



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

No. 126/23 December 2015

In first political resolution on war-torn Syria, Security Council gives UN major role in seeking peace

In its first resolution to focus on the politics of ending Syria's five-year-long war, the Security Council on 18 December gave the United Nations an enhanced role in shepherding the opposing sides to talks for a political transition, with a timetable for a ceasefire, a new constitution and elections, all under UN auspices. Meeting at Foreign Minister level, the Council asked Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene Government and opposition representatives in formal negotiations next month on a political transition as a step to lasting peace, in line with the 2012 Geneva Communiqué and consistent with the 14 November 2015 International Syria Support Group (ISSG) on the issue. The resolution was adopted unanimously after Mr. Ban briefed the 15-member body on his meeting earlier in the day with the International Syria Support Group, comprised of the Arab League, the European Union, the United Nations, and 17 countries, including the United States and Russia, which has been seeking a path forward for several months.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52863#.VnrrGPmDGko

www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9353

Senior UN official calls for immediate end to use of sexual violence by all sides as weapon of war

Welcoming the Security Council's unanimous adoption of a blueprint for peace in Syria, a senior United Nations official has called on all sides to immediately stop using sexual violence as a tactic in the fighting tearing the country apart. "A political solution is the only way to bring an end to the horrific human rights violations taking place in Syria, including the systematic use of sexual violence," Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, said in a statement. Ms. Bangura issued the statement on 18 December shortly after the Council gave the UN an enhanced role in shepherding the opposing sides to talks for a political transition early next month, with a timetable for a ceasefire, a new constitution and elections, all under UN auspices.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52866#.Vnrr7PmDGko

UN Security Council demands immediate humanitarian access across battle lines

In its first resolution on Syria since granting the United Nations an enhanced role in seeking to end the five-year-long war, the Security Council on 22 December demanded that all parties, particularly the Syrian authorities, immediately open routes across conflict lines and borders to let in vital humanitarian aid. In a unanimous resolution voicing grave concern at the lack of compliance with several previous Council demands for such access, the 15-member body expressed "outrage" at the escalating violence and killing of over 250,000 people, including tens of thousands of children, and renewed for a further 12 months its authorization of the demand for humanitarian access. It requested "the Syrian authorities to expeditiously respond to all requests for cross-line deliveries submitted by the United Nations and their implementing partners, and to give such

requests positive consideration,” and voiced grave concern that Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Nusra Front (ANF) and groups linked to Al-Qaida are also hindering access.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52883#.VnrtD_mDGko

Syrian journalist’s murder denounced by UNESCO chief

The United Nations agency responsible for defending the freedom of the media on 21 December denounced the murder of a Syrian journalist from an organization reporting on human rights abuses in the area of the country controlled by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). “It is an unacceptable tragedy for society as a whole when those who contribute to public debate and to the free flow of information are made to pay with their lives for doing their important work,” UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Director-General Irina Bokova said of last week’s killing of Ahmad Mohamed al-Mousa in Idlib, northwest Syria. Mr. al-Mousa, who was murdered by unidentified masked men, was a reporter for the citizen journalist collective Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently (RBSS), which focuses on human rights violations in the region.

www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52872#.VnrsqvmDGko

OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) meets with the Syrian Government in Damascus

The three-member leadership panel of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), led by Virginia Gamba, was in Damascus on 17 December for meetings with the Syrian Government. The visit came after the signing of the Status of Mission Agreement in New York last week, said the UN Spokesperson in New York. During the visit, the panel met with Faisal Mekdad, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Syria, and other representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic. They discussed the implementation of the Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) and the Status of Mission Agreement. The Syrian Government confirmed its readiness to cooperate with the Joint mission and the Joint Investigative Mechanism. The Secretary-General announced the JIM to be fully operational on 13 November, and its first report is expected by mid-February 2016 to the Security Council.

www.un.org/press/en/2015/db151218.doc.htm

UN Radio in Arabic

Million refugees and immigrants fled to Europe in 2015

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187585/#.VnrHZ_krLIU

Security Council renews mandate of humanitarian access across lines of conflict in Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187565/#.VnrHx_krLIU

UNHCR Chief: brain drain from Syria could be disastrous for the reconstruction process

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187527/#.VnrIQfkrLIU>

UN calls for immediate implementation of confidence-building measures in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187517/#.VnrJBfkrLIU>

Maryam, a six years old refugee, will be resettling with her mother in Canada

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187478/#.VnrJRfkrLIU>

Commission of Inquiry on Syria welcomes the Security Council roadmap for peace in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187434/#.VnrJ9vkrLIU>

UNHCR urges Hungary to refrain from policies and practices that promote intolerance and hatred towards refugees and migrants

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187426/#.VnrK2fkrLIU>

UNESCO condemns the killing of Syrian journalist in Idlib, Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187419/#.VnrK2fkrLIU>

Bashar Al-Jaafari: Syrian government is ready to stop the fighting, but no dialogue with terrorist groups

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187360/#.VnrLhPkrLIU>

Russia: Only the Syrian people can decide the fate of Syria and its president

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187351/#.VnrL_PkrLIU

John Kerry: Differences remain over the fate of President al-Assad

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187333/#.VnrNDfkrLIU>

A new resolution on Syria calls for an immediate cessation of attacks against civilians and supports Syrian-led political process facilitated by the United Nations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187316/#.VnrNTvkrLIU>

UNSG says UN is ready to resume Syrian talks if government and opposition delegations are ready for it

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187297/#.VnrNk_krLIU

United Nations issued guidance to assist countries for protection of refugees and addressing security concerns

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187280/#.VnrOJPkrLIU>

New Survey: The vast majority of Syrian refugees are educated

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186790/#.VnrOhfkrLIU>

Jordan: one of the reasons for success of terrorist organizations is lack of coordination at international, regional and national levels

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187203/#.VnrO6_krLIU

Passion for cooking and resettlement gave a new life for a Syrian family in America

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/186608/#.VnrPTfkrLIU>

Yezidi survivor of Daesh' violence urges the Security Council to help liberate more than 3,000 women and children from Daesh

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/187104/#.VnrQAfkrLIU>

UN TWITTER (@UN)

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees

#Europe: 84% of those arriving by sea, are from the world's top refugee-producing countries <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>

UN Refugee Agency @Refugees Dec 21

Enormous suffering inside Syria continues: our chief's remarks today @UN

#SecurityCouncil <http://trib.al/TVLkhhS>

United Nations @UN Dec 19

"People of Syria have suffered enough" - Ban Ki-moon to Security Council

<http://j.mp/1PbJiXq> #SyriaCrisis

United Nations Photo @UN Photo Dec 18
Photographers squeezed in a media booth to cover today's #UNSC meeting on #SyriaCrisis & the adoption of res. 2254

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson DEC 18
Mission impossible is becoming possible today" @UN Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura to media on #UNSC resolution

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson Dec 18
"People of Syria have suffered enough" Ban Ki-moon's remarks at #UNSC #SyriaCrisis meeting: <http://bit.ly/1UKPbNm>

United Nations @UN Dec 18
Ban Ki-moon welcomes adoption of Security Council resolution focusing on political path to resolving #SyriaCrisis

UN News Centre @UN_News_Centre Dec 18
#Syria:@UN chief meets with international partners on resolving crisis; briefs @UNSC later <http://bit.ly/1OcEJsC>

Ongoing UN social media campaigns:

#4Syria campaign was launched on 20 March 2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to highlight the Syria conflict, now in its fifth year. The campaign calls for an end to the conflict and seeks to raise funds for UNRWA programmes supporting Palestine refugees in Syria as well as those displaced outside the country. It features testimonies of Palestine refugees, as well as documents highlighting emergency work carried out by UNRWA in the region. View the campaign at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>

#myvoicemyschool is a youth advocacy project born in the classroom. Palestine refugee youth in Syria study and discuss quality education with their peers in the UK and Belgium. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them achieve their aspirations. Each class will define and develop an advocacy project to promote and share their ideas. <http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool>

ShareTheMeal is a smartphone application launched by the UN World Food Programme in 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/>