



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



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

**No. 174/ 30 November 2016**

### **Security Council briefed on situation in Aleppo during emergency session**

The Security Council met in emergency session on 30 November to hear briefings by Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien as well as UNICEF Regional Representative Geert Cappelaere on the situation in Aleppo. Referring to his recent meeting in Damascus with the Syrian Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. de Mistura said he had suggested to send a verification mission to eastern and western Aleppo to assess damage to hospitals and reiterated his call before the Council. The Envoy also noted that his political proposal to end violence in Aleppo, which had been discussed in Lausanne and subsequent meetings, was still on the table. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs stated that "Aleppo has become an apex of what has become a catalogue of horrors. Its people have been living in a long terrifying nightmare reality which no human being should have to endure". Mr O'Brien pleaded, with the parties, and those with influence, to do everything in their power to protect civilians and enable access to the besieged part of eastern Aleppo "before it becomes one giant graveyard".

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ERC\\_USG%20Stephen%20O%27Brien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20SecCo%2030NOV%202016%20CAD.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ERC_USG%20Stephen%20O%27Brien%20Statement%20on%20Syria%20to%20SecCo%2030NOV%202016%20CAD.pdf)  
<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-56>

### **UN Humanitarian Chief describes situation in Aleppo as alarming, reiterates call to all parties to lift the sieges**

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien said on 29 November that the alarming and chilling situation unfolding in Aleppo had forced some 16,000 people to flee the fighting. "Thousands more will have no choice but to flee should fighting continue to spread and intensify in the coming days", he warned in a statement. The Syrian Arab Red Crescent and local NGOs had launched a response to those displaced. The UN was also present with prepositioned relief supplies to complement the ongoing operations and is ready to provide assistance and medical evacuations for civilians in eastern Aleppo. Mr. O'Brien reiterated his call to all parties to restore basic humanity in Syria, urging them to lift sieges, stop targeting civilians and civilian infrastructures and allow unimpeded access to aid organizations.

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Statement%20on%20Aleppo%2029Nov2016\\_EN.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Statement%20on%20Aleppo%2029Nov2016_EN.pdf)

**Civilians are prevented from leaving opposition held areas in Aleppo, says  
OHCHR**

In a press briefing in Geneva on 29 November, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said that Syrian opposition groups are reportedly preventing people from fleeing areas under their control in Aleppo. There are also concerns that upon reaching Government-controlled or Kurdish-controlled areas, civilians perceived to have links or connections with armed opposition groups may be detained. OHCHR called on parties to respect international humanitarian law. "Pro-Government and Kurdish Forces must ensure that civilians fleeing the fighting are afforded every protection and are not subjected to acts of retribution due to their perceived support or affiliation to opposition groups", the agency added.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=20948&LangID=E#sthash.5yoamWNm.dpuf>

### **UN deeply concerned about the increased violence in eastern Aleppo**

UN Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said on 29 November that the UN is extremely concerned about the intensified fighting and indiscriminate aerial attacks on eastern Aleppo city, which reportedly killed and injured many civilians and triggered the displacement of thousands to western Aleppo. He added that eastern Aleppo has not received World Food Programme supplies since 13 November and is running out of food. An estimated 275,000 people live under horrific conditions and in desperate need of assistance. The UN and partners stand ready to respond to the needs of internally displaced people through whichever modality is more appropriate, including cross-line and cross-border operations.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db161128.doc.htm>

### **UN refugee agency starts winter aid deliveries for displaced Syrians and Iraqis**

Ahead of the winter season and harsh weather conditions, the UN Refugee agency, UNHCR, started to distribute humanitarian aid to 4.6 million displaced Iraqis and Syrians. The agency aims to reach 3.2 million Syrian IDPs and refugees and 1.4 million displaced Iraqis within Syria and Iraq, as well as in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. In Syria, winter distribution began in September, targeting over 1.2 million internally displaced persons and refugees. So far, assistance has been provided to nearly 800,000 people in the form of winter clothing and shelter kits. Priority is being given to newly-displaced, vulnerable families and those in shelters in hard-to-reach areas.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2016/11/583810b34/unhcr-expands-winter-assistance-help-46-million-syria-iraq-region.html>

### **Half a million Syrian children are cut off from humanitarian assistance- UNICEF**

More than 500,000 children now live in 16 besieged areas across Syria, almost completely cut off from sustained humanitarian aid and basic services, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake warned in a statement on 26 November. "For millions of human beings in Syria, life has become an endless nightmare – in particular for the hundreds of thousands of children living under siege. Children are being killed and injured, too afraid to go to school or even play, surviving with little food and hardly any medicine," he said. In eastern Aleppo alone, UNICEF estimates that 100,000 children are living under siege. As the conflict nears six years, UNICEF renews its call on all parties to lift the sieges across Syria, and to allow unconditional and sustained aid access to civilians.

[https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_93417.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_93417.html)

### **UNHCR completes evacuation of displaced to Hassakeh Governorate**

The UN refugee agency on 25 November ended a series of evacuations of Iraqi refugees and displaced Syrians from the Rajm Slebi border crossing point to Al Hol camp in the Hassakeh Governorate. Since the start of the operation, more than 2,400 people were moved to the camp, which now hosts 15,000 persons. With the possibility of further arrivals at Rajm Slebi, the UNHCR is actively engaging with UN partner agencies and the humanitarian community in Hassakeh to respond to new influx of displaced people.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcr-delivers-emergency-relief-rajm-slebi-border-point-begins>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

O'Brien calls for increased humanitarian access to besieged areas

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/223755/#.WD7c-LIrKUK>

أوبراين يطالب بإعادة الإنسانية إلى سوريا

29/11/2016

The armed opposition in Aleppo prevents civilians from leaving areas under their control

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/223615/#.WD3YarIrKUK>

المعارضة المسلحة في حلب تمنع المدنيين من مغادرة المناطق الخاضعة لسيطرتها

29/11/2016

The United Nations calls for the protection of civilians following indiscriminate aerial bombardments on eastern Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/223507/#.WD2LhbIrKUK>

القصف الجوي العشوائي على شرقي حلب قتل وشرذ الكثرين والأأم المتحدة تدعو إلى حماية المدنيين

28/11/2016

UNICEF: half a million children are living under siege in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/223416/#.WD2LWbIrKUK>

اليونيسف: نصف مليون طفل يعيشون تحت الحصار في سوريا

27/11/2016

Distribution of aid to 4.6 million Syrians and Iraqis has begun ahead of harsh winter conditions

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/223240/#.WD2LIbIrKUK>

بدء توزيع المساعدات على 4.6 مليون عراقي وسوري استعدادا لظروف قاسية في فصل الشتاء

25/11/2016

### **Twitter**

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief- 30 November

What we/Syrians need to see: 1) real respect & protection of civilians 2) safe, rapid, unimpeded humanitarian access 3) end to brutal sieges

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief-30 November

We plead with the parties...to protect civilians and enable access to besieged part of E #Aleppo before it becomes one giant graveyard.

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief- 30 November

Extremely concerned about fate of civilians in E #Aleppo city. Besieged for nearly 150 days & don't have means to survive for much longer

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief- 30- November  
Dozens of humanitarian staff trapped in #Aleppo. In last week, 3 @WHO health staff killed & many other Syrian doctors, health-workers, civilians

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief- 30 November  
UN prepositioned stocks incl food for 150,000. Stocks can be replenished w/in 48 hrs. Vital Gov of #Syria enable us to deploy in safety.

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief- 30 November  
It is estimated that up to 25,000 people have been displaced from their homes in eastern #Aleppo since Saturday. #Syria

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief -30 November  
Our calls, and the requests, even the demands, of this Council, have largely gone ignored. #UNSC #Syria

Stephen O'Brien @UNReliefChief -29 November  
#Aleppo is chilling. Lift sieges, do not target civilians, and let us safely help. #Syria has suffered too much! <http://ow.ly/SRVT306D5PY>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria - 28 November  
Scores of civilians reportedly killed & injured, thousands forced to flee east #Aleppo #Syria said @UNReliefChief

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria - 28 November  
The @UN is very concerned about the safety of civilians in #Aleppo #Syria as fighting intensifies. Read flash update [ow.ly/gqSS306zXge](http://ow.ly/gqSS306zXge)

UNICEF @UNICEF -26 November  
Nearly 500k children live under siege in #Syria, almost completely cut off from humanitarian aid & basic services <http://uni.cf/2g46LAT>

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria- 26 November  
Series of evacuations completed: #Iraq-i refugees and displaced #Syria-ns now in Al-Hol camp in #Hassakeh @UNHCR <http://ow.ly/NiEC306yrxP>

### **Social media campaigns**

**#My Voice-My School** is an UNRWA project launched in 2015 and implemented by Digital Explorer to connect schools in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon with schools in Europe and USA through Skype exchanges. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations. [www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool](http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool)

**@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. 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>

**#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)

