



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 120/11 November 2015

UN ready to support any decision at the Vienna talks on Syria - Special Envoy

Following his briefing to the Security Council on 10 November, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura told reporters that the UN is ready to support any decision taken at the next round of international talks in Vienna this weekend. The Special Envoy said that he hopes the discussions will yield some deliverables for the long-suffering Syrian people – namely, a lessening of the violence. Ahead of the meeting facilitated by the Russian Federation and the United States, Mr. de Mistura explained that there had been a decision to create three sub-groups: on terrorism, “which is a pending issue, as you know;” one regarding the opposition; and one on humanitarian issues. “This is certainly a sign of the seriousness of wanting to address issues that have been pending”, he pointed out.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52517#.VkOLAivgW3Y>

<http://webtv.un.org/media/media-stakeouts/watch/staffan-de-mistura-un-special-envoy-on-syria-on-a-political-solution-to-the-syrian-crisis-security-council-media-stakeout-10-november-2015/4605373058001>

Special Envoy meets with a delegation from the Syrian Opposition Coalition

In line with the need to reach out to all components of the Syrian political landscape, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura met in Geneva on 6 November with a delegation from the Syrian Opposition Coalition led by Dr. Khaled Khoja. Mr. de Mistura heard Dr. Khoja’s views and perspectives on ways to resolve the conflict in Syria. The Special Envoy will continue to meet with various Syrian stakeholders, including the government and other opposition representatives, in order to ensure Syrian participation and ownership in the process leading to a political solution of the conflict. “The Syrian people must be involved in the settlement of the conflict,” Mr. de Mistura said. “What is currently important is the momentum of what was achieved in Vienna. Everyone agrees that there is an urgency to have a common understanding on how to end this war, this conflict,” the Special Envoy added.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/4D6470DBEAF92917C1257E59004FAC2D?OpenDocument

Secretary-General hails international re-engagement towards a political solution in Syria

In his remarks to the Fourth Arab and Latin American Summit in Riyadh on 10 November, the Secretary-General welcomed the re-engagement of the international community in pushing for a political settlement of the Syria crisis. He hailed as “a clear step in the right direction” the participation of Saudi Arabia and Iran in recent talks in Vienna. “We must work urgently to narrow the gaps, start a serious political process and finally end this nightmare”, he said. The Secretary-General also commended Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan for hosting Syrian refugees as well as Brazil and other Latin American countries that have accepted or pledged to grant asylum, calling on other countries to show solidarity as winter approaches.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2834#.VkOMKSvgW3Y

Resilience is critical to more effective Syria response - UNDP Chief

Speaking at a two-day Resilience Development Forum hosted by the Government of Jordan on the shores of the Dead Sea on 9 November, the head of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Helen Clark, called for a broader reflection on how development and humanitarian actors should work together in prolonged conflicts. She stressed that the traditional response to crises of relief first and development later was not tenable in a protracted crisis like Syria. "The insecurity generated by the crisis has reversed years of development gains, and makes it harder for the neighbours most impacted to move ahead," Ms. Clark noted. "At the earliest stage, development actors must be engaged to support livelihoods and independence and to restore basic services." The UNDP Administrator underlined that the resilience agenda that emerged from the forum must generate a renewed sense of purpose and urgency around how to improve our collective response to the Syria crisis.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2015/11/10/un-development-chief-resilience-critical-to-more-effective-syria-response/>

UNHCR praises Canada's pledge to take another 25,000 Syria refugees

The UN refugee agency welcomed on 10 November Canada's announcement to take in an additional 25,000 Syrian refugees through humanitarian admission programmes by the end of 2015. "This is a huge gesture of solidarity with the Syrian people and the countries neighbouring Syria which together are hosting more than four million refugees and bearing the brunt of this crisis. I urge other countries to follow Canada's lead, galvanise their resources, and dramatically increase the number of Syrians who are able to rebuild their lives in safe countries without having to take perilous journeys," said High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. "Too many vulnerable refugees are languishing in countries neighbouring Syria, caught in a downward spiral of poverty and risk as they struggle to meet their basic needs. We need many more ambitious programmes like this to offer Syrians a chance to start their lives anew," Mr. Guterres added.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-hails-canada-s-pledge-take-another-25000-syria-refugees>

UNESCO condemns the murder of two Syrian citizen journalists

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova condemned on 9 November the killing of two Syrian citizen journalists, Ibrahim Abdel Qader and Fares Hammadi, found dead in the city of Sanliurfa, in the southeast of Turkey, on 30 October. The UNESCO Chief called on the authorities to ensure swift justice for these crimes. "We must do everything we can to protect journalists from the violence of extremists who are prepared to resort to murder to suppress people's right to share information", she said.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/director_general_condemns_the_murder_of_syrian_citizen_journalists_ibrahim_abdel_qader_and_fares_hammadi/#.VkOITivgW3Y

UN Radio in Arabic

Secretary-General meets with Saudi King and discusses climate, the situation in Syria, Yemen and Palestine issue

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184161/#.Vkoa-7erSuk>

Staffan de Mistura stresses the need to maintain the momentum of the Vienna consultations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184144/#.VkoBVrerSuk>

UNESCO condemns the killing of two Syrian journalists

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183943/#.VkOBp7erSUK>

The European Union donates 2.5 million euros for Palestinian refugees in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183912/#.VkOB17erSUK>

Special Envoy de Mistura meets a delegation of the Syrian opposition in Geneva

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183846/#.VkoCL7erSUK>

UNHCR assists refugees and migrants in the Greek islands and urges to provide more funding

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/183756/#.VkOCZberSUK>

UN Twitter

UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre 10 November

.@UN #Syria envoy says UN ready to support Vienna talks on political solution to conflict

<http://ow.ly/UuXrk>

United Nations @UN November 7

Myths, facts & answers about refugees and migrants. New Q&A from @UNinBrussels, @IOM_news & more: <http://j.mp/1MCOyiJ>

United Nations @UN November 5

744,734 arrivals by sea in 2015 - explore current Europe data from [@refugees](https://twitter.com/refugees)

<http://j.mp/1PdHhwr>

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/>