



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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On 19 October, Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi began a new round of consultations in the Middle East to prepare the ground for the Geneva II conference. As part of his tour, Mr. Brahimi visited Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman and Jordan to see how regional leaders can contribute to convening the peace talks in Geneva next month.

Also in preparation for the conference, the Joint Special Representative will convene a trilateral meeting with US and Russian officials in Geneva on 5 November. According to the UN Spokesperson, that meeting will be followed the same day by a meeting with the other three Permanent Members of the Security Council.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3147>

Briefing the Security Council on the Middle East on 22 October, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman said that the UN was working hard to convene the Geneva conference in mid-November. "With a political process, however difficult it may be, there is hope that a new Syria will emerge. Without it, there is little on the horizon but the further destruction of Syria", he said.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46305&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

Following reports of thousands of civilians trapped in the suburb of Moadamiyeh in Rural Damascus, USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos urged the parties to the conflict to agree to an immediate pause in the hostilities to allow humanitarian aid to the area. In a statement on 19 October, Ms. Amos said that relief workers have been denied access to Moadamiyeh for months. While more than 3,000 people had been evacuated from the besieged suburb, the same number or more remain trapped amidst reports of continued shelling. Those evacuated from Moadamiyeh - mostly women and children - received immediate assistance from the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, UN humanitarian agencies and partners.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Statement%20by%20USG%20Valerie%20Amos%20on%20Moadamiyeh,%20Syria%2019Oct2013.pdf>

The Head of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission on eliminating Syria's chemical weapons, Sigrid Kaag, arrived in Damascus on 21 October. In a press statement, she noted the challenging deadline of eliminating Syria's chemical weapons by mid-2014. She also said the Government of Syria had fully cooperated in supporting the work of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3144>

Meanwhile, the OPCW Spokesperson told reporters in The Hague that as of 22 October, 18 out of 23 sites had been inspected. He also announced that the first rotation of OPCW staff would take place next week, reducing the number of inspectors to 15, noting that the inspectors currently working in three teams had been given "good access" to sites thus far.

<http://www.opcw.org/media-corner/press-conference-transcripts/>

Select UN stories

UNHCR continues to reach toughest areas of Syria, races to provide winter aid

DAMASCUS, Syria, October 22 (UNHCR) – Although the Syrian conflict has complicated efforts to address humanitarian needs across the country, the UN refugee agency continues to reach the vulnerable in some of the most dangerous and desperate towns. UNHCR's work inside Syria aims at delivering relief aid to 3 million people. This allows them to feed their families, it ensures access to shelter, and it helps people cope with displacement and maintaining hygiene. Every week, up to 250 UNHCR trucks deliver aid to some 14,000 to 15,000 households, equivalent to nearly 100,000 people.

<http://www.unhcr.org/526659106.html>

Report of suspected polio cases in the Syrian Arab Republic

19 October 2013 (WHO) - WHO received reports of a cluster of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases in the Syrian Arab Republic. This cluster of 'hot' AFP was detected in early October in Deir Al Zour province and is currently being investigated. Initial results from the national polio laboratory in Damascus indicate that two of the cases could be positive for polio – final results are awaited from the WHO regional reference laboratory of the Eastern Mediterranean Region. Wild polio virus was last reported in Syria in 1999. A surveillance alert has been issued for the region to actively search for additional potential cases. Supplementary immunization activities in neighbouring countries are currently being planned.

http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_10_19_polio/en/

DPI Focus Page on Syria:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/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/>