



Syrian Crisis **United Nations Response**



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

No. 158/ 3 August 2016

ISIS' violence against Yazidi community continues, says Commission of Inquiry on Syria

On the second anniversary of the attack against Yazidis in Sinjar, in northern Iraq, the Commission of Inquiry on Syria warned that crimes committed by ISIS against the Yazidis, including the crime of genocide, are ongoing. In a statement issued on 3 August, the Commission members reiterated that in their report, "They Came to Destroy: ISIS Crimes Against the Yazidis", issued on 16 June 2016, they had determined that ISIS had committed the crime of genocide, as well as multiple crimes against humanity and war crimes, against the Yazidis. "Two years on, over 3,200 women and children are still held by ISIS and are subjected to almost unimaginable violence. Most are in Syria where Yazidi women and girls continue to be sexually enslaved and Yazidi boys, indoctrinated, trained and used in hostilities. Thousands of Yazidi men and boys remain missing." The Commission called for re-focusing attention on its findings and its wide recommendations to the United Nations, the Government of Syria, and the international community, concerning the rescue, protection of, and care for the Yazidi community.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20330&LangID=E>

UN calls for end to destruction of medical facilities

In a statement issued on 2 August, the UN Secretary-General said that he is deeply disturbed at the destruction of civilian infrastructure, particularly medical facilities across the country. According to reports, five hospitals were hit in recent days by airstrikes, including three in Aleppo governorate and one each in Dara'a and Idlib, his statement added. Dozens of casualties and injuries resulting from these strikes have been reported, including pregnant women and children. Prior to the airstrikes, these medical facilities provided life-saving healthcare to tens of thousands of people.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160802.doc.htm>

UN concerned at thousands of civilians trapped in Aleppo

As intense fighting continued in Aleppo, the United Nations on 1 August voiced deep concerns about the plight of 250,000 to 275,000 people trapped in the city. Reportedly many stores have closed and food stocks are running low. The UN reiterated its call on all parties to allow safe, unimpeded and impartial access to civilians in line with international humanitarian law.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160801.doc.htm>

Special Envoy visits Iran for consultations on Syria talks

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura visited Tehran on 31 July for consultations. He met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari on means to push forward the political process. On the same day, Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin met in Damascus with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem and Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad as part of ongoing consultations. Mr. Ramzy informed his

interlocutors of Special Envoy de Mistura's intention to reconvene the intra-Syrian talks in late August with a focus on political transition.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160801.doc.htm>

Thousands of children at grave risk, warns UNICEF

UNICEF deplored on 28 July the attack which reportedly killed more than 50 people, including many children, in the northern city of Qamishli. In a statement, UNICEF Representative in Syria Hanna Singer said that continued fighting in densely populated areas such as Aleppo, eastern Ghouta and other areas near Damascus, as well as in Manbij in northern Syria, is putting tens of thousands of children at grave risk of harm. "Every day in Syria, children face the deadly threat of violence while at school, in hospitals, in their homes, in playgrounds and in markets. Children have nowhere safe to go", she noted. UNICEF once again urged all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law and protect children and all civilians.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_92033.html

25,000 people displaced by military attacks in western Aleppo – UNICEF

In an interview with the *UN News Service* from Damascus on 1 August, UNICEF Chief of Communications in Syria Kieran Dwyer said that 25,000 people, including more than 12,000 children, had been displaced from a neighbourhood in western Aleppo city by intense fighting initiated by armed opposition groups on 31 July. Mr. Dwyer added that in the affected neighbourhood, people already displaced multiple times had put up temporary shelters in uncompleted high-rise apartment buildings. UNICEF and partners had been helping them to get water, food, health services, and education. The fighting had forced many of them to flee to parks, mosques, and wherever "they can feel a bit safe," he said, adding that the agency had set up emergency kitchens and was running water trucks.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54606>

Aid delivery through corridors should be left to the UN, says Special Envoy

Speaking to the press in Geneva on 28 July, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said that the UN has been studying with great interest a Russian initiative that was outlined the day before, while awaiting more information. The envoy added that it was imperative that the 48-hour pause for humanitarian access that was discussed in the Security Council be put in place on a sustainable basis. Mr. de Mistura also suggested that the delivery of aid through corridors should be left to the UN and its humanitarian partners.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2016-07-28/near-verbatim-transcript-stakeout-mr-staffan-de-mistura>

UN Radio in Arabic

UNICEF: Millions, mostly children are at risk following intensification of fighting in the western part of Aleppo

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/210115/index.html#.V6H_t_krLcs

اليونيسف: الملايين، معظمهم من الأطفال، في خطر إثر اشتداد القتال في الجزء الغربي من حلب

2016/08/01

UNICEF condemns the attack that killed 50 people in Qamishli

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209927/index.html#.V6H_svkrLcs

اليونيسف تشجب هجوما أدى إلى مقتل 50 شخصا في القامشلي
2016/07/29

Special Envoy de Mistura: "We propose to Russia to leave the task of delivering aid to the United Nations and its partners"

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/210000/index.html#.V6H_tfkrLcs

دي مستورا: نقترح على روسيا ترك مهمة توصيل المساعدات للأمم المتحدة وشركائها

2016/07/29

Special Envoy de Mistura: "Aleppo is under siege and supplies for the population are on the verge of running out"

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209799/index.html#.V6H_rfkrLcs

دي مستورا: حلب تخضع لحصار فعلي والإمدادات لدى السكان على وشك النفاد

2016/07/28

Syria: O'Brien seeks secure access to a quarter of a million trapped people

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/209891/index.html#.V6IC0PrLct>

سوريا: أوبراين يطالب بالوصول الآمن إلى ربع مليون شخص محاصرين

2016/07/28

Twitter

United Nations @UN – 3 August

.@WFP diary from Syria: "The worst side of a war shows in its victims: the women, children, elderly, sick."

United Nations @UN - 2 August

.@OCHA_Syria update:

13.5M in need of aid

6,563,462 int displaced

4,819,494 refugees

<http://ow.ly/fHVI302Opa5>

UN Geneva ✓ @UNGeneva -31 July

.@UN Envoy S. de Mistura meeting 31/07 in Teheran w/Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari #SyriaTalks

Facebook

Mohamed Baba, a young attorney from Junior Chamber International-Syria, participated in the 2016 JCI Global Partnership Summit "Investing in the Global Goals for Sustainable Development" which was attended by the SG and the Youth Envoy. Baba spoke to UN Radio about his message of peace to the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/UNRadioArabic/videos/10154023446198089/>

After an eight-month hiatus, UNRWA resumed delivery of life-saving assistance to 6,000 families in Yarmouk, Yalda, Babila and Beit Saham, as well as primary health services and dental care through mobile clinics.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1139000552813177/?type=3&theater>

UNRWA celebrates friendship without borders through #MyVoiceMySchool, linking Palestine refugee students with their peers in Europe. Celebrate companionship on #InternationalFriendshipDay by visiting our page: <http://goo.gl/oYlOJz> and listen to some of their stories.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/videos/1140731062640126/>

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

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/>