



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

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Intra-Syrian talks to start on 29 January

Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, announced on 25 January that Intra-Syrian talks will start on 29 January in Geneva. Speaking to reporters, the Envoy said that the priority for the talks would be the establishment of a broad ceasefire, the delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as stopping the threat posed by Da'esh. Mr. de Mistura added that the meetings will begin with proximity talks, which are expected to last for six months. The first phase of the talks could last two to three weeks, he said, before preparations are made for further phases. In line with resolution 2254(2015), the agenda of the discussions will cover four main areas: political process (governance, process for drafting a new constitution and elections), ceasefire, nationwide humanitarian access and fight against terrorism. On 26 January, the Envoy addressed invitations to the Syrian participants.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160125.doc.htm>

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

Secretary-General speaks out against starvation as a weapon of war

In remarks on the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust on 27 January, the Secretary-General said that the conflict in Syria has generated the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. "Today, we see actions of Da'esh that may amount to grave crimes against minority groups such as the Yazidis. The village of Madaya has become a scene of shocking suffering". Mr Ban reminded all parties that starvation as a weapon of war and the deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime and all those responsible must be held accountable.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2906

Talks offer a genuine window of opportunity, UN Humanitarian Chief tells the Security Council

In a briefing to the Security Council on 27 January on humanitarian access in Syria, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien said that recent pictures of emaciated, starving children in the besieged town of Madaya seemingly shocked the collective conscience of the world. "Health supplies in Madaya are dwindling fast, and recent United Nations and SARC requests to the Syrian authorities for medical teams to enter Madaya must be approved without delay or hindrance", he stressed. Mr. O'Brien noted that the forthcoming political talks offer a genuine window of opportunity for the international community to come together and find solutions that reduce suffering and finally bring an end to the conflict. "I cannot stress enough that we must not let this opportunity pass", he noted.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC%20Stephen%20OBrien%20SecCo%20statement%20on%20Syria%2027Jan%202016%20CAD.pdf>

Failure in Syria is political, says UN humanitarian official

At a press conference on 26 January, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Operations Director, John Ging, stressed that the failure in Syria was a political one. "The failure in Syria is most definitely not the humanitarian organizations' failure, it is a political failure", he noted. Mr. Ging said that the humanitarian community was looking with great hopes for the current political process to deliver a solution to end the conflict.

<http://www.unocha.org/media-centre/daily-brief/daily-brief-joint-humanitarian-press-conference-syria-impact-el-ni%C3%B1o-southe>

UN agencies and partners launch a US\$ 550 million appeal to respond to refugee crisis

The UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, along with 65 organizations, launched a US\$550 million appeal to donors to support the humanitarian response to the refugee crisis in Europe. The appeal, which was launched in Geneva on 26 January, aims at funding aid operations in 2016. In 2015, over a million refugees and migrants arrived in Europe by boat, the majority of whom came from the world's top ten refugee countries, mainly Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. The funds will be used for humanitarian and protection activities in countries where people are arriving, including identifying those at heightened risk, registration, shelter, water and sanitation.

<http://www.unhcr.org/56a7854d6.html>

Aid partners launch joint appeal to end suffering in Syria

As the conflict is entering its sixth year, the heads of the UN's humanitarian agencies as well as leaders of more than 120 humanitarian non-governmental organizations, issued a joint appeal on Syria on 21 January, asking governments and citizens around the world to add their voices in urging an end to the carnage there. "More than ever before, the world needs to hear a collective public voice calling for an end to this outrage. Because this conflict and its consequences touch us all," they stressed. The appeal outlines actions that can be undertaken immediately to end the suffering in Syria, namely: unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need inside Syria, humanitarian pauses and unconditional, monitored ceasefires, a cessation of attacks on civilian infrastructure as well as the immediate lifting of all sieges by all parties.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/appeal-end-suffering-syria>
<https://medium.com/@UNOCHA/an-appeal-to-end-the-suffering-in-syria-b7c171fe452a#.zg43ips5t>

Education is a human right and security imperative, says UNESCO Chief

Speaking at a special session at the World Economic Forum in Davos on 22 January, UNESCO Director-General called for political leadership and private sector engagement to make education a central focus of the humanitarian response to the Syria Crisis. "We have a responsibility to put education forward not only as a human right but as a security imperative," she said, highlighting its fundamental role in giving youth hope, skills and prospects for the future. "Here in Davos we are seeing an increasing convergence of views between governments, private sector and a broad community of partners around the transformative role of education and skills for economic growth, poverty eradication, social inclusion, girls and women's empowerment and the fight against radicalization," she added, noting that this lies at the core of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development."

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/education-is-a-human-right-and-a-security-imperative-says-unesco-director-general/#.VgaU7VLqW3Y>

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi calls for action to end war in Syria

Wrapping up his first official visit to Turkey, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon on 22 January, High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi urged all the countries with influence in

the peace process to act now, particularly after devastating images of starving children in Syria shocked the world. "So if we want those pictures to stop coming up on our screens, they have to be serious about peace talks and about concretely making all the necessary compromises that are needed to achieve peace", he told reporters. Mr. Grandi described the flow of Syrians and others into Europe as "a wake-up call." For the first time, he said, European leaders have realized that they are not providing enough funding to refugee hosting countries and humanitarian organizations in the Middle East.
<http://www.unhcr.org/56a24d5a6.html>

UN Radio in Arabic

Iraq needs US\$300 million to bear the burden of Syrian refugees and IDPs
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190168/#.VqjsDfkrKUK>

Humanitarian agencies call for more than US\$500,000 to support refugees and migrants in Europe
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190120/#.VqjstPkrKUK>

Representatives of humanitarian agencies in Syria call on the parties to the conflict to provide humanitarian access to get to the vulnerable
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190115/#.Vqjs7_krKUK

WHO: vaccination of children in Syria is one of their fundamental rights
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190110/#.VqjtTvkrKUK>

UN Resident Coordinator Yacoub El Hillo strongly appeals to the Syrian parties to agree on the most basic things the affected population needs
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190077/#.VqjuCfkrKUK>

Special Envoy on Syria, Staffan de Mistura briefs journalists in Geneva
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/190014/#.VqjvNfkrKUK>

de Mistura expresses hope that Syria talks will start on Friday
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/189937/#.VqjvkvrKUK>

In visit to the region, UN High Commissioner for Refugees listens to the problems of the Syrian refugees
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/189851/#.Vqjv0vrKUK>

Humanitarian organizations call on the world to speak with one voice, demanding an end to the Syrian crisis
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/189759/#.Vqjwu_krKUK

Leaders of UN agencies and 120 aid organizations appeal to world leaders and citizens to join them in calling to end the Syrian crisis
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/189731/#.VqjxB_krKUK

Twitter

UN, humanitarian & development agencies appeal for \$298 million in humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees in Iraq <http://bit.ly/1Sh23v6> - 26 January 2016

International aid organisations appeal for an end to the #SyriaCrisis. Raise your voice:
<http://bit.ly/4-Syria> pic.twitter.com/9TJd1qqfoY - 26 January 2016

Video - UN Syria Envoy says Intra-Syrian Talks to start at @UNGeneva on 29 January
<https://youtu.be/RJ9uETRL8Zg> #SyriaTalks- 26 January

#Education is a fundamental right for children. 45,000 #Palestine refugee students go to our schools in #Syria.
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/691891551723724800> - 26 January

"No preconditions before & throughout #SyriaTalks" - Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura
<http://goo.gl/GCuaUP> pic.twitter.com/gculszJPKJ- 25 January

You can watch live here <http://j.mp/1S5TwNn> + follow @UNGeneva for #Syriatalks updates. <https://twitter.com/UNGeneva/status/691623181220761600> - 25 January

#SyriaCrisis causes suffering for millions of civilians. Join the call for action now
<http://trib.al/LmjcXGR> pic.twitter.com/ubuQWf7FpK- 24 January

Join intl & aid orgs in an appeal to help end the #SyriaCrisis. Spread the word:
<http://j.mp/1UcT1OE> pic.twitter.com/upehCZE0F0 - 24 January

13.5 million people in Syria need assistance - lives & futures are in jeopardy
<http://goo.gl/gNTm1d> <https://twitter.com/WHO/status/690162243858620416> 23 January

In the name of our shared humanity, aid orgs call for immediate action to end #SyriaCrisis: <http://bit.ly/4-Syria> pic.twitter.com/JkLvCoUpLf- 23 January

Ban Ki-moon fully supports appeal by humanitarians for an immediate end #syriacrisis.
<http://bit.ly/4-Syria> pic.twitter.com/leWK3Z77J0- 21 January

In Syria, @undpsyria is working to #SupportSyrians by creating jobs that tackle hunger:
<http://sy.undp.org> pic.twitter.com/4WbUJ4iQ26- 21 January

As the #SyriaCrisis approaches 6th year, the suffering deepens. RT to call for its end.
<http://j.mp/1UcT1OE> pic.twitter.com/PsShmB6Jqp- 21 January

60 seconds for Syria. Watch & share this video to speak out to help end #SyriaCrisis
<http://uni.cf/syria60> - 21 January

UN FACEBOOK

"We should all be inspired by the actions of our humanitarian colleagues, and we salute them and their efforts because the failure in Syria is most definitely not the humanitarian organizations' failure, it is a political failure. -- United Nations OCHA Head of Operations, John Ging- 27 January
<https://www.facebook.com/UNOCHA/photos/a.144296522253272.26451.135156639833927/1294877997195113/?type=3&theater>

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura has announced that the Intra-Syrian Talks will start at UN Geneva on Friday 29 January 2016.

"The first priority will be the focus of the talks on what Syrians, if not all, want to hear. The possibility of a broad ceasefire and the possibility of stopping the threat of ISIL, and

therefore thanks to a broader ceasefire, an increase in humanitarian aid", the Special Envoy said at a press conference in Geneva.

<https://www.facebook.com/UN.Geneva/videos/vb.117939301585215/988405641205239/?type=2&theater> 25 January

"I feel more confident and powerful every time I learn something new. Me and my sister both dream of becoming doctors. We are striving for a better life which we deserve."

UNHCR shares the story of 14-year-old Bayan, forced to flee her home in Syria.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/photos/a.113847718437.119729.13204463437/10154670593708438/?type=3&theater> 22 January

The war in Syria is approaching its sixth brutal year. The bloodshed continues. The suffering deepens. Today leaders of humanitarian organisations and UN agencies appeal not only to Governments but to each of you — citizens around the world — to add your voices in urging an end to the suffering.

More than ever before, the world needs to hear a collective public voice calling for an end to the war in Syria. Support this special appeal and help spread the word.

<https://medium.com/@UNOCHA/an-appeal-to-end-the-suffering-in-syria-b7c171fe452a#.wjeah7ko> 21 January

UN social media campaigns:

#MyVoiceMySchool- On 25 January in London and 27 January in Brussels, the #MyVoiceMySchool project will connect European students with Palestine refugee students to discuss the importance of education in their lives. The calls are taking place a few days ahead of the 'Supporting Syria and the Region, London 2016' conference on 4 February. The #MyVoiceMySchool project has connected Palestine refugee students in Homs, Damascus and Rif Damascus with peers in Brussels and London.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/european-and-palestine-refugee-students-syria-connect-skype-advocate>

#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>

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/>