



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



**A Weekly Update from the  
UN Department of Public Information**

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### **UN Special Envoy deeply concerned about situation of civilians in Zabadani**

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura expressed deep concern over the situation of civilians in the town of Zabadani, near the border with Lebanon, following reports of heavy bombardment, including by barrel bombs. In a statement issued on 22 July, the Envoy said that reliable local sources had confirmed that a large number of barrel bombs had been dropped on the city, causing unprecedented levels of destruction and many deaths among the civilian population. Armed opposition forces from Jaish al Fateh ("Army of Conquest") had retaliated by firing rockets and heavy mortar shells on two villages near Idlib, Al Foua and Kefraya, where a substantial number of civilians are trapped, he said. "In both cases, civilians are tragically caught in the middle of the fighting", Mr. de Mistura warned, urging all parties to uphold the principle of the protection of civilians and the Syrian government to halt the use of crude and indiscriminate weapons such as the barrel bombs on its own cities.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4d6470dbeat92917c1257e59004fac2d?OpenDocument&ExpandSection=2%2C3%2C6%2C5#\\_Section2](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4d6470dbeat92917c1257e59004fac2d?OpenDocument&ExpandSection=2%2C3%2C6%2C5#_Section2)

### **Special Envoy de Mistura visits Iran, China and Egypt in ongoing consultations**

As part of his ongoing consultations on Syria, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura visited Iran on 21 July. While in Tehran, he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mohammad Javad Zarif, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Arab-African Affairs, Hussein Amir Abdollahian. During his meetings, Mr. de Mistura stressed the urgency of a Syrian-led political solution to the conflict and exchanged views on how to proceed with a political process, with the support of the UN Security Council. Prior to this visit, the Special Envoy travelled to China on 20 July where he met with the Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Li Baodong, and the Director-General of the Department of International Organizations and Conferences, Mr. Li Junhua. The Special Envoy stressed the importance for the UN Security Council members to reach a common understanding on how to proceed with a political process aimed at operationalizing the Geneva Communiqué. Prior to Beijing, the Special Envoy went to Cairo to have a meeting with the Secretary-General of League of Arab States, Mr. Nabil El Araby. On that occasion, Mr. de Mistura had the opportunity of discussing the forthcoming meeting of the Security Council on Syria and exchanged views on ways to promote a political solution to the conflict. While in Cairo, Mr. De Mistura also met with Syrian opposition figures present there.

The Special Envoy is working to finalize his proposals to the Secretary-General on a way forward to support Syrian parties in their search for a political solution to the conflict, in preparation for a briefing to the Security Council next week in New York.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4d6470dbeat92917c1257e59004fac2d?OpenDocument&ExpandSection=3%2C6%2C5#\\_Section3](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4d6470dbeat92917c1257e59004fac2d?OpenDocument&ExpandSection=3%2C6%2C5#_Section3)  
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150721.doc.htm>

## **UNICEF says water cuts in Aleppo threaten children amid heat wave**

The UN Children agency (UNICEF) said in a statement on 22 July said that frequent disruption to water supplies in Aleppo has increased the risk of water-borne diseases especially among children. "These water cuts came at the worst possible time, while Syrians are suffering in an intense summer heat wave," said Hanaa Singer, UNICEF Representative in Syria. "Some neighbourhoods have been without running water for nearly three weeks leaving hundreds of thousands of children thirsty, dehydrated and vulnerable to disease." To address the crisis, UNICEF has trebled the scale of its water trucking services from 800,000 to 2.5 million liters a day, the largest volume of water delivered since the start of the conflict.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-water-cuts-aleppo-threaten-children-amid-intense-heat-wave>

### **UN Radio in Arabic:**

As barrel bombs are dropped on Zabadani, Special Envoy de Mistura calls on Syria's warring parties to protect civilians

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174331/#.Va\\_Ez\\_IVhBc](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174331/#.Va_Ez_IVhBc)

Special Envoy de Mistura visits Iran and says there is no military solution to the Syrian conflict

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174266/index.html#.Va\\_EiPIVhBc](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174266/index.html#.Va_EiPIVhBc)

Staffan de Mistura in China to discuss ways to implement the Geneva communiqué

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174182/index.html#.Va\\_EhvIVhBc](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174182/index.html#.Va_EhvIVhBc)

### **Ongoing social media campaigns on Syria**

**#4Syria** campaign was launched on 20 March 2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to highlight the Syrian conflict, which has entered its fifth year. The campaign calls for an end to the conflict and seeks to raise funds for UNRWA's programmes to support Palestinian refugees from Syria. It features testimonies of Palestine refugees; voices that, amid the tragedy, brim with positive energy and determination, as well as documents highlighting UNRWA's emergency work in the region. View the campaign at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>

**#SaveYarmouk** was launched in January 2015 to shed light on the grave deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yarmouk, following the escalation of fighting. The campaign includes stories and updates from Yarmouk as well as recorded voices of residents describing the horrible conditions in which they are living. With no access to regular food supplies, clean water, health care, electricity or heating fuel, Yarmouk's civilian population is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. For those who wish to support UNRWA's work in Syria, donation is possible through the campaign's website: <http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>.

### **#ChildrenofSyria**

UNICEF and its partners are committed to keeping Syrian children from becoming a 'lost generation'. Critical efforts are being made to minimize the impact of the crisis on children – including in the life-saving areas of health, nutrition, immunization, water and sanitation, as well as in the future of children, through education and child protection.

<http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syria/>

<http://childrenofsyria.info/>

### **Relevant links to UN Secretariat, Agencies, Funds and Programmes on Syria**

#### **DPI Focus Page on Syria:**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

**UN System agencies :**

UN Women: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://unocha.org/syria> , [twitter.com/ocha\\_syria](https://twitter.com/ocha_syria) , [facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria](https://facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria)

WHO: <http://www.who.int/countries/syr/en/>

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f86c2426.html>

OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?CID=SY>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

**UN on social media:**

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/UN>

Flickr: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/un\\_photo/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/un_photo/)

YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/unitednations>

Tumblr: <http://united-nations.tumblr.com/>

**Photo galleries:**

UNHCR: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49c3646c25d.html>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/photogallery.php>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/media-resources/photo-gallery>

UNICEF: [http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo\\_2013.php#UNI82253](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>