



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Special Envoy meets with Syrian opposition groups on efforts to broker ceasefire

As part of his consultations following the meetings of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) in Vienna, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura met early this week in Istanbul with representatives of the Syrian opposition. The Envoy briefed opposition delegates on the outcomes by the ISSG, including the linkage between a ceasefire and a parallel political process in line with the 2012 Geneva Communiqué. Mr. de Mistura updated them on his efforts to prepare for intra-Syrian talks under UN auspices, with a view to a Syrian-led process aimed at establishing credible, inclusive and non-sectarian governance and drafting a new constitution. "This initiative, now called the intra-Syrian talks, is building on the Working Groups proposed by the Secretary-General and myself to the Security Council in July 2015", Mr. de Mistura said. During his meetings, the Special Envoy also recalled the ISSG's agreement to support and work to implement a nationwide ceasefire in Syria to come into effect as soon as the political process has begun.

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

Secretary-General calls for measures to lower tensions after downing of a Russian jet

Following reports of the downing of a Russian military jet by the Turkish Air Force on 24 November, the Secretary-General urged all relevant parties to take urgent measures in order to de-escalate the tensions. He hoped that a thorough review of the incident will clarify the events and help prevent future recurrences. In his statement, Mr. Ban stressed that all those engaged in military activities in Syria, especially air campaigns, need to maximize operational measures to avoid unintended consequences and to avoid civilian casualties. The Secretary-General once again the urgent need to agree on a political solution to the tragic events in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4278>

UN officials call for release of women arbitrarily detained in Syria

In a statement released on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the regional Humanitarian Coordinator, Kevin Kennedy and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, strongly condemned all violence targeted at women and girls across Syria, in particular the use of conflict-related sexual violence. "We call on all parties to prevent these crimes, and urge that all perpetrators be held to account and that survivors get adequate medical, legal and psychosocial support".

At least hundreds of women are believed to be detained as a result of the hostilities. Both UN officials called for the release of women who have been arbitrarily detained as well as for UN access to people in detention.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/joint-statement-kevin-kennedy-and-zainab-hawa-bangura-international-day>

OPCW gravely concerned about continuing use of chemical weapons in Syria

Meeting on 23 November in The Hague, Netherlands, the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) expressed grave concern about the findings of the Fact-Finding Mission that chemical weapons have once again been used in Syria. The Council reaffirmed its strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, stressing that those individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable.

Earlier, OPCW Director-General, Ahmet Üzümcü, briefed the Executive Council on the operationalization of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism established under UN Security Council Resolution 2235 (2015) with the mandate to identify individuals, entities, groups or Governments perpetrating, organizing, sponsoring or involved in the use of chemicals as weapons in Syria.

[https://www.opcw.org/index.php?id=242&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=2165&cHash=a302cf12cdc5420a37fbdccb7cf8fa60](https://www.opcw.org/index.php?id=242&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=2165&cHash=a302cf12cdc5420a37fbdccb7cf8fa60)

Security Council adopts resolution urging to intensify efforts against ISIL

On 20 November, the Security Council unanimously passed resolution 2249 (2015) condemning the recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIL and calling on Member States to take all necessary measures, on the territory under the control of ISIL also known as Da'esh, in Syria and Iraq, to redouble and coordinate their efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts committed specifically by ISIL as well as all other terrorist groups. The Council also urged Member States to intensify their efforts to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Iraq and Syria and to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2249%282015%29

In the aftermath of terrorist attacks, Secretary-General warns against "misplaced suspicions" against migrants

Over 60 million people have been forced from their homes and tragedies are multiplying, especially for the Syrian people, the Secretary-General told a UN General Assembly meeting on Syrian Asylum Seekers on 20 November. In the wake of recent terrorist attacks, he voiced deep concerns about "misplaced suspicions about migrants and refugees, especially those who are Muslim". "We must be on guard against such distortions and discrimination, which only play into the hands of terrorists trying to sow divisions and fear. We must respond not by closing doors but by opening our hearts with unity, tolerance, and pluralism and compassion. This will foster true security", he noted. The Secretary-General laid a roadmap to manage challenges of global migration focusing on five priority areas: addressing root causes; managing large flows; protecting human rights; increasing financing; and adopting a global approach.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9268>

UN Twitter

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson 24 November

#UNSG Ban Ki-moon seriously concerned about the downing of a Russian military jet by the Turkish Air Force <http://bit.ly/1LxU2dB>

Urgent attention needed as new humanitarian situation develops at European borders - @refugees <http://trib.al/ZEQ6sXp> 25 November

Language demonizing @refugees after terrorist attacks will contribute to xenophobia + fear <http://trib.al/zFjwfp8> pic.twitter.com/vkyHxTXJkx 21 November

Ban Ki-moon on migration: we need new approach to manage challenges of global mobility, addressing root causes <http://bit.ly/1Ms1FX2> 21 November

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 neighboring 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/>