



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 105/29 July 2015

Secretary-General and Special Envoy de Mistura lay out new proposal to the Security Council

The Secretary-General, together with his Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, briefed the Security Council on 29 July on the consultations the latter carried out with a range of Syrian and non-Syrian stakeholders with a view to operationalize the Geneva Communiqué. Addressing the Council, the Secretary-General noted that the Communiqué, which was adopted in 2012, remains the only internationally agreed basis for a political settlement to the Syrian conflict. “The status quo in Syria is unacceptable. Some argue that we must wait to end this nightmare until there is a more propitious alignment of regional and international circumstances. This would be both immoral and irresponsible”, he stated. Mr. Ban urged Council members to give their full support to the proposal presented by his Special Envoy on a way forward to launch a political process aimed at enabling Syrians to negotiate a framework agreement on how to implement all aspects of the Geneva Communiqué. The Secretary-General noted that the main goal of these preparatory negotiations will be to reach an intra-Syrian agreement on the elements of the Geneva Communiqué, including on the issue of the Transitional Governing Body, as well as to effectively fight terrorism.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8867>

<http://webtv.un.org/search/ban-ki-moon-un-secretary-general-on-syria-security-council-7497th-meeting/4384129558001?term=2015-07-29><http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51523>

In ensuing remarks to the Security Council, Special Envoy de Mistura laid out a proposal to launch a step-by-step process to operationalize the Geneva Communiqué. “What I am today proposing is to deepen the Geneva consultations format. I now intend to invite Syrians to parallel thematic discussions through intra-Syrian working groups addressing the key aspects of the Geneva Communiqué,”: safety and protection for all; political and constitutional issues; military and security issues; public institutions; and reconstruction and development. These working groups will start generating movement towards a “Syrian-owned framework document” on the implementation of the Geneva Communiqué, explained Mr. de Mistura. “The framework document will also provide for a transitional governing body, procedures for a national dialogue, the constitution drafting process and transitional justice issues,” continued the Special Envoy. In that regard, he stressed, the support of the Security Council will be “critical” to convince all Syrian and regional players to get involved.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51523#.VbkmwfnqW3Y>

<http://webtv.un.org/search/staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy-for-syria-on-syria-security-council-7497th-meeting/4384189599001?term=2015-07-29>

See also below the full text of the Geneva Communiqué:

<http://www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/Syria/FinalCommuniquéActionGroupforSyria.pdf>

There is no alternative to the negotiating table, warns Secretary-General

Speaking to reporters after the briefing, the Secretary-General reaffirmed the need to push for a political settlement. "We must keep pressing for a political solution. That was the main purpose of our report to the Security Council today. The price of continuing the Syrian war is simply too high. In the name of humanity, there is no alternative to the negotiating table", he said. Mr. Ban urged the countries of the region and the international community to play a role in reducing the violence and ending the conflict, including by stemming the flow of weapons and foreign fighters. "Our moral and political obligation is to explore every possible opportunity to end the violence and begin a transition to a new Syria", he said.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4035>

<http://webtv.un.org/search/staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy-for-syria-on-syria-security-council-7497th-meeting/4384189599001?term=2015-07-29>

Political solution more urgent than ever, UN Relief Chief tells the Security Council

In his first briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria on 28 July, UN Humanitarian Chief Stephen O'Brien described as "gargantuan" the levels of suffering for most Syrians affected by the conflict. "With much regret, my inaugural statement to the Council continues where my predecessor left off, chronicling yet another month of grim statistics to convey the horrors of a brutal conflict and the immense suffering of beleaguered civilians", he said. Mr. O'Brien stressed that humanitarian access in Syria remains severely restricted. "Some 4.6 million people, around a quarter of the country's population, live in areas that remain extremely hard to reach for humanitarian actors. Of these, some 422,000 people are in areas that remain besieged by the parties", he added. While noting that a political solution was more urgent than ever, the UN humanitarian Chief announced that he will travel to Damascus next month. He voiced hope that this visit will provide an opportunity to constructively engage with the Syrian Government to address the challenges impeding aid operations.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20statement%20-%20SecCo%20Syria%20-%2028%20July%202015%20-%20as%20delivered1.pdf>

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/561

Third anniversary of Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan

As this week marks the third anniversary of the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, the largest in the Middle East, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) is hosting a special dialogue with refugees living there on its Facebook page. A UNHCR Spokesperson told reporters in Geneva that the camp was established on 29 July 2012 amid huge inflows of refugees from Syria. The camp set up in nine days is now home to 81,000 Syrians. More than half the refugees in Za'atari are children. According to UNHCR, there are also some 9,500 young people in the camp aged between 19-24 who need skills training as well as livelihood opportunities.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/1CFE9F015BDD7559C1257E9000326039?OpenDocument

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/photos/a.113847718437.119729.13204463437/10154202302043438/?type=1&theatre>

United States announces US\$ 13 million for Palestine refugees affected by Syria conflict

On 23 July, the United States Government announced a new US\$13 million contribution to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) Syria crisis response. The United States is the largest single-country UNRWA donor, and with this contribution, the U.S. total contribution to date towards the agency's 2015 Syria Emergency Appeal will be US\$76.4 million. Welcoming the additional funding, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said that the cumulative effect of four years of conflict means the humanitarian crisis in Syria was more severe than ever. Fear, anxiety and despair

are rampant". UNRWA also pointed out that securing funding to support even the most basic needs of a desperate population remains a challenge for the agency.
<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/united-states-announces-new-us-13-million-support-palestine-refugees>

UN Radio in Arabic

Steven O'Brien says the Syrian crisis is the "most shameful blot on the world's humanitarian conscience"
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174730/index.html#.Vbj1YfIVhBc>

UNHCR: Syrian youth still in need of employment opportunities three years since the Zaatari refugee camp was established
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174698/index.html#.Vbj1a IVhBc>

UN Experts: Nearly 20,000 foreign fighters from 80 countries are fighting in Syria and Iraq and other conflict zones
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174448/index.html#.Vbj1bvlVhBc>

Syria: Wheat production improves thanks to rain, but half the population still faces food insecurity
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174441/index.html#.Vbj1b IVhBc>

Syrian Ambassador congratulates Iran on nuclear deal
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174420/index.html#.Vbj1cflVhBc>

US announces new \$13 million contribution to aid Palestinian refugees, affected by the Syrian conflict
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174379/index.html#.Vbj1dPIVhBc>

Luciano Portolano: The situation in southern Lebanon is volatile but stable
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/174648/index.html#.Vbj1bPIVhBc>

UN Twitter

United Nations retweeted UN Spokesperson -29 July
Ban Ki-moon & special envoy outline way forward on political solution for #SyriaCrisis
<http://bit.ly/1eAxEY8>

United Nations retweeted UN Spokesperson- @UN _ Spokesperson- 29 July
Ban Ki-moon to Security Council: "Syria is the world's largest humanitarian crisis"
- 250K killed
-12M displaced

United Nations retweeted
UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson – 29 July
#UNSG Ban Ki-moon to brief #UNSC on #SyriaCrisis | Watch LIVE at 10am EST:
[@UN_DPA @UNOCHA](http://webtv.un.org)

United Nations retweeted UN Refugee Agency @Refugees – 29 July
More than half the population of Za'atari refugee camp in #Jordan are children
[#Syria](http://trib.al/aZI57LV)

United Nations retweeted UN News Centre@UN_News_Centre 28 July
#Syria's grim statistics reflect need for political settlement, #UNSC told bit.ly/1D6OKJ3
pic.twitter.com/jb21kk8jxY

United Nations retweeted UNOCHA - 28 July 2015

News: @UNReliefChief announces visit to Syria next month to assess humanitarian situation & needs.

UNOCHA @UNOCHA

Just out: @UNReliefChief briefing to the #UNSC on #Syria. Full statement:

<http://ow.ly/QbGL0>

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 , 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/

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

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