



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

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### **Inclusive, transformative political process key to resolving Syrian crisis - UN Envoy**

Speaking at a press briefing in Geneva on 13 October, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura reiterated his call for an all-inclusive political process based on the Geneva communiqué to resolve the Syrian conflict. "There is no question that fighting terrorist organizations listed by the Security Council resolutions are a priority, it is also true that winning terrorism can only be achieved through a parallel, all inclusive, transformative political process, within the framework of the Geneva Communiqué", the Envoy said. In response to a statement released by the Syrian Opposition Coalition (SOC) indicating that it will not take part in the consultative working groups, Mr. de Mistura said he regretted their decision and hoped it can evolve. "I will now examine what could be our own next steps in order to, however, keep the Working Group's momentum since there is no alternative but an intra-Syrian dialogue in preparation for what one day we hope will be the Geneva III Conference." The envoy announced that he would be travelling to Moscow for talks, followed by a visit to Washington D.C.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/14DBFDE801727187C1257EDD002BC73D?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/14DBFDE801727187C1257EDD002BC73D?OpenDocument)

### **UN human rights officials alarmed at escalation of violent rhetoric by religious leaders**

In a statement released on 13 October, the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, and the Special Adviser on the Responsibility to Protect, Jennifer Welsh, expressed alarm at the escalation in violent rhetoric by influential religious leaders regarding the situation in Syria. Both condemned the recent call by clerics in Saudi Arabia for Sunni Muslims and their States to support a "holy war" against Shia Muslims and Christians in Syria, as well as against States and non-State armed groups perceived to support them. "Such rhetoric can aggravate the already extremely volatile situation in Syria by drawing religiously motivated fighters to join all parties to the conflict, thus escalating the risk of violence against religious communities", they warned. "Advocacy of religious hatred to incite or justify violence is not only morally wrong, but also prohibited under international law", they added. The UN officials called on States to dissociate themselves from and condemn any form of advocacy of religious hatred, promote dialogue and protect and empower all those religious figures and human rights defenders who are working towards enhancing interreligious respect and harmony.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52258>

### **UN refugee chief warns more effective and large-scale European response needed**

At the conclusion of a two-day visit to Greece to assess the humanitarian response to the migrant crisis, High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres lamented the continued lack of large-scale and effective European response. Assessing conditions on the Greek island of Lesbos, the main landing spot for tens of thousands of people taking smuggler boats, Guterres said European governments had yet to match the "gigantic effort" that the island and its people had made in trying to cope with the huge influx.

The majority of the refugees and migrants arriving on Lesbos are from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. "Without a Europe-wide approach and an effective strategy in dealing with the influx", Guterres warned that criminal networks would continue to thrive. "When states are not able to organize the orderly movement of refugees, smugglers take charge, exploiting people further and adding to their suffering," he added.

<http://www.unhcr.org/561a82186.html>

### **New financing initiative to mobilize more support for refugee hosting countries in the Middle East and North Africa**

The UN Secretary-General and the Presidents of the World Bank Group and the Islamic Development Bank Group announced on 10 October a joint financing initiative to help countries hosting significant refugee populations in the Middle East and North Africa achieve economic recovery. "To address the scale and the nature of the conflicts, we need new approaches", noted the Secretary-General. "It is important that the World Bank, as a close partner to the UN, and other international financial institutions, mainstream and actively invest in conflict-affected states." The proposed financing initiative was announced on the margins of the annual meeting of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund in Lima, Peru. It consists of two mechanisms to support countries impacted by conflict and large populations of refugees and displaced persons. Under the first mechanism, guarantees from donor countries would be leveraged to issue special bonds to finance economic recovery and reconstruction projects. In the second mechanism, grants from donor countries would be used to provide concessional finance to middle-income countries hosting the bulk of refugees.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/world/new-joint-initiative-mobilize-additional-support-refugees-recovery-and-reconstruction>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

UN advisers condemn the calls to support the "holy war" in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/181454/#.Vh5u6vIVhBc>

Special Envoy de Mistura: the victory over terrorism in Syria will not be achieved without parallel political process

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/181311/#.Vh5wC\\_IVhBc](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/181311/#.Vh5wC_IVhBc)

Antonio Guterres is visiting Greece to assess the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/181195/#.Vh5wbPIVhBc>

### **UN Twitter**

United Nations @UN 14 October

Syria: @UNRWA shelters are housing 13,000+ Palestine refugees & other civilians. [goo.gl/G29r0n](http://goo.gl/G29r0n)

United Nations UN 12:05 PM - 13 October

"Push-backs, building walls, increasing detention will never be the answer."

[trib.al/M3Hz2FW](https://trib.al/M3Hz2FW) via @Refugees [pic.twitter.com/qm6k2Mw8ng](https://pic.twitter.com/qm6k2Mw8ng)

UN Geneva @UNGeneva 5:40 AM - 13 Oct 2015 from Geneva, Switzerland

UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura speaks about developments in #Syria. Transcript: [ow.ly/TkFzk](https://ow.ly/TkFzk) [pic.twitter.com/MfwlxnlWjK](https://pic.twitter.com/MfwlxnlWjK)

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees 13 October

Our chief thanked frontline Greek islands, for improved response, on #Lesbos this weekend [unhcr.org/561a82186.html](http://unhcr.org/561a82186.html)... [pic.twitter.com/uagw6jFMM5](https://pic.twitter.com/uagw6jFMM5)

## **UN Facebook**

United Nations News Centre 13 October 2015

Senior UN human rights officials today expressed their alarm at the rise in violent rhetoric – including calls for “holy war” against certain faiths – by influential religious leaders in relation to the situation in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52258#.Vh55N IVhBd>

UN Radio October 12 2015

UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, says #refugees need to be treated with a human touch.

In this picture Guterres sits among two young boys from Syria who are playing with a Playstation in the Moria Identification Centre, Lesbos, #Greece.

UN Radio's coverage: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2015/10/refugees-need-to-be-treated-with-a-human-touch-un-refugee-chief/#.Vh543vIVhBd>

## **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>.

**#myvoicemyschool** is an educational project linking Palestinian refugee youth displaced by the Syrian conflict with their peers in England. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can meet their future aspirations. Each class will define and develop an advocacy project to promote and share their ideas. <http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool>

## **#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/>