



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Response to terrorism needs to be robust, but within respect for human rights, says Ban Ki-moon

During a press conference at the conclusion of the G20 Summit in Turkey on 15 November, the Secretary-General reiterated his profound condolences to the people of France following the terrorist attacks in Paris. "Terrorism is a threat to all mankind", he said. The Secretary-General stressed that our response needs to be robust, but always within the rule of law and respect for human rights. While noting that reaching a political settlement in Syria should be a top priority, he welcomed the renewed sense of urgency that the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) is bringing to these efforts. Mr. Ban urged participants to move beyond their differences and push further for a nationwide ceasefire, combat terrorism and address key governance and constitutional issues. "After years of division, this is a rare moment of diplomatic opportunity to end the violence and advance the search for a negotiated political solution", he noted.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2838#.VkozQ7_qW3Y

At Vienna talks, world leaders agree on new timetable for negotiations under UN auspices

At a second round of talks in Vienna on 14 November, the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) agreed to support and work to implement a nationwide ceasefire in Syria to come into effect as soon as representatives of the Syrian government and the opposition have begun initial steps towards the transition under UN auspices on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué. In a statement issued after the meeting, the five Permanent Members of the Security Council pledged to support a UNSC resolution to empower a UN-endorsed ceasefire monitoring mission in those parts of the country where monitors would not come under threat of attack from terrorists, and to support a political transition process in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué.

Participants welcomed the Secretary-General's statement that he has ordered the UN to accelerate planning for supporting the implementation of a nationwide ceasefire. The group agreed that the UN should lead the effort, in consultation with interested parties, to determine the requirements and modalities of a ceasefire.

Reaffirming their commitment to ensure a Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political transition, members of the ISSG agreed on the need to convene Syrian government and opposition representatives in formal negotiations under UN auspices with a target date of 1 January 2016.

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

Status quo cannot continue in Syria, UN humanitarian chief tells the Security Council

In a briefing to the Security Council on 17 November, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien said that nearly 2.2 million Syrians are living in terror and subjugation in ISIL-controlled areas, to which the UN has virtually no access.

"The fighting in Syria has propelled the world's largest humanitarian crisis of the 21st century with 13.5 million people in Syria in need of humanitarian assistance and driven over four million to seek safe refuge outside of their home country", he told the Council. Mr. O'Brien stressed that "the status quo cannot simply continue in Syria". The UN humanitarian chief urged the Security Council and Member States with influence to not squander the momentum created at the Vienna talks and to take steps to bring an end to the conflict.

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/16Nov2015%20USG%20OBrien_Statement%20to%20SecCo%20on%20Syria%20as%20delivered.pdf

UNHCR warns against scapegoating of refugees

In the wake of the Paris attacks, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on 17 November expressed its shock and horror at the killing of so many people, but also cautioned against the scapegoating of refugees. "UNHCR is deeply concerned by the yet unconfirmed news that one of the attackers in Paris might have entered Europe as part of the current influx," UNHCR Spokesperson Melissa Fleming told a press briefing in Geneva. "We strongly believe in the importance of preserving the integrity of the asylum system". She stressed that the overwhelming majority of those coming to Europe are fleeing persecution or the life-threatening effects of conflict and are unable to reach safety in Europe by alternative avenues. "Many are fleeing extremism and terrorism", she said. "A world that welcomes Syrians can help defeat extremism. But a world that rejects Syrians, and especially Muslim refugees, will just feed into their propaganda."

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/E017508999CA1FD9C1257F000043ABB6?OpenDocument

Syria donors conference to be convened in London in February 2016

In a joint statement issued on 16 November, the United Nations along with the United Kingdom, Germany, Norway and Kuwait announced they will convene an international conference on the Syrian humanitarian crisis in London in early February 2016. The conference will seek to raise significant new funding to meet the needs of those affected by the crisis in Syria itself and of supporting neighboring countries hosting refugees. Current funding to the 2015 UN appeals has not even reached last year's levels - US\$3.4 billion against an appeal of \$8.4 billion.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-crisis-conference-2016-joint-announcement>

Joint UN body to probe use of chemical weapons in Syria is fully operational

A UN spokesperson announced on 13 November that a joint body of the UN and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria was fully operational.

The so-called UN Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM) was established in August after the passage of a resolution by the UN Security Council and is located in The Hague. The joint body, established for a period of one year with a possibility of future extension, will be tasked with identifying "individuals, entities, groups, or governments involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical," in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52550#.VkZT-3arSUK>

UN Radio in Arabic

UNHCR: After Paris attacks, refugees should not become a scapegoat

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184703/#.VkyiL3arSUK>

Seven immigrants drowned, including two children, off Greece shores

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184702/#.VkyiZnarSUK>

SRSZ Zerrougui calls for a collective action to help the Syrian children
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184675/#.VkyjRnarSUK>

UN Humanitarian Affairs official: the status quo cannot continue in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184641/#.Vkyj0narSUK>

In the Security Council meeting on Syria, Jordan stands by France and by all international efforts to combat terrorism
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184655/#.VkykB3arSUK>

Secretary-General expresses optimism about the meeting of the Parties in the Vienna to discuss Syrian crisis
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184538/#.VkykdnarSUK>

Elizabeth Hoff says the health system in Syria is "broken down"
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184451/#.Vkyk2HarSUK>

WFP takes advantage of smart phone technology to help Syrian refugee children
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/184309/#.VkyIxXarSUK>

UN Twitter

United Nations Retweeted UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre November 16
#Syria crisis is chronicle of missed opportunities by #UNSC & Member States – @UNReliefChief <http://ow.ly/UJkGL>

United Nations Retweeted Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief November 16
.@UN #UK #Germany #Norway #Kuwait to hold #Syria pledging event in London 4 Feb.
Aid appeal alarmingly underfunded: <http://bit.ly/1Sxoqu7>

United Nations @UN November 14
"Rare moment of diplomatic opportunity to end conflict in Syria" - Ban Ki-moon on Vienna talks <http://j.mp/1WYSv7f>

United Nations Retweeted UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson November 14 New York, NY
Int'l Syria Support Group gathered in Vienna condemns brutal attacks against civilians in Paris; stands with people of France #ParisAttacks

United Nations@UN November 14
Joint UN body to probe chemical weapons in Syria is now fully operational - Ban Ki-moon
<http://bit.ly/1QBhfm4>

United Nations @UN November 13
You can help feed Syrian refugee children - download the free @WFP #ShareTheMeal app now: <http://j.mp/1QxBlxD> pic.twitter.com/B9hKq8fuOe

UN Facebook

United Nations November 16
For thousands of Syrian refugee children going to school has been an unattainable dream, until this year. Extra funding has meant 100,000 more school places. Meet Sidra and Malik, who are thrilled to be back at school this year.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoENLPvoKRg&list=PL587DEB510E8CB629&index>

United Nations November 15

Voicing deep concern at those who exploit the suffering of refugees to stoke xenophobia and spew hate speech, this week Ban Ki-moon called on European leaders, and the world at large, to stand true to the values of human rights and respect the dignity of people fleeing conflict and poverty in Syria and elsewhere.

The Secretary-General stressed that those arriving in Europe 'want what all people want: safety, stability and a better future for their loved ones.

More here: <http://bit.ly/1OFbhBr>

United Nations November 14

As members of an international support group for Syria engaged in constructive dialogue on how to end the country's five-year conflict, Ban Ki-moon said on Saturday that he is encouraged by stakeholders reconvening to bring about a political settlement to end the violence.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52558#.VkdgOberQgs>

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#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/>

ShareTheMeal is a smartphone application launched by the UN World Food Programme on 12 November 2015 to support refugee children who have fled the conflict in Syria to neighbouring countries. The free app is available for iOS and Android app stores worldwide. Users can make donations and start sharing meals with hungry children. Contributions will benefit Syrian refugee children in Jordan who are part of WFP's school meals programme.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-launches-free-app-smartphone-users-help-feed-syrian-refugee-children>

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/>