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Swift resumes X-ray monitoring observations of the Galactic center in 2017

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Swift resumes X-ray monitoring observations of the Galactic center in 2017

ATel #10089; *N. Degenaar (University of Amsterdam), R. Wijnands (University of Amsterdam), M. T. Reynolds (University of Michigan), J. M. Miller (University of Michigan), J. A. Kennea (Penn State University), on behalf of a larger collaboration*
 on 17 Feb 2017; 19:01 UT
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Subjects: X-ray, Binary, Black Hole, Neutron Star, Transient

On 2017 February 2, Swift resumed its daily X-ray monitoring campaign of the Galactic center using the XRT (Degenaar et al. 2015, JHEA 7, 137; see link below). We report that there are currently no active X-ray transients within the $\sim 20 \times 20$ arcmin region around Sgr A* that is covered by our campaign (down to a limiting luminosity of $\sim 1E34$ erg/s at a distance of 8 kpc for a single 1-ks exposure).

We note that the last X-ray transient that was active before the Sun-constrained window, the neutron star low-mass X-ray binary XMM J174457-2850.3 (ATel #9551), returned to quiescence between October 5 and 10 after a ~ 2 -week long outburst. During this time the source reached a 2-10 keV peak luminosity of $\sim 3E35$ erg/s (assuming a distance of 6.5 kpc as inferred from thermonuclear burst analysis; Degenaar et al. 2014, ApJ 792, 109). This is similar to previous outbursts of this source, which never become brighter than $\sim 1E36$ erg/s.

Updates on the daily X-ray observations of the Galactic center are immediately posted at the [Swift Sgr A* Monitoring Campaign Website](#).

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5037	Swift-BAT monitoring for additional bursts from SGR J1745-29 (Trigger 554491)
5032	Chandra localization of the soft gamma repeater in the Galactic Center region
5020	NuSTAR discovery of a 3.76 second pulsar in the Sgr A* region
5016	Continued Swift Monitoring of the Galactic Center Flare
5009	Swift/BAT detection of an SGR-like flare from near Sgr A*
5006	Large Flare from Sgr A* Detected by Swift
3525	Chandra Localization of the Galactic Center X-ray Transient Swift J174535.5-285921
3472	Swift/XRT discovers a new X-ray transient near the Galactic center: Swift J174535.5-285921

[**Telegram Index**]

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