



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



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

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### **Human rights investigative panel sounds the alarm about the situation of civilians in Aleppo**

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria voiced grave concern on 16 August for the safety of civilians, including a reported 100,000 children, living in eastern Aleppo city. "Neighbourhoods of Aleppo city are now being pounded daily by aerial bombardments by Government and pro-Government forces, causing mass civilian casualties", the panel said. "These attacks appear to form the prelude to a siege, designed to force the capture of the city through a strategy of "surrender or starve", it added, stressing that the situation of civilians is critical and demands immediate attention and response. "Two million civilians in Aleppo currently lack access to running water. Those inside the armed group-held neighbourhoods describe lives of horror, under near-constant threat of death from airstrikes", the human rights panel added.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20378&LangID=E>

### **UN renews call for humanitarian pause**

Amid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Aleppo, the United Nations on 15 August reiterated its call for a weekly 48-hour pause in the fighting to provide assistance to the people cut off from aid in the city. Between 250,000 and 275,000 people remain trapped in the eastern part of the city following the closure in July of the last access route. Meanwhile, in Government controlled areas in western Aleppo, an estimated 1.5 million continue to suffer from attacks.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db160815.doc.htm>

### **Special Envoy urges 48-hour pause for aid access in Aleppo**

Briefing reporters in Geneva following a meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) Humanitarian Task Force on 11 August, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura warned that as attacks and counter-attacks intensify in Aleppo city, civilians on both sides are in danger of being surrounded and affected by power and water shortages. Regarding the proposal by Russia to institute a three-hour humanitarian pause, the Special Envoy noted that this was insufficient to allow UN agencies to provide aid to the people in need. "We need 48 hours in order to make convoys doable and effective", he said. Asked about prospects for a resumption of the Intra-Syrian talks, Mr. de Mistura reaffirmed that the target was still towards the end of August.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-08-11/note-correspondents-transcript-including-corrigendum-stakeout-mr-0>

## **UNHCR concerned by situation in Aleppo and attacks on IDP settlements in Idlib**

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on 11 August expressed concerns about the series of attacks on camps of internally displaced people (IDP) in Idlib over the last 10 days, which have resulted in civilian casualties and further displacement. "The attacks indicate a shocking disregard for civilian life", the agency said, reiterating its call for ensuring the protection of civilians as well as a durable solution to the conflict. UNHCR also urged all parties to ensure the safety and dignity of civilians trapped in Aleppo city who are facing constant bombardment.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2016/8/57ac408b7/syria-unhcr-gravelly-concerned-situation-aleppo-city-attacks-idp-settlements.html>

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

A refugee in Lebanon urges young Syrian men and women not to despair

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211322/index.html#.V7RmyvkrLcs>

لا ليأس الا س تسلام عدم إلى سوريا وشابات ش باب تدعو و سام: الأخرى ت لو خطوة

2016/08/16

Human rights investigative panel gravely concerned about the situation of civilians in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211755/index.html#.V7RmzPkrLcs>

التجويع أو الا س تسلام اس تراتا يجية ي تبع حلب في الق تال: دولية لجنة

2016/08/16

Deep international concern about the situation in the city of Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211660/index.html#.V7RyzvkrKuk>

حلب مدينة في الاوضع ب شأن بالغ دولي قلق

2016/08/15

Special Envoy de Mistura: Russia's proposal for three-hour pause in Aleppo is not sufficient

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211250/index.html#.V7RmxPkrLcs>

كاف يا ليس ساعات 3 لمدة حلب في الق تال ب وقف الروسي الاق تراح: مس تورا دي

2016/08/11

UNHCR expresses concern about the situation in Aleppo and attacks on camps for displaced people in Idlib

إدلب في المشردين مذي مات على والهجمات حلب في الاوضع إزاء القلق عن تعرب اللاجئين م فوضية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211208/index.html#.V7RzmfkrKuk>

2016/08/11

Syrian refugee brings the taste of home to the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/211087/index.html#.V7RmwPkrLcs>

الأردن في الازع تري مذي م إلى الاوطن طعم ب نقل سوري لاجئ

2016/08/10

## **Twitter**

UN News Centre @UN\_News\_Centre 16 August

'Surrender or starve' strategy signals deeper agony ahead for #civilians in #Aleppo --

@UN <http://bit.ly/2bvxyRW>

UN News Centre @UN\_News\_Centre 16 August

.@UNCoISyria expresses grave concern for safety of #civilians in #Aleppo

<http://bit.ly/2aZ7mAN> @UNHumanRights

UN News Centre ✓ @UN\_News\_Centre  
People in Aleppo should not be forgotten & nor should the truce appeal - @UN #Syria  
Envoy <http://bit.ly/2b1gEMa>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria 16 August  
Providing food assistance with dignity through cash vouchers #ShareHumanity  
#SyriaCrisis #Jordan

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria 15 August  
Youth: tomorrow's reality@learning for life project: edu, self defense & creative support  
#Jo #Syria #Sharehumanity

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria 15 August  
Working together to improve education for #Palestine refugee children in #Syria w/  
@UNRWA <http://ow.ly/WeQE303eOZd>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria 15 August  
"If you can't change the world, you can at least change part of it." Says Grace  
@UNHCRinSYRIA #ShareHumanity #Syria

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria 15 August  
There's nothing more rewarding and fulfilling than being a humanitarian worker in  
#Syria #ShareHumanity @WFP\_MENA

UN News Centre ✓ @UN\_News\_Centre 11 August  
People in Aleppo should not be forgotten & nor should the truce appeal - @UN #Syria  
Envoy <http://bit.ly/2b1gEMa>

### **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://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/](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/>