



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



**A Weekly Update from the
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Urgent measures are needed to protect civilians in Syria, Secretary-General tells the Security Council

Speaking at a Security Council meeting on the settlement of conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa and countering the terrorist threat in the region on 30 September, the Secretary-General pointed out that while the crises in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen all exposed similar horrors, Syria had proven to be the most intractable. He called for urgent measures to protect civilians from widespread violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. Mr. Ban also renewed his appeal to the Council to strongly support the efforts of his Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, to promote a comprehensive and credible political transition based on the Geneva Communiqué.
<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9070>

Deputy Secretary-General says political will, determination are required to change the course from war to peace

"We need leadership, political will and determination to change the course from war to peace", UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson said at an informal ministerial-level meeting on the Syrian crisis, in New York on 29 September. "But, in tandem with efforts to de-escalate the conflict, we must do more to support the Syrian people and neighboring countries as they shoulder the heavy burden of the status quo", he warned. Mr. Eliasson went on to highlight three priority areas of relief efforts in Syria: addressing humanitarian needs within the country, addressing the regional impact of the crisis as well as focusing on education. "Efforts across these three areas are vital to ensure a generation of Syrians is not lost to violence, starvation and despair", he noted.
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/dsgsm899.doc.htm>

Secretary-General calls for referral of Syria to International Criminal Court

In his opening remarks at the 70th General Assembly General Debate on 28 September, the Secretary-General called for the situation in Syria to be referred to the International Criminal Court. "Innocent Syrians pay the price of more barrel bombs and terrorism. There must be no impunity for atrocious crimes. Our commitment to justice should lead us to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court", he said. The Secretary-General stressed that four years of diplomatic paralysis by the Security Council and others had allowed the Syrian crisis to spin out of control, and that it was time primarily for the Security Council and regional actors to step forward to find a solution to the conflict.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9043>

UNICEF urges all parties to end attacks against civilians

Amid increasing violence in Syria, UNICEF Representative in Syria Hanna Singer called once again on all parties to immediately stop indiscriminate attacks on civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law. "The intensification of violence in the past few weeks has resulted in the killing of many children all over the country", she noted on 28 September. In a single incident in the Al-Wa'er neighborhood in Homs on 26

September, 17 children were killed and 23 others were injured. "The use of heavy weapons has become commonplace in Syria and far too often children find themselves in the line of fire", she added.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_85666.html

UNICEF seeks US\$14 million to assist refugee children

Following an 80 percent increase in the number of children on the move in Europe, UNICEF launched on 25 September a US\$14 million appeal to assist refugee and migrant children, many escaping conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. "With so many children on the move, and with winter in Europe approaching, our priority has to be caring for these children now," said Marie-Pierre Poirier, UNICEF's Special Coordinator for the refugee and migrant crisis in Europe. According to latest Eurostat data, some 133,000 children sought asylum in the European Union between January and July 2015 - an average of 19,000 children every month.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_85636.html

Loss of hope and poverty drive Syrians to seek refuge in Europe

The UN refugee agency said on 25 September that it had identified seven main factors behind the recent increase in the number of Syrian refugees seeking refuge in the region and in Europe. A UNHCR spokesperson told reporters in Geneva that these include the loss of hope, high costs of living and growing poverty, limited livelihood and education opportunities, aid shortfalls, hurdles to renew legal residency and feeling unsafe in Iraq. Since the start of the conflict, there had been 429,000 asylum applications by Syrians in Europe, he added.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/84A54B70467923DDC1257ECB0039F48D?OpenDocument

Strengthening food security is critical to respond to refugee crisis, warns FAO

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Director-General, José Graziano, called for a comprehensive response to the refugee crisis that considers their present and future food security and the rehabilitation of their rural livelihoods. In a statement on 24 September, he said that in Syria the conflict is having a devastating impact on agriculture, much of the infrastructure has been destroyed and farmers are forced to abandon their fields and animals. Meanwhile, the influx of Syrian refugees is also impacting agriculture in neighboring host countries. In this context, FAO is working with partners to strengthen food security and build the resilience of households and communities in Syria and in countries in the region.

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/331907/icode/>

UN Radio in Arabic:

Jordan participates in a ministerial meeting on dealing with the Syrian refugee crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/180054/#.VgwiiflVhBc>

UN Secretary-General and Foreign Affairs ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council discuss Syria, Yemen and South Sudan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179997/#.VgwjAflVhBc>

President Obama: Defeating Daesh in Syria requires a new leader

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179893/#.VgwjpvIVhBc>

Ban Ki-moon meets President Obama and calls for an end to the terrible situation in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179812/#.VgwkQPIVhBc>

Irina Bokova calls for working together for the protection of cultural heritage in Iraq and Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179771/#.VgwmKPIVhBc>

Ban Ki-moon meets the Iranian President and encourages him to contribute to a political settlement in Syria and Yemen

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/179423/#.VgwnoPIVhBc>

UN Twitter

United Nations Retweeted September 29

UNHCR Central Europe @RefugeesCE

This is what #refugees say about why they are leaving #Syria now:

<http://wapo.st/1P3zZtI>

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson September 26

#UNSG Ban Ki-moon encourages #Iran to contribute to political settlement in #Syria,

#Yemen. @HassanRouhani <http://bit.ly/1OzteAL>

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#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, 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 challenging 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/>