avviato un nuovo progetto dedicato allo studio e alla valorizzazione del sito di Gawr Tepe nella Regione Autonoma del Kurdistan in Iraq (KRI). Gawr Tepe, situato a circa 8 km a sud di Kalar, è identificato come un vasto insediamento abitato almeno dal periodo sasanide al periodo Islamico. La prima campagna a Gawr Tepe ha visto la realizzazione di un dettagliato rilievo topografico e l'avvio della raccolta sistematica dei materiali archeologici di superficie. I dati preliminari raccolti confermano un'occupazione continua dell'area almeno dal periodo sasanide al XIII secolo EC. Particolarmente significativi sono il ricco corpus ceramico e gli stucchi che probabilmente ornavano il palazzo.

MiSAK, the Italian Historical and Archaeological Mission in Kurdistan, was founded in 2021 by ISMEO—The International Association for Mediterranean and Oriental Studies and the International Institute of Kurdish Culture in Rome (IICK).<sup>1</sup> Its primary objective is active engagement in studying, preserving, and enhancing Kurdish cultural heritage. Since its inception, the mission has been actively involved in the Autonomous Region of Iraqi Kurdistan (KRI) and in particular in the Garmian area of the Sulaimaniyah Governorate.

In September 2023, ISMEO, IICK and MiSAK entered into a triennial agreement with the KRG General Directorate of Antiquities and Heritage and the Garmian Directorate of Antiquities for the archaeological exploration and excavation of Gawr Tepe.<sup>2</sup> This project is part of a diachronic and multidisciplinary study of the archaeological

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<sup>2</sup> This agreement supplements the previous one signed in December 2021, focusing on the historical and archaeological exploration, protection, and enhancement of the Sarqala site, located approximately twenty-six kilometres North-West of Kalar in the Garmian district (see ISMEO Activities in this volume; on MiSAK's activities in Sarqala see also: Colliva et al. 2022; Colliva 2023).