



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

No. 147/18 May 2016

Special Envoy to soon reconvene Intra-Syrian talks

At a press conference at the end of a meeting of the International Support Group for Syria (ISSG) in Vienna on 17 May, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said that credible developments needed to happen on the ground before a date for the next round of Intra-Syrian talks could be announced. "Credible Intra-Syrian talks will become credible when there is a credible development on the cessation of hostilities and a credible improvement on the humanitarian side," he noted. During a subsequent media stakeout on 18 May, the Envoy said that he was considering various dates to reconvene the talks soon so as not to lose the momentum.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/16DDE6A5A5988A08C1257FB60050063B?OpenDocument

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/F0D82BDA49D13B2AC1257FB700387EFC?OpenDocument

ISSG agrees to transform cessation of hostilities into nationwide ceasefire

Meeting in Vienna on May 17, the ISSG members adopted a statement reaffirming their determination to strengthen the cessation of hostilities, to ensure full and sustained humanitarian access, and to ensure progress toward a peaceful political transition. The ISSG also pledged support for seeking to transform the cessation of hostilities into a more comprehensive nationwide ceasefire in parallel with progress in negotiations for a political transition between the Syrian parties in line with the Geneva Communiqué of June 2012. On humanitarian access, the ISSG committed to use its influence with all parties on the ground and in coordination with the United Nations to ensure immediate, unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access throughout Syria, and allow humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need, particularly in all besieged and hard-to-reach areas.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpPages%29/87306A2E4608EC9DC1257FB6004A39A7?OpenDocument

Aid convoy turns back after being refused entry to besieged Daraya

A joint aid convoy of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the United Nations was refused entry to Daraya on 12 May, at the last government checkpoint, despite having obtained clearance by all parties.

"Daraya has been the site of relentless fighting for more than three and a half years, and we know the situation there is desperate," said UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria Yacoub El Hillo. The convoy was due to distribute medical supplies and nutrition items for children, and would have been the first to deliver aid to the besieged town since November 2012. The UN renewed its call for all parties to lift sieges on civilians.

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/JOINT%20STATEMENT%20BY%20ICRC%20AND%20UN%20on%20Daraya%2012%20May%202016.pdf>

Security Council condemns attacks against civilians and medical facilities

In a statement on 12 May, the members of the UN Security Council expressed outrage at all recent attacks in Syria directed against civilians and civilian objects including medical

facilities, and stressed that these actions may amount to war crimes. They expressed their deep concern at violations of the cessation of hostilities endorsed by Security Council Resolution 2268. The members of the Security Council reaffirmed the primary responsibility of the Syrian Government to protect the population in Syria and reiterated that parties to the armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12360.doc.htm>

Secretary-General meets with Syrian students in Lisbon

At a meeting with Syrian students in Lisbon, Portugal, on 12 May, the Secretary-General underscored the heavy toll the Syria crisis was taking on education. "A growing number of Syrian students are unable to pursue their dreams and aspirations of higher education. Of so many Syrian students who are now refugees, only a small percentage continues their education in exile. Mr. Ban noted that the 19 September Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants will provide an opportunity to discuss the creation of more legal pathways, such as scholarship visas, to allow young people to escape persecution and wars and continue their education.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=9695>

UNRWA Chief visits Palestine refugees in Syria

UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl visited Syria on 11 and 12 May where he met with Palestine refugees, UNRWA staff and government officials. In conversations with Palestine refugees, Mr. Krähenbühl heard first hand accounts of the pain, despair and violence endured by refugees of all ages. In the Sayyeda Zeinab neighborhood of Damascus, Palestine refugees who had survived a devastating double car bomb attack on 21 February 2016, described their shock and profound sense of loss. The Commissioner-General met with two young girls badly injured in the attack. "In the eyes of Rana and Isra, I saw the unspeakable trauma they have endured but also their determination to prevail," said Mr Krähenbühl.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-commissioner-general-makes-official-visit-syria>

Arabic Radio

Bokova condemns the air attack on the World Heritage Site in Syria, Saint Simeon monastery

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/201215/#.VzyuWfkrLcs>

WHO Director General not happy about removal of medicines and surgical equipment from humanitarian convoys in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/201115/#.VzywFfkrLcs>

At the Vienna meeting on Syria, agreement on possible extension of humanitarian aid distribution to besieged areas of Syria

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/201130/#.Vzywq_krLcs

FAO: conflict in the Middle East has affected food security

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/200803/#.Vzy1jfkrlcs>

Commissioner-General of UNRWA visits Syria and stresses the importance of continuing to provide assistance and educational services for Palestine refugees

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/200769/#.Vzy2SfkrLcs>

ICRC: Aid convoy prevented from entering the besieged Daraya
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/200742/#.Vzy21fkrLcs>

UN Security Council condemns recent attacks in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/200753/#.Vzy3G krLcs>

UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria condemns the recent attacks in Aleppo
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/200568/#.Vzy4DvkrLcs>

Facebook

The world is witnessing unprecedented numbers of people forced to flee their homes. Driven by the Syria crisis and conflicts in South Sudan, Central African Republic, Burundi and Central America, their number is rising every day.

As part of its response, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today launches "Nobody Left Outside", a new global campaign to shelter two million more refugees by 2018. #iShelter
<https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR/videos/vb.13204463437/10155035463623438/?type=2&theater>

-18 May

Abdul Hamid, 66, was born in Neirab Camp after his family fled from Tiberias to Syria in 1948 where they were registered as Palestine refugees with UNRWA.

He, his wife Amal, their daughter Asmaa and their granddaughter Nesma talk about the education support provided to their family by UNRWA over the past six decades and the important role education plays in their lives. #ShareHumanity #UNRWAatWHS

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1095132390533327/>

The ongoing armed conflict in Syria has imposed particular hardship on Palestinian families. Many families experience death or separation and are exposed to various forms of violence. Learn more about the ongoing crisis, now in its sixth year:

<http://www.unrwa.org/syria5years>

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1092419334137966>

95 per cent of Palestine refugees in Syria rely on UNRWA assistance. In the occupied Palestinian territory, Palestine refugees are suffering under blockade and military occupation. The international community cannot risk ignoring their protracted plight. #ShareHumanity

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1092337714146128/?type=3>

Our Education in Emergencies self-learning curriculum covers Arabic, Maths, Sciences and English for grades 1 through 9. Accessible through the internet, UNRWA TV and in printed form, they allow children unable to attend school to study on their own.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1095357090510857>

Twitter

Syria: UN & partners warn of return to full-scale war, recommit to reinforce truce
<http://bit.ly/1TGAp7U> pic.twitter.com/SLpleImKZT

-17 May

How to deliver #education to 51,000 children amidst the conflict in #Syria? Learn about UNRWA's approach: <http://goo.gl/kNyvpu>

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/73222035050374758>

-17 May

Ban Ki-mon urges end of horrible war in Syria in meeting with Syrian students
<http://bit.ly/1qgXUMX> pic.twitter.com/LpPgXVgRwZ
-13 May

Ban Ki-moon meets Syrian students, reiterates: solution to education crisis is ending war
<http://bit.ly/1s2jSEH> pic.twitter.com/JO8xL4B74W
-12 May

"@UNRWA remains determined to resume direct distributions inside #Yarmouk when the conditions permit" @PKraehenbuehl <http://goo.gl/bWIZne>
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/730837222849712129>
-12 May

We are engaged to protect the right to #education of #Palestine refugee youth in #Syria, @UNRWA Commissioner-General
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/730836850479370241>
-12 May

.@UNRWA Commissioner-General @PKraehenbuehl makes official visit to #Syria
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<http://goo.gl/bWIZne>
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/730835647842402304>
-12 May

Another moving visit to Palestine refugees in Syria. Heard stories of pain, loss and despair. Also witnessed powerful moments of hope
<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730752244694589441>
-12 May

In Qabr Essit, met survivors of Feb. car bomb attacks. Young Rana & Isra were badly injured. We stand w/ them
<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730752423757787136>
-12 May

Joined cross-line visit to Yalda, adjacent to #Yarmouk camp. @UNRWA teams have increased access to area
<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730752667312631813>
-12 May

Met w/ Pal refugees living in Yarmouk receiving @UNRWA aid in Yalda. Heart-breaking stories & so much dignity. Ongoing access critical
<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730752825274339329>
-12 May

Civilians from #Yarmouk call for peace, security & a return to proper services. Their suffering appalling

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730753367975309312>

-12 May

In Syria, @UNRWA actively engaged in preserving Pal refugee access to education. Every day we witness little miracles & symbols of hope

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730753420278280192>

-12 May

My meeting today w/ Pal ref students who exited #Yarmouk to sit in national exams. Their courage inspirational

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730753508933292032>

-12 May

In Qabr Essit, an @UNRWA school badly damaged being rebuilt. We never give up and I call on world to support us

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730753620300468224>

-12 May

Every day @UNRWA staff take risks to assist Pal refugees in Syria. Lost 16 & 28 are missing. Honor their memory

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730753899267817472>

-12 May

So much admiration for my colleagues in Syria. Exemplary commitment & dedication. From Aleppo, to Dera'a; from Homs & Hama to Damascus

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730754008151957504>

-12 May

Here our team of psychosocial counsellors supporting #Yarmouk students. Proud of their work!

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730754216407531520>

-12 May

Here our distribution teams in Yalda. Daily on front-line of humanitarian delivery. Grateful for their resolve

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730754378240540674>

-12 May

Moving mtg w/ young @UNRWA school parliamentarians today at start of my visit to #Syria. Proud of their spirit!

<https://twitter.com/PKraehenbuehl/status/730323786059386881>

-12 May

Instagram

"I enjoy discovering what lies behind a magic trick, like Sherlock Holmes uncovering a mystery." Meet the Syrian refugee magic man - "Sherl Nazer" - named for his love of the famous Mr Holmes.

Magic is more than a hobby for Mohamad Al-Nazer, he practices for weeks before showing his tricks to enthralled spectators in Hungary. "I get ideas from YouTube, there was no YouTube in Syria, but here in Budapest there are magic shops and meetings for magicians." Mohamad works 10 hours a day, six days a week, in a mini supermarket. He spends his spare time practicing magic, and entertaining journey-weary new refugee arrivals. His family fled Syria and were able to settle in Budapest because his father, physician Anas, first came to Hungary years ago as a medical student. "We were hoping

that by some miracle we could stay in Syria,” Mohamad said. “But when a huge bomb exploded right by our house, we knew it was time to leave. All the windows were blown out and the building was shaking.”

“We are lucky. There were no arrests in our family and we did not lose anyone. Other Syrians have suffered much more and we are glad to help them.” Mohamad will soon take up a place at Budapest Metropolitan University, to study animation, on a course partly sponsored by the Walt Disney Animation Studios.

Regram @unrefugees I 📷 UNHCR/Gordon Welters

<https://www.instagram.com/p/BFb0xo9TDG7/?taken-by=unitednations>

-15 May

Social media campaigns

@ShareTheMeal: In April 2016, the World Food Programme launched its phone application to support fundraising efforts for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. ShareTheMeal’s fundraising aims to support 1,400 refugee children aged 3–4 in Beirut for a full year. Through the app, smartphone users can join thousands of other people in making donations and support a selected community and monitor progress. Since November 2015, the app has been available globally and has received several awards for its design and innovative character.

www.sharethemeal.org

#ActofHumanity: UNICEF launched in March 2016 a series of animated films entitled “Unfair Tales” to help frame positive perceptions towards the millions of children and young people on the move globally. The Unfair Tales are part of an initiative, #actofhumanity, emphasising that every child has rights and deserves a fair chance. UNICEF will engage audiences through the hashtag #actofhumanity to share stories about refugees and migrant children.

<http://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIF3BZ9S>

#RememberUs - #Syria5Years is an advocacy and fundraising campaign to tell the story of Palestine refugees in Syria after five years of armed conflict. In the last five years, the Palestine refugees of Syria have been experiencing tremendous hardship with over 60 per cent of the 560,000 registered with UNRWA displaced throughout Syria and further afield. Through the campaign, UNRWA remembers the victims to the Syrian conflict, in particular the Palestine refugees, many of whom have lost their communities, family members, houses and livelihoods. To date, 16 UNRWA staff members have lost their lives in the armed conflict in Syria. This is the largest death toll for any single United Nations agency working in Syria.

<http://www.unrwa.org/syria5years>

Arabic: <http://goo.gl/vVRZRw>

#MyVoiceMySchool- #Myvoicemyschool, running for a second year, is an educational project linking Palestine refugee youth in Syria with their peers in England and Belgium. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.995861277127106.1073741879.105171192862790/995861320460435/?type=3&theater>

#IamSyrian is a global engagement campaign on social media launched by the World Food Programme (WFP) at the London Syria conference in February 2016. It offers global citizens the opportunity to show solidarity with the Syrian people by sharing their stories, sending messages of support and demonstrating how the world continues to care about their plight. The campaign will culminate in an exhibition at the UN General Assembly in September 2016.

<https://www.facebook.com/WorldFoodProgramme/photos/a.59121880177.81015.28312410177/10153310768060178/?type=3&theater>

#Unite4Heritage is a global movement run by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented attacks on world heritage sites, the campaign calls on everyone to stand up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1254/>

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 :

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](https://www.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/>

UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/>

UNESCO Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/areas-of-action/culture/syria/emergency-safeguarding-of-the-syrian-heritage/>

UNESCO Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage <https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/>

UNESCO Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/bridging-learning-gaps/>

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/>