IS destroys ancient Palmyra ruins Islamic State (IS) militants have TURKEY Aleppo blown up the Baalshamin temple in Palmyra, as the destruction of Ragga the archaeological jewels of the Middle East escalates Deir al-Zor SYRIA May 2015: IS captures Tadmur. city close to ruins of Palmyra PALMYRA: Built on site of ancient caravan route, unique combination of Damascus 100km Roman and Persian architectural styles 62 miles IRAQ Area of IS dominance Temple of Temple of Bel: Baalshamin: Most important Destroyed religious buildings of 1st Century Reconstructed in East Diocletian Grand Colonnade **Theatre** Diocletian baths Agora Local museum: Contains busts and reliefs from Palmyra's many 200m funerary monuments Senate House Monumental Arch: **Outstanding example** of Palmyrene art Khaled al-Asaad: **Archaeologist** beheaded **Aug 18** Pictures: Getty Images, Google Earth © GRAPHIC NEWS Source: Unesco