

From:

Subject:

Date:

Re: FOR FARA: Interview: New Study Rewrites Story of Humanity's Departure from Cave-Dwellings in KSA
Thursday, July 18, 2024 12:32:16 PM

Apologies! Please see below.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 1:27 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: RE: FOR FARA: Interview: New Study Rewrites Story of Humanity's Departure from Cave-Dwellings in KSA

[REDACTED],

I do not see this to be labeled. Please add Edelman's label and then I can file.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From:

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 12:23 PM

To:

Cc:

Subject: FOR FARA: Interview: New Study Rewrites Story of Humanity's Departure from Cave-Dwellings in KSA

Hi [REDACTED],

Below, please see a pitch we recently sent on behalf of the KSA Ministry of Culture, for FARA Filing.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: Tailor, Sophia

Sent: Monday, July 8, 2024 5:36 PM

[REDACTED]

Subject: Interview: New Study Rewrites Story of Humanity's Departure from Cave-Dwellings in KSA

Good morning, [REDACTED],

There has been an exciting new discovery out of Saudi Arabia, which I believe will be of great interest to your readers.

A recently published study has revealed **evidence of human habitation in Arabian lava tube cave systems as early as 6,000 BC**. The study shows that humans shared the cave system with animals in a climate that was much greener and wetter than current arid conditions - **a discovery that can potentially rewrite this early period of human history in the region** and has led Dr. Abdullah bin Ali Alzahrani, one of the lead researchers, to question if this climate allowed Neolithic settlers to leave cave systems quicker than previously believed.

The study was produced as part of the Green Arabia Peninsula Project and was a collaboration between King Saud University, the Max Planck Institute, and the Saudi Geological Society. It was commissioned by the Saudi Heritage Commission, one of the 11 commissions within the Ministry of Culture.

Are you interested in interviewing Dr. Alzahrani for Archaeological Conservancy Magazine to learn more about his research and the discovery's potential implications on the story of human heritage in Saudi Arabia?

Below my signature, I have included a press release and additional background information for your consideration. I look forward to speaking with you.

Best,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

+++

The Saudi Heritage Commission reveals research findings from Umm Jirsan, an ancient lava cave in Saudi Arabia, confirming a green past where humans and animals thrived

The Saudi Heritage Commission, responsible for documenting and preserving Saudi Arabia's tangible and intangible heritage under the Ministry of Culture, announced the discovery of human occupation evidence in Umm Jirsan cave, located in Harrat Khaybar, located north of Madinah, in northwestern Saudi Arabia. Measuring 1,500 meters long, 45 meters wide, and with a maximum height of 12 meters, Umm Jirsan is the Kingdom's longest lava cave. The findings have been published in the peer-reviewed journal *PLOS One*. It is considered the first study in the field of archaeological research in caves located in the Kingdom.

A team of Saudi and international researchers, including scientists from King Saud University, the Max Planck Institute from Germany, and the Saudi Geological Survey, have worked collaboratively as part of the Green Arabian Peninsula project. Their multidisciplinary field research focused on preserving and highlighting mankind's shared history in the Arabian Peninsula. Previously reported findings by the Heritage Commission revealed evidence of human habitation in an ancient lake outside Tabuk, in the Kingdom's northwestern regions, dating back around 120,000 years.

Through their archaeological surveys and excavations in multiple parts of the Umm Jirsan cave, the scientists have uncovered ancient settlements dating back to the Neolithic period. Those settlements revealed traces of pastoral groups which could be recorded until the Copper Age and Bronze Age periods. The precise antiquity of the site was determined using carbon-14 dating. The research unearthed traces of animal bones dating back 4,100 years BCE. Also, the oldest human skull found dates to 6,000 years BCE.

The research indicates that prior to the current arid climate and desolate nature of the area, a much more temperate and active environment, including the presence of many now extinct animals, existed. Findings included wood, cloth, rock-carved scenes grazing goats, cows and dogs used for hunting. Among the thousands of animal bones found, were remnants of hyenas, horses, camels, deer, caribou, cows, and domestic donkeys.

Analysis of human skeletal remains, using radioactive isotopes, indicated that humans relied primarily on meat for sustenance; but also, later began nourishing themselves with grains, as evidenced by the emergence of agriculture.

The research indicates the importance of caves used by human groups and ancient volcanic magma paths in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

END

About Dr Abdullah Bin Ali Alzahrani:

Dr Abdullah Bin Ali Alzahrani serves as General Director, Directorate General of Antiquities at the Saudi Heritage Commission at the Ministry of Culture.

Dr Alzahrani earned his Doctorate in Archaeology from the University of York, United Kingdom, in 2014. Since 2015, he has served as the Head of the Projects of International Saudi Missions for archaeological excavations in Saudi Arabia.

He is the author of two books on archaeology: "Wadi Al Baida, An Archaeological and Architectural Study," published by the Saudi Ministry of Education in Riyadh in 2007, and "Mining in al-Baha Region, Southwest of Saudi Arabia, the Archaeology of Asham," published by the Heritage Commission.

Dr Alzahrani is a member of several international committees dedicated to antiquities and tangible heritage, most recently the Global Silk Road Project. He has presented several scientific papers at both international and local conferences.

Currently, Dr Alzahrani serves as the General Director of the Directorate General of Antiquities at the Saudi Heritage Commission and holds the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Saudi Archaeology Magazine.

About the Ministry of Culture:

Saudi Arabia has a vast history of arts and culture. The Ministry of Culture is developing Saudi Arabia's cultural economy and enriching the daily lives of citizens, residents, and visitors.

Overseeing 11 sector-specific commissions, the Ministry works towards the support of and preservation of a vibrant culture that is true to its past and looks to the future by cherishing heritage and unleashing new and inspiring forms of expression for all.

Find the Ministry of Culture on social media: X [@MOCSaudi](#) (Arabic); [@MOCSaudi_En](#) (English) | Instagram [@mocsaudi](#)

About the Heritage Commission:

The Heritage Commission, one of the Ministry of Culture's 11 sector-specific Commissions, was launched in 2020 and oversees the Kingdom's heritage sector, showcasing, documenting, and preserving Saudi Arabia's tangible and intangible heritage.

The Commission plans to open a range of archaeological sites to visitors to highlight national heritage, both domestically and internationally. It will also support the preparation and publication of archaeological research.

To learn more about the Heritage Commission, please visit <https://heritage.moc.gov.sa/en> and the commission's page on X @MOCHeritage

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