



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



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

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### **Special Envoy deeply regrets suspension of US Russia talks on ending violence in Syria**

A Spokeswoman for the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria told reporters in Geneva on 4 October that Mr. de Mistura deeply regretted the fact that the Russian-American bilateral talks on reviving the cessation of hostilities did not reach a positive conclusion, and resulted in a suspension of their diplomatic cooperation on Syria. She added that the UN would continue to push for a political solution of the conflict despite the disappointing outcome of discussions between the two countries. The humanitarian taskforce created by the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) and chaired by the UN would also continue its work to assist the delivery of aid to civilians.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest\\_en\)/22F21F659C731D2BC125804200458D87?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/22F21F659C731D2BC125804200458D87?OpenDocument)

### **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights calls for bold initiative, including limiting the use of Security Council veto**

"The human rights calamity unfolding in Aleppo demands bold new initiatives", UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said on 4 October, "including proposals to limit the use of the veto by the permanent members of the Security Council." Stressing that the past ten days had seen the most intense attacks on the inhabitants of eastern Aleppo since the conflict began, he noted that "the time has come for strong leadership and bold actions, and that the UN Security Council should, without any further delay, adopt criteria to restrain members from using the veto when there are serious concerns that war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide may have been committed". The UN Human Rights Chief once again called for the referral of the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20636&LangID=E>

### **Secretary-General condemns deliberate attacks on civilians and relief workers**

During a press conference in Geneva on 3 October, the Secretary-General voiced outrage at the carnage in Syria, especially in Aleppo city. Mr. Ban strongly condemned the deliberate campaign against civilians and medical personnel as well as relief workers. He noted that Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura had been doing everything possible to impress on the parties – and influential countries – that there can be no military solution to the conflict. "All must act for the thirteen and a half million Syrians who desperately need help, and for stability in the region and our world", he said.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/press-encounter/2016-10-03/transcript-secretary-generals-press-conference-palais-des>

### **We are in race against time to save civilians in Aleppo- UN Humanitarian Chief**

Amid escalating violence in Aleppo, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O' Brien said on 2 October that he was deeply alarmed by the continuing bombing and shelling in eastern Aleppo where 275,000 people are besieged. "We are in a race against time to protect and save civilians in eastern Aleppo city. They need our urgent action to bring an end to their living hell. Words are not enough", he stated. Mr. O' Brien reiterated his call to the parties to cease all operations resulting in loss of civilian life, medical evacuation of the wounded and unimpeded humanitarian access to eastern Aleppo. "As an absolute minimum, I reiterate my call for 48 hours weekly humanitarian pause in the fighting", he added.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Statement%20on%20Aleppo%202016%20Oct2016.pdf>

### **WHO delivers medical aid in northeastern Syria**

More than 11 tonnes of medical supplies were delivered by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 3 October to public hospitals and health centres in Al-Qamishli area, in northeastern Syria. This was the first air shipment of medical assistance in the past ten months. It is estimated that at least 500,000 people in Al-Qamishli are in need of humanitarian aid, including some 30,000 internally displaced people and refugees. "WHO is fully committed to delivering regular health assistance to all people in need across Syria including to besieged and hard-to-reach areas. This shipment provided more than 53,000 medical treatments," noted Elizabeth Hoff, WHO Representative in Syria.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/medical-supplies-air-lifted-to-al-qamishli-syria.html>

### **WHO calls for safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from conflict areas**

WHO Director-General Margaret Chan urged belligerents to allow for the evacuation of the sick and wounded from all areas affected by the Syrian conflict, including eastern Aleppo. In a statement on 30 September, Ms. Chan also called for a halt of attacks on health care workers and facilities. "The situation is heart-rending and enraging," she said. Amid dwindling supplies of food, water and fuel, aid agencies have not been allowed to deliver aid, including medical supplies from WHO since the besiegement of the city on 7 July. "Within the past week, some 840 people have been injured, almost a third of them children, while the health facilities are crumbling and understaffed", the WHO Chief added.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/health-workers-attacks/en/>

### **Secretary-General sets up panel to investigate aid convoy deadly incident**

The Secretary-General announced on 30 September the setting up of an internal board of inquiry to investigate the incident involving a UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief operation to Urum al-Kubra, near Aleppo. A joint aid convoy delivering assistance to the area on 19 September came under fire, which resulted in at least 18 people killed. The investigation panel will ascertain the facts and report to the Secretary-General who will then decide of further steps to take.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-09-30/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-syria-board>

### **UNRWA condemns shelling of Palestine refugee school**

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) condemned on 29 September the shelling of one of its schools in Khan Eshieh, south of Damascus. The Salameh Girls Preparatory School in Khan Eshieh was shelled on

28 September, which caused one student and two teachers being injured. The school provides primary education to more than 250 girls and is one of the few remaining educational facilities in the Palestine refugee camp. In a statement, UNRWA reiterated its strong demands that all parties refrain from employing methods and means of warfare – including weapons – that expose civilians, including Palestine refugees, to grave risk of death and injury.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-condemns-shelling-khan-eshieh-school-syria>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein calls for limiting the use of veto in the Security Council following increased fighting in Aleppo

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/217052/#.V\\_PiXfkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/217052/#.V_PiXfkrJhE)

حلب في الاقتالت صعيد أعقاب في الأمن مجلس في ال في تو اس تخدام من الحد إلى يدعو الحد بين رعد زيد  
04/10/2016

Medical aid reaches Qamishli for the first time in nearly a year

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216833/#.V\\_PimfkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216833/#.V_PimfkrJhE)

عام نحو منذ الأولى ل المرة الا قامشلي إلى الجو عبرت وصل ط بية مساعدات  
03/10/2016

Stephen O'Brien demands an end to "living hell" for inhabitants of Aleppo

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216842/#.V\\_PjqfkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216842/#.V_PjqfkrJhE)

فورا حلب في بالمجزرة و صدها ما بوقف يطلاب أوبراين  
03/10/2016

Human rights experts: the suffering inflicted on children in Aleppo is a brutal abdication of international human rights obligations

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216853/#.V\\_Pkv\\_krJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216853/#.V_Pkv_krJhE)

الإنسان حقوق تجاه الدولية الالات التزامات عن وحشي ت نازل حلب بأط قال لحدثت ال تي المعاناة ؛ حقوق يون خبراء  
03/10/2016

Secretary-General establishes commission of inquiry in aid convoy incident

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216722/#.V\\_PiQfkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216722/#.V_PiQfkrJhE)

الماضي الأسبوع سوريا في المساعدات شاحنة قصف حادثة في تحقيق لجنة إن شاء يقرر العام الأم بين  
30/09/2016

UNICEF Representative in Syria highlights gravity of the humanitarian situation in Aleppo

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216678/#.V\\_Ph3\\_krJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216678/#.V_Ph3_krJhE)

حلب في الإنساني الوضع خطورة من تحذر رياسو في اليونيسف ممثلة  
30/09/2016

Amid continued airstrikes in eastern Aleppo the United Nations renews its calls for a cessation of hostilities

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216711/#.V\\_PiHfkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216711/#.V_PiHfkrJhE)

الاعداءية الأعمال لوقف تدعو المتحدة والأمم حلب شرق في الجوي القصف اس تمرار  
30/09/2016

WHO Executive Director Chan calls for the evacuation of the wounded and sick from Syria  
[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216641/#.V\\_Pgk\\_krJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216641/#.V_Pgk_krJhE)

سوريه امن والامر ضى الجرحى إخلاء إلى تدعو ت شان مارغريت  
30/09/2016

O'Brien calls for the Security Council to act to put an end to the war in Syria

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216562/#.V\\_PehPkrJhE](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/216562/#.V_PehPkrJhE)

سوريه اف ي ل الحرب حد ل و ضع ال تحرك إلى الأمن مجلس يدعو أود راين  
29/09/2016

## **Twitter**

United Nations Retweeted- 4 October

UN Human Rights ✓ @UNHumanRights

#Syria: We cannot afford to fail #Aleppo & thousands of children trapped in this city awaiting their slaughter <http://ow.ly/xtku304PGC6>

United Nations Retweeted- 3 October

WHO @WHO

The health system in #Aleppo, #Syria, is in the verge of total collapse: patients turned away, no medicines

United Nations Retweeted- 4 October

UN Human Rights @UNHumanRights

#Aleppo disaster demands bold action, including limiting use of @UN Security Council veto <http://ow.ly/Aqqm304PGpD> #Syria

United Nations @UN – 3 October

Suffering inflicted on Aleppo's children is a brutal abdication of obligations –

@UNHumanRights experts <http://ow.ly/nDFC304Nlev> #Syria

United Nations Retweeted- 3 October

WHO @WHO

Medical supplies air-lifted to Al-Qamishli, #Syria <http://goo.gl/M1PYqP> via @WHOEMRO

United Nations Retweeted – 2 October

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief

We are in a race against time to protect & save civilians in eastern #Aleppo. Stop the carnage now. My statement <http://bit.ly/2cKcF6>

United Nations Retweeted – 1 October

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria

Calls by @WHO: Immediate safe medical evacuation and a halt of attacks on health workers & facilities #Aleppo #Syria <http://ow.ly/mrmu304KpcX>

United Nations Retweeted UN Geneva- 1 October

Stop the killing.

Stop attacks on health care.

Let the sick and wounded out.

Let the aid in.

#Syria #NotATarget via @WHO

United Nations @UN – 30 September

Ban Ki-moon sets up inquiry into deadly incident involving UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent aid convoy in Western Aleppo <http://bit.ly/2dqQgoF>

### **UN Facebook**

United Nations shared World Food Programme's video.

September 29 at 9:05am ·

This week four cities in Syria received food after 5 months without access to primary supplies thanks to World Food Programme and partners.

### **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 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.

<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)