



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



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

**No. 166/28 September 2016**

### **Deliberate attacks on health workers and hospitals are war crimes, Secretary-General tells the Security Council**

"Those using ever more destructive weapons know exactly what they are doing. They know they are committing war crimes", the Secretary-General said at a meeting of the Security Council on healthcare in armed conflict on 28 September. Amid reports of more airstrikes on hospitals in Aleppo, Mr. Ban noted that "international law is clear: medical workers, facilities and transport must be protected. The wounded and sick – civilians and fighters alike – must be spared. Deliberate attacks on hospitals are war crimes. Denying people access to essential health care violates international humanitarian law". The Secretary-General called for accountability for all those responsible of such violations.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-09-28/secretary-generals-briefing-security-council-debate-protection>

### **WHO calls for safe corridors in Aleppo**

The World Health Organization called on 27 September for the establishment of humanitarian routes to evacuate the sick and the wounded from eastern Aleppo for treatment. A WHO Spokeswoman told reporters in Geneva that over the past weekend more than 200 people had been injured and taken to understaffed health facilities in the eastern part of the city. All access routes to eastern Aleppo were closed, leaving no option for the civilian population to get out of the besieged area. According to the agency, only about 35 doctors remained in eastern Aleppo to care for an increasing number of wounded patients.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest\\_en\)/90AAD3E6AA15DD48C125803B003CD4C3?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/90AAD3E6AA15DD48C125803B003CD4C3?OpenDocument)

### **Special Envoy urges Russia and the United States to rescue the cessation of hostilities**

Briefing the Security Council during an emergency meeting on 26 September, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said these were chilling days for the people of Aleppo and the past week had been the worst in the near six years of the conflict. He voiced regret that a meeting of the International Syria Support Group in New York on 22 September did not yield the results he was hoping for. "The situation in eastern Aleppo is deteriorating to new heights of horror", he told Council members. Mr. de Mistura urged the ISSG co-chairs- Russia and the United States- to "go the extra mile" to save the agreement they reached on 9 September which sought to reinvigorate the cessation of hostilities. Speaking to reporters after the briefing, Mr. de Mistura outlined the main points he had been pressing for: i) a cessation of the violence and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure; ii) weekly 48-hour pauses in the fighting to allow humanitarian aid

deliveries; iii) medical evacuations for urgent cases. Additionally, Mr. de Mistura called for a common course of action to enforce and monitor a cessation of hostilities, as well as support to the UN in restarting political talks.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/1855175EF35E4B31C125803A0031C370?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/1855175EF35E4B31C125803A0031C370?OpenDocument)

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/604700A846CE3BE2C125803A003167E2?OpenDocument&cntxt=91F7F&cookielang=en](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/604700A846CE3BE2C125803A003167E2?OpenDocument&cntxt=91F7F&cookielang=en)

### **President of General Assembly appeals for political solution**

In remarks at the conclusion of the UN General Assembly General Debate on 26 September, the President of the General Assembly, Peter Thomson, condemned the unacceptable attacks on a UN aid convoy in Aleppo. He urged the international community and regional powers to renew efforts to find a political solution to the Syria conflict.

<http://www.un.org/pga/71/2016/09/26/pgas-closing-statement-for-un-general-debate/>

### **Food and medical supplies reach four besieged towns for the first time since April**

The World Food Programme on 25 September delivered urgently needed assistance to four besieged towns of Madaya and Zabadani in Rural Damascus and Foah and Kefraya in Rural Idlib. This was the first joint UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) convoy to reach these areas since April. "This convoy has brought extraordinary relief for 60,000 people who are in dire need of food and medical supplies, and have been cut off from humanitarian access for five months," said WFP Syria Director Jakob Kern. "Elsewhere in Syria, we are extremely concerned about the more than 250,000 people trapped in eastern Aleppo without food, water, medicine, and other essential supplies," added Kern, who urged all parties to immediately open transport routes to allow safe aid access to eastern Aleppo.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-reaches-four-besieged-syrian-towns-first-time-april>

### **Secretary-General speaks out against use of incendiary weapons in Aleppo, stresses it may amount to a war crime**

Amid intensifying fighting in Aleppo, the Secretary-General said on 24 September he was appalled by the "chilling military escalation" and warned that the apparent systematic use of incendiary weapons and advanced munitions in densely populated areas may amount to a war crime. In a statement, Mr. Ban called on the international community to unite to send a clear message that it will not tolerate the use of indiscriminate weapons against civilians and civilian infrastructures.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-09-24/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-aleppo>

### **Nearly 2 million people in Aleppo without running water - UNICEF**

The UNICEF Representative in Syria denounced on 23 September attacks and deliberate water cuts in Aleppo following intense fighting that damaged the Bab al-Nayrab water pumping station in the eastern part of the city and the cutting off in retaliation of the Suleiman al Hababi pumping station serving western Aleppo. "Nearly two million people in Aleppo are once again with no running water through the public network", she said. "Depriving children of water puts them at risk of catastrophic outbreaks of waterborne diseases and adds to the suffering that children in Aleppo live through every day". As a

temporary solution, UNICEF said it would expand its emergency water truck deliveries throughout the city.

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media\\_92802.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/media_92802.html)

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

WHO calls for the evacuation of sick and injured in eastern Aleppo through safe routes

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216337/#.V-vK7fkrJhE>

منظمة الصحة تدعو إلى إجلاء المرضى والمصابين في شرق حلب المحاصر عبر ممرات آمنة لمعالجتهم

27/09/2016

President of the General Assembly calls on all parties concerned to end the pain and misery of the Syrian people

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216250/#.V-vKpvkrJhE>

رئيس الجمعية العامة يناشد جميع الأطراف المعنية بإنهاء آلام ويؤس الشعب السوري

26/09/2016

Aid convoy reaches besieged towns for the first time in five months

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216233/#.V-vKg\\_krJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216233/#.V-vKg_krJhE)

قافلة مساعدات تصل إلى أربع بلدات سورية لأول مرة منذ خمسة أشهر

26/09/2016

The United States and Russia trade accusations in the Security Council on the situation in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216185/#.V-vKWpkrJhE>

الولايات المتحدة وروسيا واتهامات متبادلة في مجلس الأمن بشأن الوضع في سوريا

25/09/2016

UN: Relief efforts will continue by all means

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/215964/#.V-vJVfkrJhE>

الأمم المتحدة: جهود الإغاثة لسوريا ستستمر بكل الوسائل

23/09/2016

Special Envoy de Mistura briefs Security Council on Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216127/#.V-vJ8PkrJhE>

دي مستورا يقدم ثلاثة مطالب لمجلس الأمن الدولي بشأن سوريا

25/09/2016

Secretary-General warns that violence is reaching new depths of barbarism in Syria

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216153/#.V-vKH\\_krJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216153/#.V-vKH_krJhE)

الأمين العام: العنف يصل إلى أعماق جديدة من الهمجية في سوريا

25/09/2016

## **Twitter**

United Nations @UN – 26 September

New video: 4 cities in Syria received food after 5 months without access to primary supplies thanks to @WFP & partners.

World Food Programme @WFP- 26 September

People in besieged Syrian towns burn carpets to produce cooking fuel. Watch as WFP reaches them with food & supplies. #ZeroHunger

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA\_Syria -26 September

Having offloaded aid & engaged with communities, @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC\_sy teams left #Madaya #Zabadai early morning #Syria #Foah #Kafraya

UN Radio @UN\_Radio – 26 September

#UN Security Council holds emergency meeting on #Syria: <http://bit.ly/2cwGf28>

United Nations @UN- 25 September

United Nations Retweeted New Zealand Mission to the UN

At Security Council, Staffan de Mistura appeals for Russia and US cooperation to "pull Syria back from the brink" <http://bit.ly/2cXWarV>

United Nations Retweeted

UN Political Affairs @UN\_DPA Sep 25

De Mistura: nothing justifies the unprecedented military violence affecting innocent civilians in #Aleppo right now.

UN Spokesperson ✓ @UN\_Spokesperson

Ban: Bunker buster bombs don't bust bunkers; they demolish ordinary ppl looking 4 any last refuge of safety #Syria <http://bit.ly/2dtSHQb>

United Nations Retweeted

UN Political Affairs @UN\_DPA Sep 24

Special Envoy for Syria de Mistura to brief Security Council on #Aleppo, 25 September, at 11 am NY time. Follow on <http://webtv.un.org>

United Nations @UN Sep 22

.@OCHA\_Syria says UN humanitarian agencies will stay & deliver for people of Syria, regardless of where they are. <http://ow.ly/rbIV304o8Tv>

United Nations @UN Sep 22

World leaders told that Security Council has "no higher responsibility" than backing political path in Syria <http://bit.ly/2dkPyIV>

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