



## Investigating black tourism for the Speicher site in Iraq

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### Abstract

Our research aims to investigate black tourism for the Speicher site in Iraq, to develop strategies for the site of the heinous terrorist crime in the Speicher area in Saladin Governorate, which gave a new concept to tourism represented by black tourism, as well as to shed light on the events that took place at this site, which was filled with sadness and tragedy. Tears flowed at his remembrance, and hearts went towards him, as thousands of families, individuals, celebrities, artists, and senior officials came to commemorate the anniversary of this tragedy.

**Keywords:** Spyker, dark tourism.

### Introduction

The Speicher site is one of the most important military sites in Iraq. It houses members of the 18th Division of the Iraqi Army, tasked with protecting the oil pipeline linking Baiji and the Ain al-Jahsh oil fields in Mosul from Iraqis. After the terrorist organization ISIS took control of the city of Tikrit and then Mosul, on June 12, 2014, ISIS terrorists seized the Speicher site and captured approximately 3,000 soldiers. They killed, slaughtered, and buried them alive, making Speicher a genocidal massacre and one of the worst mass killings in history. It is also noted that families and those concerned with this massacre attend annual memorial services for the martyrs, including families of the martyrs, senior government officials, and other interested parties. Through this crowded attendance at the site of the martyrs' killings, we can highlight that this presence can be classified as a specific type of tourism: black tourism.

- **A. Research problem:** The Speicher massacre shook people's consciences and caused thousands of them to attend in large numbers, especially on the anniversary of their martyrdom. The research problem arose from the following question: Can this massive attendance be included within a specific tourism pattern, and if it is possible to include it, what is this tourism pattern or type?
- **The importance of the research:** It lies in revealing the tourism pattern in which the families of the martyrs and those interested in commemorating the memory of their martyrs in the Speicher massacre enter, so that this site becomes an important tourist site, even if this memory is painful.
- Research objectives: The aim is to

1. Explore the Speicher massacre.

2. Identify the appropriate tourism model for this painful anniversary.

3. Investigate dark tourism at this site.

- **Research sample:** (50) questionnaire forms were distributed, including (20) electronic questionnaire forms, of which (45) were valid. The questionnaire was directed to tourism academics, individuals who visited the Speicher site, and employees of tourism companies. (3) paragraphs were placed on the questionnaire, and each paragraph included (5) questions.

- **Research limits:** represented by the following:

1. Spatial boundaries: Speicher site.

2. Temporal boundaries: Attendance was studied during the period 2014-2023.

- **Research methodology:** The researcher relied on the following:

1. Descriptive approach: By reviewing sources that addressed and reviewed the concepts of the research title, the research developed a theoretical framework for the concepts contained in the body of the research.
2. Analytical approach: By analyzing the information we received from survivors of this massacre and relevant officials

Based on this, the research consisted of two sections. The first section dealt with (the theoretical .(framework), and the second section dealt with (the practical aspect

## Chapter One: Theoretical Framework

### First: The Concept of Dark Tourism:

Dark Tourism, Black Tourism, Grief Tourism, or Tragedy Tourism. It is a newly mentioned tourism style, as its idea appeared through academic research about (25) years ago. The term tourism was viewed as a term that represents joy, pleasure, happiness, entertainment, fun, etc., until the idea emerged that it could have manifestations of sadness, darkness, and tragedy, which had a shocking and imaginative effect at the same time. Therefore, it did not take a specific form or style, but rather took on many different features and characteristics, according to the goal, purpose, interaction, and a set of different and varied psychological factors. It took on different names. Some of them dealt with it as a type of travel to sites that are historically linked to death and human tragedies (Foley & Lennon, 1996). Its goal is linked to learning about the human tragedy, or rather; Seeing the ugly face of the criminal reality of man, and the importance of attracting tourism to sites is evident in what they contain of human rights violations, secret torture camps, sites of wars and mass massacres, manifestations of neglect and injustice, and even famines. Dark tourism extends to the remains of natural disasters, as is the case with tsunami sites and the tragedies they left behind for the local population, as well as the remains of earthquakes and volcanoes. It is also called: tourism of sadness and tragedy, as some English references call it, meaning traveling to sites that

are humanly dark for the purpose of evaluating them historically, and learning about what a person may be exposed to as a result of those dangers, as is the case with torture camps, Nazi camps, and genocide cemeteries in Bosnia and Herzegovina and others. It makes him touch the value of civilization, human advancement, social justice, and the importance of human rights laws, and its goal in itself is not to witness death and suffering itself (Mishin, 2016).

Dark tourism is not a new concept. We believe that its concept and meaning are consistent with an event that shocked humanity in terms of the horrific tragedy, the tragedy of murder, and the violation of human sanctity: the Karbala massacre (61 AH/680 AD). The Karbala massacre saw the killing of the Prophet's grandson and his family members, and the enslavement of his women by Yazid and his soldiers, who embodied the ideology of terrorism in every sense of the word. As for the academic mention of dark tourism, its origins go back to the first mention of it by Rojek in 1993, who considered "spot-black" sites, or the commercial marketing of sites containing graves or what were known as violent mass deaths, as tourist attractions (Najat, 2019: 234).

### (1) Types of dark tourism:

Some types of dark tourism are:

- A. Disaster and Crisis Tourism: Visiting sites where natural or human-made disasters such as earthquakes, fires, explosions, hurricanes, and tsunamis occurred (Al-Khayat, 2020: 59).
- B. Sadness and Tragedy Tourism: Visiting sites that witnessed a tragedy, undertaken by those with or without a connection to the victims, but motivated by a sense of appreciation and respect for the victims and their families.
- C. Fear or Terror Tourism: Tourists aim to visit places that have witnessed some form of fear, terror, and adventure. This type of tourism is practiced by those with a passion for adventure as a form of entertainment (Al-Khayat, 2020: 71).
- D. Nuclear Tourism: A modern type of tourism, but one of the manifestations of dark tourism, tourists visit sites that witnessed nuclear explosions, characterized by the risk of tourists being exposed to nuclear radiation (Al-Khayat, 2020: 87).
- E. Genocide tourism: Tourists visit sites that witnessed a tragic or tragic catastrophe caused by an act of aggression, such as the execution of a large group of people, the deliberate destruction of entire cities, or a massacre by extremist groups, such as during civil or sectarian wars.
- F. Prison tourism: Tourists visit prisons after they have been converted into museums. The purpose is to witness the prisoners' housing, their torture, and the excruciating pain they endure during their imprisonment. Some prison sites have become a venue for tourists, who may even stay there for several days, living the lives of prisoners and being treated like prisoners as a form of entertainment.
- G. Battlefield tourism: Tourists visit sites that witnessed famous historical battles, which are considered sites of fighting and battlefields, and often contain historical monuments that reflect the horrors of war (Najat, 2019: 242-248).

H. Cemetery tourism: Tourists often interact with stories and narratives about cemeteries and places of painful memory, which plays a significant role in consolidating and perpetuating the memory of these sites. They visit cemeteries and memorials, attend ceremonies, and witness these scenes to confirm that they remember them (Al-Khayat, 2020: 239-240).

## (2) Examples of dark tourism:

The most famous dark tourism destinations in the world are:

A. Mount Vesuvius Eruption: Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD, reaching a height of 33 km in the sky, blocking out sunlight, and black ash covered the entire Italian settlement of Pompeii within a single day. The heat killed most of the settlement's inhabitants. A loud explosion was heard, which led to a vertical rise of lava and volcanic fire like a huge fountain, rising to a height of more than 20 km, and within half an hour; Volcanic debris fell and covered the entire city of Pompeii, whose roofs collapsed within four hours due to the weight of the layers of volcanic debris ejected from the volcano's crater in the form of flaming rock shells (Muhammad Ali et al., 2023: 213). Tourism to these cities was not popular until the Spaniard Joaquin de Alcudia in 1748 AD removed a large portion of the noteworthy structures, such as the Roman theater. Today, Pompeii is part of the Fiesone National Park and is considered one of the most prominent tourist sites in the world, and even the most desirable and popular in Italy, attracting approximately (2.5) million tourists annually (Badran, 2019).

B. The Morro Castle SS Fire: On September 8, 1934, a fire broke out on board the cruise ship Morro Castle, which was heading to New York City after departing Havana, Cuba. Flames engulfed the ship in just half an hour. Passengers and crew members attempted to launch lifeboats, but only half were available, as the other half had burned. Passengers and crew members, whether wearing life jackets or not, began jumping from the ship into the raging sea (Bilby, 2014). The fire resulted in the deaths of (549) people. According to press reports at the time, the aftermath of the incident attracted a quarter of a million tourists after the news was broadcast via print and radio. Special programs were also presented to the site of the event, and transportation by train from New York and Philadelphia was provided, as this event was considered a form of black tourism (Al-Sabai, 2022: 254).

C. The Cambodian Genocide Museum: A dark tourism site that witnessed the extermination of more than two million people (equivalent to a quarter of Cambodia's population at the time) as a result of starvation, disease, exhaustion, torture, and executions between 1975 and 1979 by the Khmer Rouge (Salim, 2018: 1096). The museum is an institution whose goal is to preserve memory; the museum is visited by researchers and tourists, sadists and sentimentalists, or those wishing to weep and lament over racial or ideological injustice. The ticket price is very high, and the museum offers services similar to those offered by art and civilization museums (Magdalene, 2019: 15).

D. The Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor in Ukraine: It is the site of the infamous nuclear accident in Ukraine. This disaster claimed the lives of more than one million people in Ukraine, including the dead, sick, and those affected by nuclear radiation (Robinson, 2015). On April 21, 1986, The most dangerous explosion, indeed the most violent in the history of nuclear energy, occurred, and it was called the first nuclear disaster in human history (Al-Arian, 2022: 3537). High levels of radiation were recorded in Norway, Sweden, Poland, Poland, Austria, Romania, and Germany. The radiation

level rose until it reached Switzerland, northern Italy, and Czechoslovakia, then reached the occupied territories, Kuwait, and Turkey. After that, the gas and volatile materials emitted from the reactor spread to high altitudes around the world, and were recorded in the United Kingdom, Japan, China, India, the United States, and Canada. All of this was within less than one week after the explosion, and Chernobyl became the world's problem (Alekseevich, 2016: 9). The disaster site became a tourist attraction for 30-40% of the country's tourism companies, due to the revival of Chernobyl in a five-episode documentary television series, a joint production between the American HBO network and the British Sky network. This attracted tourists for the first time to visit the disaster site after a game called (Stalker) has been around for over 10 years, a virtual reality game about the disaster, despite scientists warning against tourists visiting the disaster site (Salama: 2019).

## Second: Speicher:

It is an Iraqi airbase, previously known as "Sahara Air Base" before 2003. It is under the control of the Iraqi government. Speicher is located west of Tikrit in Salah al-Din Governorate, twelve kilometers from the city. Iraqi army forces, in addition to rapid intervention forces and the air force, are stationed at the base. It is a large, fortified base and a major center for managing air and missile operations. It also represents a major center for training operations provided by US forces to Iraqi forces. It is a strategic base for controlling the theater of operations in northern Iraq; therefore, ISIS has repeatedly sought to control it. The base includes two runways, one 2,900 meters long, and the other 2,200 meters long (Qasim and Abdul-Radhi, 2020). It was named "Speicher" after the American naval pilot Scott Speicher, who was killed during the Gulf War while flying his FA-14-18 Hornet aircraft by the Iraqi pilot Lieutenant Zuhair Daoud. Rumsfeld promised Speicher's daughter (Speicher's name will be immortalized for hundreds of years), and ordered that the name of the Air Force College be changed to Speicher Base instead of being named after Colonel Pilot Zuhair Al-Tamimi. In honor of the American pilot, the American command, through the strike force (American intelligence), ordered the killing of the pilots and engineers at this base (Ahmed, 2023.).

On June 12, 2014, ISIS stormed Speicher Air Base after seizing control of Tikrit a day after the fall of Mosul. They captured soldiers from the 18th Iraqi Army Division and transported them to the presidential palaces in Tikrit, where they were killed. They shot them dead in other areas, and some were buried alive. The killings became known as the "Speicher Massacre." Some of the 4,000-11,000 students and soldiers ordered to leave Camp Speicher were captured by ISIS, and 1,095-1,700 of these were killed over the next three days (Chinsov, 2015).

**(1) Speicher Massacre:** ISIS terrorist gangs led more than (2,500) soldiers in civilian clothes to trucks, and then separated the soldiers on a sectarian basis, as they were Shia of the Household of the Prophet, peace be upon them. (1,700) Shia soldiers were lost after being forced to lie in three shallow trenches with their hands tied behind their backs. Many testimonies of survivors of this massacre were recorded, and complaints were received from personal rights plaintiffs. It became clear from witness testimonies that ISIS gangs executed



more than (2,000) people en masse on a sectarian basis, as they were Shia of the Household of the Prophet, peace be upon them, and buried them in mass graves after torturing, humiliating, and mutilating them in the largest brutal massacre that reached the level of genocide and crimes against humanity, and systematic killing with the aim of annihilating the Shia of the Household of the Prophet, peace be upon them, and inciting sectarian tendencies. It is noted from the testimony of witnesses who survived the massacre that ISIS gangs carried out. The soldiers were taken in cars and more than (100) people were placed in them, and the gunmen were pointing the muzzles of their guns at the heads of the martyrs, and a large number of them were assassinated or liquidated while being taken to the palaces and in these same buses, as the blood of the martyrs mixed with the clothes of the living among them, and the gunmen from the ISIS gangs continued to direct obscene words, as well as beating and insulting the soldiers from the Speicher base and describing them as Rafidis and Magians and not deserving of life. After their arrival at the presidential palaces in Tikrit, they were brought down in the form of columns, and the ISIS gangs were beating them with rifle butts, sticks and batons, and they were placed in the form of groups in trenches and shot and executed collectively after their hands were tied behind their backs and the eyes of some of them were tied, while the officers among them were beheaded and their bodies burned, and many of them were buried in a mass grave and the bodies of others were thrown into the river, and through the testimony of one of the surviving witnesses who spent more than 11 days in detention, he stated that the ISIS gangs They tortured all the detainees and deprived them of food and water. In addition, one night, a detainee from Babylon Governorate was brought and placed in the hall where the detainees were. They indicated that this was the case for every Shiite Rafidi who resisted the terrorist ISIS gangs. They cut him into six pieces and severed his head in front of our eyes (Al-Gharawi, 2020: 8-9).

## **(2) Speicher and the Global Position:**

**Researchers from the Human Rights Organization examined high-resolution satellite imagery and confirmed that the circulated information about the killing of (1,700) Shiite soldiers in Tikrit revealed that they had found two small mass graves containing up to (200) bodies, allegedly massacred by ISIS at Speicher Air Base (Christophe, 2016: 239).** The United Nations Investigative Team to Promote Accountability for Crimes Committed by ISIS (UNITAD), in partnership with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations in New York and the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York, hosted a special event titled "Pattern of Mass Killing: ISIS Crimes Against Personnel of the Tikrit Air Academy," known in Iraq as the Speicher Massacre. This special event was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York and included participants from the diplomatic corps, civil society, and various UN offices (Shamto, 2022: 2134).

## **Third: Annual attendance and commemoration of the Speicher**

The families of the martyrs, Iraqis, and those interested in the Speicher incident commemorate the day the soldiers were killed at Camp Speicher on an annual basis. Dozens of families and senior officials attend, both at the site itself and in other countries, to commemorate the incident and to instill the crime in people's minds and prevent it from being forgotten. They also aim to establish the rights of the martyrs and hold accountable the criminals, perpetrators, and participants in this genocide (Shamto, 2021: 17), as seen in the photos in the appendix. UNITAD's statement in remembrance of the victims of the Speicher massacre in 2021 was: (...and in this exact place, the most heinous and inhumane crimes one can imagine were committed. Every person you lost, a loved one, because of these crimes,..., cannot be imagined. The extent of the pain and suffering you endured and that continues every day. It is essential that these crimes not be forgotten. My role in the investigation (UNITAD) is to lead the team responsible for investigating ISIS crimes in the camp. I am here today to express our respect for the victims and to affirm our commitment to continue working with you to achieve meaningful justice) (UNITAD, 2021).

### Section Two: The Practical Aspect:

The practical aspect involved distributing the questionnaire to tourism academics, individuals who visited the Speicher site, and tourism company employees. The questionnaire consisted of (3) paragraphs, each containing (5) questions. The paragraphs were:

- Paragraph One: The Reality of Investigating Dark Tourism at the Speicher Site.
- Paragraph Two: Tools for Investigating Dark Tourism at the Speicher Site.
- Paragraph Three: Obstacles to Investigating Dark Tourism at the Speicher Site.

It was formulated according to the five-point Likert scale (5-point Likert Scale), as follows: strongly agree (1), agree (2), neutral (3), disagree (4), strongly disagree (5).

**First: Research sample:** (50) questionnaires were distributed, including (20) electronic questionnaires, of which (45) were valid.

### Second: Data Analysis:

General information about the sample respondents was as follows:

Paragraph	Category	repetition	percentage
Sex	male	27	% 60
	feminine	18	% 40
the total		45	% 100
	(29 – 20) year	7	% 15.6
the age	(39 – 30) year	11	% 24.4

	(49 – 40) year	13	% 28.9
	(59 – 50) year	9	% 20
	سنة فاکٹر (60)	5	% 11.1
	<b>the total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>% 100</b>
Academic achievement	Preparatory school	5	% 11.1
	Bachelor's	31	% 68.9
	Higher degree	9	% 20
	<b>the total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>% 100</b>

of the The results questionnaire showed the following

Questions	5	4	3	2	1	total	weigh ted avera ge	The inten sity of the answ er	stand ard deviat ion	differe nce	Contr ast	relative import ance
x1	0	0	3	11	3	45	1.377	27.56 %	0.613	0.445	0.376	0.275
x2	0	0	9	22	1	55	1.888	37.78 %	0.714	0.378	0.510	0.377
x3	0	0	1	18	1	45	2.155	43.11 %	0.767	0.356	0.588	0.431
x4	5	4	7	26	3	45	2.6	52.00 %	1.116	0.429	1.245	0.52
x5	0	2	1	23	7	45	2.222	44.44 %	0.765	0.344	0.585	0.444
paragr aph	5	6	4	10	6	23	2.048	40.98 %	0.902	0.440	0.814	0.409
x6	29	12	3	1	0	45	4.533	90.67 %	0.726	0.160	0.527	0.906
x7	33	12	0	0	0	45	4.733	94.67 %	0.447	0.094	0.2	0.946
x8	24	17	2	1	1	45	4.377	87.56 %	0.860	0.196	0.740	0.875
x9	7	33	5	0	0	45	4.044	80.89 %	0.520	0.128	0.270	0.808

<b>x10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3.533</b>	<b>70.67 %</b>	<b>0.756</b>	<b>0.214</b>	<b>0.5727</b>	<b>0.706</b>
<b>paragr 2 aph</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>4.244</b>	<b>84.89 %</b>	<b>0.794</b>	<b>0.187</b>	<b>0.631</b>	<b>0.848</b>
<b>x11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4.622</b>	<b>92.44 %</b>	<b>0.534</b>	<b>0.115</b>	<b>0.285</b>	<b>0.924</b>
<b>x12</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4.355</b>	<b>87.11 %</b>	<b>0.608</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>0.370</b>	<b>0.871</b>
<b>x13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4.155</b>	<b>83.11 %</b>	<b>0.562</b>	<b>0.135</b>	<b>0.316</b>	<b>0.831</b>
<b>x14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3.355</b>	<b>67.11 %</b>	<b>1.003</b>	<b>0.299</b>	<b>1.007</b>	<b>0.671</b>
<b>paragr 3 aph</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>0.816</b>	<b>16.33 %</b>	<b>1.544</b>	<b>1.891</b>	<b>2.385</b>	<b>0.163</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>7.11</b>	<b>1.422</b>	<b>3.241</b>	<b>2.518</b>	<b>3.831</b>	<b>1.422</b>

It is noted from the previous table, in the first paragraph: (X4: Citizens' Interest in Visiting the Speicher Site) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.52), an arithmetic mean of (2.6), and a standard deviation of (1.116). This demonstrates that people are interested and desire to visit the Speicher Site. This may be due to the site's importance, as it holds tragic memories of the Takfiri ISIS gangs in Iraq. In addition, human nature toward culture and learning drives people to visit the site and experience the historical event of the Speicher tragedy. Citizens also desire to visit the site as a means of expressing appreciation and respect for the victims who sacrificed their lives at a young age. This visit may be an opportunity for personal reflection on the concepts of terrorism, takfir, killing, peace, and sacrifice. It can be taken into consideration that there is a segment for whom the visit is an opportunity to document dark events and places in human history on the one hand, and the history of Iraq on the other. The Speicher site is nothing but a case of people's interaction with history and culture, an expression of respect and solidarity with the victims and their families, and a sincere expression of spirituality and contemplation.

While (X1: The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' interest in black tourism sites) achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.275), an arithmetic mean of (1.377), and a standard deviation of (0.613). This may mean that the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' lack of interest in black tourism sites may be due to the Speicher site's association with tragic violent incidents. The area may be unsafe for tourists, so the ministry avoids promoting or paying attention to it. In addition, the site has a negative reputation, which makes the ministry avoid associating its name with those sites for fear that the bad behavior in the tourist destination will spread to the surrounding areas. The Ministry of Tourism's focus on promoting tourist destinations that reflect a positive image of the country and contribute to enhancing tourism activity in general, and its interest in developing them, motivates the ministry to leave black tourism sites outside its scope of interest, taking into account that black tourism sites may not be considered a major source of tourism income,

and therefore efforts and investments in this aspect may not be consistent with the tourism income achieved. In general, The Ministry's preference may be to focus on attractive tourist destinations that can support Iraq's positive image and increase tourist demand for those destinations.

As for the second paragraph, (X7: Marketing campaigns across all internet tools) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.946), an arithmetic mean of (4.733), and a standard deviation of (0.447). This demonstrates that online marketing campaigns reach a wide audience, allowing awareness to have a significant impact on turning attention to the Spyker site, attracting more potential visitors, as well as targeting an audience interested in traveling and exploring cultural and historical sites online, in addition to social networking sites as a means of communication and interaction with the potential audience. This also enables the widespread dissemination of information and awareness of the Spyker site, and increasing awareness of its historical and cultural significance.

X10: Production of films, TV series, and documentaries about the Spyker site achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of 0.706, an arithmetic mean of 3.533, and a standard deviation of 0.756. This may be due to the fact that film and television orientations may be linked to the orientations of production companies or directors. These specific orientations toward the films and series they wish to produce may not be compatible with dark tourism sites due to their sad and tragic nature, or the difficulties and obstacles these production companies face in obtaining filming permits, or the cost of filming if these sites are considered dangerous. Furthermore, due to the sensitivity of the situation among the public, or among official bodies, regarding filming that tragic site, production companies avoid these places, in addition to the profit benefit these companies may achieve from their production, which may not be in line with their profit ambitions.

As for the third item, (X11: Government neglect of Speicher as a dark tourism site) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.924), an arithmetic mean of (4.622), and a standard deviation of (0.534). This neglect may be due to the government's desire to ignore the site's painful past and avoid the public accusing the current government of negligence. The government may have other priorities related to developing tourism activity and launching tourism promotional campaigns that attract greater investment. The government may also face security and political challenges in developing and promoting dark tourism sites, especially if these sites are located in areas that may witness sectarian conflict. Furthermore, the government seeks to avoid negatively impacting Iraq's international image, particularly with regard to tourism and investment. Therefore, the government is working to focus on promoting positive tourist destinations that contribute to enhancing Iraq's positive image. Overall, there may be financial, administrative, and organizational constraints that are causing the government to neglect its role in investing in dark tourism at the Speicher site.

X12: Neglect of tourism authorities to promote black tourism as a new tourism trend on the Iraqi tourism map) achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.871), an arithmetic mean of (4.355), and a standard deviation of (0.608). This neglect may be due to a lack of awareness and limited understanding of black tourism, or reservations resulting from negative emotions associated with the painful event associated with the Speicher site, along with people's

concerns about the safety of visiting black tourism sites, especially if these sites are located in areas that may witness sectarian acts. It should also be taken into consideration that people's tourism preferences are towards traditional tourism associated with positive natural or historical landmarks, and they may prefer to avoid black tourism sites due to their tragic nature.

## Conclusions and Recommendations:

### First: Conclusions:

1. The United States imposed the name "Speicher" after American naval pilot Scott Speicher, who was killed during the Gulf War while flying his FA-14-18 Hornet in 1991 by Iraqi pilot Lieutenant Zuhair Daoud. Rumsfeld promised Speicher's daughter, "Speicher's name will be immortalized for hundreds of years," and ordered that the Air Force College be renamed "Base Speicher" instead of being named after Colonel Pilot Zuhair al-Tamimi.
2. There are many names that all refer to black tourism, including: dark tourism, dark tourism, grief tourism, or tragedy tourism. It is a modern form of tourism aimed at exploring the ugly side of human criminality.
3. Dark tourism varies according to its specific types: disaster and crisis tourism, grief and tragedy tourism, fear or terror tourism, nuclear tourism, genocide tourism, prison tourism, cemetery tourism, and battlefield tourism.
4. ISIS terrorist gangs led more than 2,500 soldiers in civilian clothes into trucks, then separated the soldiers on the basis of sectarianism, as they were Shia followers of the Prophet's family, peace be upon them. 1,700 Shia soldiers were lost after being forced to lie in three shallow trenches with their hands tied behind their backs. They were then shot and executed en masse after their hands were tied behind their backs and some of them blindfolded. The officers among them were beheaded and their bodies burned. Many of them were buried in a mass grave, while the bodies of others were thrown into the river.
5. In the first paragraph, (X4: Citizens' Interest in Visiting Speicher) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.52), while (X1: The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' Interest in Dark Tourism Sites) achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.275). (
6. In the second paragraph, (X7: Marketing Campaigns on All Internet Tools) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.946), while (X10: Production of Films, Television Series, and Documentaries about Speicher) achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.706). (
7. In the third paragraph, (X11: Government Neglect of Speicher as a Dark Tourism Site) achieved the highest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.924), while (X12: Neglect of the Tourism Authorities to Advance Dark Tourism as a New Tourism Trend on the Iraqi Tourism Map) achieved the lowest agreement value, with a relative importance of (0.871).

8. There is a lack of knowledge about what dark tourism is, its motivations, and the characteristics of tourists who frequent this type of tourism, in addition to a lack of community awareness of the importance of revitalizing the dark tourism site in Speicher.

## Second: Recommendations:

1. Work to transform the Speicher site from a military-style site to a tourist one.
2. Develop a tourism marketing strategy aimed at promoting dark tourism at the Speicher site, coordinating with all tourism authorities .
3. Striving to include dark tourism as a new tourism trend in Iraq by highlighting dark tourism sites in Iraq in general, and the Speicher site in particular.
4. Allocate a budget for developing the Speicher dark tourism site within the Iraqi budget as a whole.
5. Encourage tourism companies to develop tourism programs for the Speicher site and organize trips and excursions for school and university students to the Speicher site.
6. Provide distinctive, modern, safe, and affordable means of transportation to facilitate the transport of tourists to the Speicher dark tourism site, as well as providing the necessary infrastructure.
7. Use precise online targeting techniques to target marketing campaigns toward the target audience likely to be interested in visiting the Speicher site.
8. Fulfilling the promises of government officials and relevant authorities to establish a museum dedicated to the Speicher martyrs, as well as to establish a permanent art exhibition and an exhibition of documents related to the Speicher crime.

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### Questionnaire Form

Peace be upon you...

Here is the questionnaire form for the research titled "Investigating Black Tourism at the Speicher Site in Iraq." We hope for your cooperation in completing the questionnaire and answering it accurately to serve the scientific research process.

Please note that you must mark (✓) one option for each question and answer all paragraphs of the questionnaire without missing a paragraph. Omitting a paragraph will render the questionnaire invalid and, therefore, neglect it. We are ready to clarify any questions you may have.

.Please accept my sincere thanks and appreciation

- 1) Sex :  Male  Female
- 2) Age :  (29 – 20)year  (39 – 30)year  (49 – 40)year  (59 – 50)year  (60)One year or more
- 3) Academic achievement :  Preparatory  Bachelor's  Higher degree

#### Paragraph 1: The reality of black tourism at the Speicher site

No.	Paragraph	strongly agree	I agree	neutral	I disagree	strongly disagree
.1	The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities' interest in black tourism sites.					
.2	Spyker site management's interest in achieving black tourism.					
.3	Tourism companies' interest in black tourism programs (Spiker)					
.4	Citizens' interest in visiting the Speicher site.					

.5	Government institutions and civil society organizations are interested in visiting Speicher.					
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**Paragraph Two: Tools for investigating black tourism at the Speicher site**

No.	Paragraph	strongly agree	I agree	neutral	I disagree	strongly disagree
.1	Marketing campaigns by the government in all advertising media.					
.2	Marketing campaigns on all internet tools.					
.3	Participating in international exhibitions and festivals to showcase the Speicher site as part of dark tourism programmes.					
.4	Displaying the artistic production, sculptures and photos of the Speicher site in the Iraqi governorates.					
.5	Production of films, TV series and documentaries on Spyker.					

**.Paragraph 3: Obstacles to achieving black tourism at the Speicher site**

No.	Paragraph	strongly agree	I agree	neutral	I disagree	strongly disagree
.1	Government neglect of Speicher as a dark tourism site.					
.2	Neglect by the tourism authorities to establish black tourism as a new form of tourism on the Iraqi tourism map.					
.3	Tourist companies' disregard for Speicher as a tourist destination only further cements the memory of the tragedy in the conscience of humanity.					



.4	The Speicher case is subject to political bargaining in order to distract the Iraqi mind from the crime in Salah al-Din Governorate.					
.5	Lack of infrastructure at the Speicher site for dark tourism.					