



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 165/21 September 2016

“We are at a make or break moment”, Secretary-General tells the Security Council

Speaking at a high-level meeting of the Security Council on Syria on 21 September, the Secretary-General said “we are at a make or break moment” and urged Member States to “use their influence now to restore a cessation of hostilities, enable humanitarian assistance everywhere it is needed and support the United Nations in charting a political path for the Syrians”. Mr. Ban added that he had asked his Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura to work intensively towards convening formal talks for a viable political transition as soon as possible. Referring to the Mediator’s summary of the last round of talks, the Secretary-General stressed that when the new round of negotiations begins, they must focus on “how power is to be exercised by the transitional governance, including in relation to the presidency, executive powers and the control of governmental and security institutions”. Also addressing the Security Council, Mr. de Mistura said that he intended to “put proposals to all sides as a starting point for negotiations and as a means by which to move to direct talks – not just proximity talks”.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-09-21/secretary-generals-remarks-security-council-situation-syria>

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2016-09-21/note-correspondents-remarks-security-council-staffan-de>

Secretary-General denounces deliberate attack on UN-SARC aid convoy

In his final address to the General Assembly General debate on 20 September, the Secretary-General deplored that the United Nations has been forced to suspend aid convoys as a result of deliberate attacks on trucks carrying relief supplies northwest of Aleppo. “Just when we think it cannot get any worse, the bar of depravity sinks lower. Yesterday’s sickening, savage, and apparently deliberate attack on a UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) aid convoy is the latest example”, he said. In his remarks, Mr. Ban praised relief workers as heroes. “Those who bombed them are cowards”, he noted. While reiterating that there is no military solution to the conflict, the Secretary-General once again urged all those with influence to end the fighting and get talks started. “A political transition is long overdue. After so much violence and misrule, the future of Syria should not rest on the fate of a single man”, he said.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-09-20/secretary-generals-address-general-assembly-bilingual-delivered>

UN officials strongly condemn targeting of humanitarian convoy

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O’Brien expressed disgust and horror after a UN /SARC convoy was hit in Urum al-Kubra, northwest of Aleppo city

on 19 September. According to reports, a SARC warehouse was also hit and a health facility seriously damaged. "I condemn what happened in Urum al-Kubra in the strongest possible terms. Notification of the convoy – which planned to reach some 78,000 people – had been provided to all parties to the conflict and the convoy was clearly marked as humanitarian. There can be no explanation or excuse, no reason or rationale for waging war on brave and selfless humanitarian workers trying to reach their fellow citizens in desperate need of assistance", Mr. O' Brien said. As an immediate security measure following the attacks, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced a temporary suspension of all convoy movements in Syria, pending an assessment of the security situation. The targeting of the convoys was also strongly condemned by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria. "This attack comes at a critical time in which the unhindered and rapid delivery of aid to besieged areas had been agreed as a vital part of the cessation of hostilities agreement brokered between the United States and Russian Federation. At a time when warring parties were meant to support the delivery of humanitarian assistance, aid deliveries have been deliberately obstructed or attacked," the human rights investigative panel noted.

<http://www.unocha.org/top-stories/all-stories/syria-unsarc-convoy-hit-urum-al-kubra-northwest-aleppo-city>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20540&LangID=E>

Over 300,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean so far this year-UN Refugee agency

More than 300,000 refugees and migrants have made the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing so far this year, the UN Refugee agency (UNHCR) said on 20 September. While the number is lower than the 520,000 registered arrivals during the same period last year, among them 3,771 people drowned or went missing. "At this rate, 2016 will be the deadliest year on record in the Mediterranean Sea," a UNHCR Spokesperson warned. He added that five nationalities — Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria and Eritrea — account for 68 per cent of all arrivals. The agency reiterated its call to Member States to increase pathways for admission of refugees, such as resettlement, private sponsorship, family reunification and student scholarship schemes, so they do not have to resort to dangerous journeys.

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/latest/2016/9/57e12c564/300000-refugees-migrants-cross-med-far-2016.html>

OPCW-UN Investigative panel to release report on use of chemical weapons in Syria

In a statement issued on 16 September, the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism indicated that the Leadership Panel would submit its conclusions on the three outstanding cases of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria in its fourth report. The report is under preparation and will be submitted to the Security Council in due time. "Any and all further steps with regard to accountability are up to the Members of the Security Council after they consider the report", the panel stressed.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2016-09-16/note-correspondents-statement-leadership-panel-opcw-un>

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/738

UN Radio in Arabic

UN suspends aid deliveries in Syria after attack on relief convoy

<https://cms.unmultimedia.org/radio/ar/archives/215367#.V-FuZvkrKUK>

إغاثة قافلة قصف بعد سوريا في لمساعدات الميدانية العمل بات تعلق

20 September

UNICEF Executive Director speaks out against attack on a humanitarian aid convoy in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215464/#.V-KMNPkrKUK>

ب سوريا حلب في الإذ سانية المساعدات قافلة على الهجوم إدانة إلى ضم يرال أصحاب يدعو ل يك أن توندي

20 September

UN condemns attack on humanitarian convoy northwest of Aleppo and calls for an immediate investigation

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215294/#.V-FgpPkrKUK>

فوري ت تحقيق إجراء إلى وتدعو حلب غرب ب شمال إذ سانية قافلة على الهجوم تدين الم المتحدة الأمم

20 September

United Nations express regret for lack of access for humanitarian convoy to Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215119/#.V-FgMPkrKUK>

الأمم المتحدة تبدي الأسف لعدم عبور قافلة إنسانية إلى سوريا

19 September

Aid convoy heading to in Aleppo hit by airstrikes

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215272/#.V-FbH krKUK>

ل ل قصف حلب في الك برى أورم إلى م تجهة مساعدات قافلة ت عرض

19 September

Pianist Yarmouk Ayham Ahmad describes the realities in Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp in music

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215074/#.V-Faq krKUK>

الموسيقى عبر وال سوري بين ال ف لسط يذ بين واقع ي نقل أحمد أيهم ال يرموك ب ياندو عازف

18 September

Despite humanitarian truce in Syria humanitarian aid did not reach the besieged areas

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/214743/#.V-FXwfkrKUK>

الأمم المتحدة: رغم الهدنة الإنسانية في سوريا المساعدات الإنسانية لم تصل إلى المناطق المحاصرة

15 September

Twitter

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson- 21 September

The Syrian tragedy shames us all. The collective failure of the international community should haunt every member of this Council: Ban

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson- 21 September

Ban: There is profound need for accountability in Syria. Govt has mercilessly trampled on human rights & oppo groups done some of the same.

UN Spokesperson @UN_Spokesperson – 21 September
Divisions inside Syria r amplified by regional divisions & then mirrored in SC. These divisions condemn Syria to its terrible fate, Ban.

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-21 September
After being stranded in Big #Orem for 2 days, 18 drivers & 17 trucks are back home to receive medical care in #Aleppo w/ @UN @SYRedCrescent

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria 21 September
We stand with our committed and courageous Syrian partners #Syria #REDforSyria @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC @Federation <http://ow.ly/rbIV304o8Tv>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-20 September
Our @UN humanitarian agencies will stay and deliver for the people of #Syria, regardless of where they are. More:<http://ow.ly/rbIV304o8Tv>

UN Spokesperson✓@UN_Spokesperson- 20 September
Ban at #UNGA: powerful patrons that keep feeding the war machine in #Syria have blood on their hands.

OCHA Syria✓@OCHA_Syria- 20 September
Condemning attck on aid convoy in Big #Orem #Aleppo #Syria, @UNReliefChief calls for immediate investigation <http://ow.ly/KPf8304nbsi>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 20 September
Unconditional & sustained access for humanitarian assistance delivery in Syria is urgent. [#Rememberus #Syria5Years ow.ly/clKL304kKCY](https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/778149251842846720)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/778149251842846720>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 20 September
Stop the suffering of the people of Syria [@UNRWA #Rememberus #Syria5Years](https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/778111525466755072)
[ow.ly/clKL304kKCY](https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/778111525466755072)
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/778111525466755072>

United Nations Retweeted
UNOCHA✓@UNOCHA
Pained and disappointed: @UN convoy yet to cross into #Syria from #Turkey & reach e. #Aleppo <http://ow.ly/ujur304IHGO>

Facebook

United Nations shared United Nations OCHA's photo- 20 September
"There can be no explanation or excuse, no reason or rationale for waging war on brave and selfless humanitarian workers trying to reach their fellow citizens in desperate need of assistance. Our hearts go out to the families of lost loved ones and our solidarity is with the injured".-- United Nations Humanitarian Chief Stephen O' Brien

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 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 the launch of the campaign, nearly 7.5 million meals have been shared.

www.sharethemeal.org

#RememberUs - #Syria5Years is an advocacy and fundraising campaign to tell the story of Palestinian refugees in Syria after five years of armed conflict. In the last five years, the Palestinian 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 Palestinian refugees, many of whom have lost their communities, family members, houses and livelihoods.

<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/>