



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

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### **UN condemns the use of explosive devices in populated areas**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 27 July voiced concern over reports of an increase in violence in Qamishly city. According to reports, at least 40 people were killed, including children, and many more injured in explosions in a populated area. Several residential buildings had collapsed and others were significantly damaged, with unknown numbers of civilians reportedly trapped under the debris. The hospital reported dozens of patients in critical condition and in urgent need of surgery. The UN strongly condemned the use of explosive devices in populated areas. Such attacks are an inexcusable and abhorrent violation of human rights and humanitarian law.

<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

### **Special Envoy de Mistura aims to resume talks in late August**

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura took part in a trilateral meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) co-chaired by-Russia and the United States on 26 July in Geneva. Speaking to reporters afterwards, the Envoy said that they discussed the urgent need for progress on the cessation of hostilities, humanitarian access, counter-terrorism and the political transition. Mr. de Mistura added that he aimed to proceed with a third round of intra-Syrian talks toward the end of August. Meanwhile, he hoped for concrete progress on the understanding between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reached in Moscow last week. "This will indeed create the right atmosphere, both on the ground and for the Intra-Syrian talks", he said, adding that the UN facilitation had been asked by the co-chairs to continue preparing proposals for addressing difficult issues related to the talks.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4643>

### **UN humanitarian chief calls for weekly, 48-hour humanitarian pause in Aleppo and besieged towns**

Briefing the Security Council on 26 July, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien expressed deep alarm about the situation in Aleppo. "The clock is ticking. I urgently call on the parties, and those with influence, to act now to establish a weekly, 48-hour humanitarian pause for eastern Aleppo city so that the UN and partners have safe, regular and sustained access to the quarter of a million people trapped behind the front lines", he told the Council. Mr. O'Brien said he was equally alarmed by reports of deteriorating humanitarian conditions and urgent medical evacuation needs in Madaya, Foah, Zabadani and Kefraya, where over 62,000 people continue to be besieged.

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC\\_USG%20Stephen%20OBrien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20SecCo%2025July2016%20CAD.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC_USG%20Stephen%20OBrien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20SecCo%2025July2016%20CAD.pdf)

### **UNICEF speaks out against attacks on health facilities in Aleppo**

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) condemned on 26 July the attacks on several hospitals in Aleppo city. "Four hospitals in eastern Aleppo city – al-Dakkak, al-Bayan, al-Hakim and al-Zahraa – and a blood bank were reportedly hit several times on 23 and 24 July disrupting key life-saving health services for up to 300,000 civilians", the agency said. "A

two-day-old baby died in his incubator due to interruptions in the oxygen supply as a result of air strikes. Health facilities in Syria are being attacked with alarming ferocity", UNICEF added. According to WHO more than 40 attacks have been carried out on health facilities in Syria since the beginning the year. It is estimated that nearly 60 per cent of public hospitals in the country have closed or are only partially functional. UNICEF emphasized that attacks on health facilities are a blatant violation of international humanitarian law and can amount to war crimes.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_92027.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_92027.html)

### **The United States contributes US\$ 25 million to UNRWA for Syria crisis response**

The UN Works and Relief Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on 26 July that the United States contributed US\$ 25 million to the agency's 2016 Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal. The funds will support UNRWA's emergency operations in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Since the beginning of the conflict, nearly 110,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria have been forced to flee to surrounding countries. Almost all of the 450,000 remaining in Syria are reliant on UNRWA for humanitarian assistance.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/united-states-contributes-us-25-million-unrwa-emergency-response-syria>

### **Senior UN official urges humanitarian truce to allow aid in besieged areas**

Special Advisor to the Special Envoy for Syria Jan Egeland told the media in Geneva on 21 July that over the past five months, the UN had reached 1 million people in hard to reach areas and in besieged areas in Syria. "Altogether 100 convoys have been able to reach besieged and hard to reach areas so far in 2016. That is compared to only 45 convoys in the whole of 2015", he said. He noted, however, that for the month of July aid convoy had only reached three of the 18 besieged areas. "The fighting is the main reason for why we are not going to all of these places," he said, stressing the need to "regain momentum," such as by a humanitarian truce. He also voiced concern at the lack of humanitarian access to the four towns of Madaya, Zabadani, Fouah and Kefraya, which have received no aid since 30 April.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=4635>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Humanitarian Affairs official expresses serious concern over the situation in Aleppo and calls for a 48-hour truce

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209391/index.html#.V5jMVvkrLcs>

مسؤول الشؤون الإنسانية يبدي القلق البالغ إزاء الوضع في شرق حلب ويدعو إلى هدنة لمدة 48 ساعة

2016/07/25

Stephen O'Brien: One of our priorities is to regain access to Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208990/index.html#.V5jMTvkrLcs>

أوبراين: أهم أولوياتنا تتمثل في استعادة سبل الوصول إلى شرق مدينة حلب

2016/07/21

Hopes of starting a new round of Intra-Syrian talks after a meeting between the United States, Russia and the United Nations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209185/index.html#.V5jMUfkrLcs>

أمل في بدء جولة المحادثات السورية بعد اجتماع بين الولايات المتحدة وروسيا والأمم المتحدة

2016/07/22

The Security Council will hold consultations about chemical weapons in Syria and the situation in Libya

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209338/index.html#.V5jMVPkrLcs>

مجلس الأمن يعقد مشاورات حول الأسلحة الكيميائية في سوريا، والوضع في ليبيا  
2016/07/22

Jan Egeland calls for a weekly, 48-hours truce to deliver aid  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209117>

إيغلاند يدعو إلى هدنة أسبوعية لمدة 48 ساعة لإيصال المساعدات

2016/07/21

UNICEF Representative in Syria calls for immediate cessation of all forms of violence against children

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208943/index.html#.V5jMR\\_krLcs](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/208943/index.html#.V5jMR_krLcs)

ممثلة اليونيسيف في سوريا تدعو إلى الوقف الفوري لكل أشكال العنف ضد الأطفال

2016/07/21

UNICEF: No justification whatsoever for attacks against children, regardless of where they are in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209019/index.html#.V5jMUPkrLcs>

اليونيسيف: لا مبرر على الإطلاق للهجمات ضد الأطفال بغض النظر عن مكان وجودهم في سوريا

2016/07/21

## **Twitter**

United Nations @UN

Syria: UN envoy de Mistura aims for #SyriaTalks to resume in late August

<http://bit.ly/2a9B>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria -24 July

Teams are offloading food, health, WASH and other emergency supplies for 40,000 people in besieged #Moadamieh #Syria

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria -24 July

READ about humanitarian situation in [#Aleppo](#) [#Manbij](#) and other areas in [#Syria](#) [#SyriaCrisis](#) <http://ow.ly/Lxrc302y0Dy>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria- 23 July

READ @UNICEF statement on killings of children in northern [#Syria](#) [#Tukhar](#) [#Manbij](#) [#Aleppo](#) <http://ow.ly/nzc4302wXp5>

## **Facebook**

UNRWA-23 July

UNRWA delivers cash assistance to the 95 per cent of Palestine refugee families considered vulnerable in Syria.

As 30 per cent of these households are now depending on a woman for their basic source of income, they have become increasingly reliant on the monthly stipend to cover rent, food, children's clothes and education costs.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.10517119286279/0/1125542334158999/?type=3&theater>

United Nations-22 July

More than 1 million people in Syria have received aid since the start of the year.

However, Syria's warring parties "risk creating a humanitarian catastrophe" for civilians who "are on the brink of starvation," said UN Special Advisor on Syria, Jan Egeland on Thursday. Find out more here: <http://bit.ly/2a49qXS>

## **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](http://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](https://twitter.com/ocha_syria), [facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria](https://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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>