



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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UN appeals for truce in Aleppo to allow the safe evacuation of civilians

UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters on 14 December that the UN is deeply concerned by reports of fighting in Aleppo despite the announcement of a ceasefire agreement the night before. "Any continued fighting leaves thousands of civilians in the direct line of fire. The safety and security of tens of thousands of men, women and children still trapped in eastern Aleppo remains precarious. We urgently call for a pause in fighting to allow people who wish to safely leave besieged eastern Aleppo for a destination of their choice", he said. "UN teams are on the ground in Aleppo and responding to the needs of those displaced where we have access", he added, noting that the UN was ready to scale up aid efforts in all parts of the city.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/ossg/noon-briefing-highlight>

Human Rights Chief calls for immediate halt to bombardment of eastern Aleppo, says further war crimes may be taking place

High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad al Hussein on 14 December 2016 said that the resumption of extremely heavy bombardment by the Syrian Government forces and their allies on an area packed with civilians in eastern Aleppo may constitute a war crime. While expressing distress that the evacuation of thousands of civilians from opposition held area of the city had collapsed, he stressed that any evacuation must be carried out in line with international law.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21035&LangID=E>

Syrian Government and allies bear responsibility for preventing human rights violations in Aleppo - human rights independent investigative panel

Echoing the concerns of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said that it had received allegations of opposition groups, including the terrorist group Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra) and Ahrar al-Sham preventing civilians from leaving as well as opposition fighters embedding themselves within civilians, heightening the risk to civilians of being killed or injured. "The Syrian Government in concert with allied forces now exercises effective control over eastern Aleppo, and therefore bears the primary responsibility for preventing such violations, including possible acts of reprisals", the Commission said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21031&LangID=E>

Secretary-General calls for the remaining civilians in Aleppo to be allowed to escape

In an emergency meeting of the Security Council on 13 December, the Secretary-General appealed to Member States to stop the carnage in Aleppo. "As the battle for Aleppo concludes, I call on the Syrian authorities and their allies, Russia and Iran, to honour their obligations under international humanitarian law and do the following: urgently allow the remaining civilians to escape the area and facilitate access for all humanitarian actors and the delivery of critically important assistance. The laws of war and universal human rights must be respected", Mr. Ban said. The Secretary-General reminded Council members that they had repeatedly affirmed that an inclusive and Syrian-led political process addressing the legitimate aspirations of the Syrian people was the only way to find a solution to the conflict. "It is past time for you to act -- and to force others to act -- upon this prescription", the Secretary-General pointed out. Speaking to the media after the meeting, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said that while there was major concern about the intense fighting in Aleppo, the recapture of Palmyra was worrisome. "There was a major concern expressed by everyone, that in fact the takeover of Palmyra while we are all focusing on Aleppo, and by ISIS on top of it, has been a major blow and needs to be taken into account in what is the fight against terrorism", Mr. de Mistura stated.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2016-12-13/secretary-generals-briefing-security-council-situation-aleppo-syria>

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/43C599E83C33ADC4C1258089004175A4?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/43C599E83C33ADC4C1258089004175A4?OpenDocument)

Human Rights Chief urges an end to the slaughter of civilians in Aleppo

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on 13 September urged the international community to heed the cries of the women, men and children being slaughtered in Aleppo and to take urgent steps to ensure that the tens of thousands of people who have fled, surrendered or been captured are treated in line with international law. The UN Human Rights Office has received credible reports of scores of civilians being killed – either by intense bombardment or summary execution by pro-Government forces. Dozens of bodies reportedly litter the streets of a number of eastern Aleppo neighbourhoods. "What is happening with Aleppo could repeat itself in Douma, in Raqqa, in Idleb. We cannot let this continue," Zeid warned.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21024&LangID=E>

Amid intense fighting, UN humanitarian officials call for truce and aid access to eastern Aleppo

Thousands of children are suffering in silence, and coming under brutal attack as the world watches, UNICEF stressed on 13 December. "It is time for the world to stand up for the children of Aleppo and bring their living nightmare to an end", UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere said. UNICEF called on all warring parties to reach a truce and allow humanitarian organization to deliver urgent assistance. The agency said that its team in Aleppo stands ready to provide assistance, including facilitating the evacuation of children. Also voicing alarm at the situation in eastern Aleppo, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Stephen O'Brien said the intense airstrikes, shelling and combat in eastern Aleppo have killed or injured scores of civilians and forced thousands more to flee the fighting. "I repeat my call for an immediate, real, and comprehensive pause in the fighting. Civilians must be allowed to safely leave besieged east Aleppo without fear of harm or harassment." Mr. O'Brien urged all the belligerents to treat

civilians with the respect and dignity they deserve in full accordance with international law.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/statement-attributable-geert-cappelaere-unicef-regional-director>

https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/ERC%20USG%20Stephen%20OBrien%20on%20Syria_09December2016.pdf

General Assembly demands end of fighting in Syria

The General Assembly on 9 December adopted a resolution demanding an immediate end of hostilities in Syria, unhindered humanitarian access and an end to all sieges, including in Aleppo. Adopting the resolution by a vote of 122 in favour, 13 against and 36 abstentions, the Assembly also expressed grave concern at the continued deterioration of the devastating humanitarian situation in the country and demanded "rapid, safe, sustained, unhindered and unconditional humanitarian access throughout the country for UN [...] and all humanitarian actors." The General Assembly's initiative followed a failure by the Security Council to adopt a similar resolution urging a ceasefire in Aleppo. The General Assembly also urged the Council to exercise its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by addressing the crisis.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11871.doc.htm>

UNESCO condemns killing of two journalists in Syria, calls for protection of media workers

"I condemn the killings of Mohammed Sayyed Hassan, and Abdullah Mohammad Ghannam," said the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, in a statement on 13 December. "Journalists working in a conflict situation must be treated as civilians, in keeping with the Geneva Conventions. I must therefore once again call on all to respect the imperative need to protect the safety of journalists under all circumstances", Ms. Bokova noted. The two reporters were killed following airstrikes near Aleppo.

<https://en.unesco.org/news/director-general-urges-safer-conditions-media-workers-following-confirmation-death-two-syrian>

UN Radio in Arabic

Special Envoy de Mistura says more than 50,000 civilians are trapped in areas controlled by the opposition in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/225794/#.WFBuVbIrJaQ>

13 December

Secretary-General expresses alarm at reports of atrocities against civilians in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/225679/#.WFBuHrIrJaQ>

الأمين العام يعرب عن انزعاجه إزاء تقارير تفيد بارتكاب فظائع ضد المدنيين في حلب

12 December

General Assembly votes resolution calling for a ceasefire in Syria, especially Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/225306/#.WFBtfrIrJaQ>

الجمعية العامة تصوت لصالح قرار يدعو إلى وقف إطلاق النار في سوريا وخاصة في حلب

9 December

My voice my school: a young Syrian regains learning abilities after receiving psychological and social support in school

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/224955/#.WFBtU7IrJaQ>

صوتي مدرستي: الشاب السوري الصغير سليم يستمد صموده من خدمات الدعم النفسي والاجتماعي بمدرسته

8 December

Twitter

UN Spokesperson@UN_Spokesperson- 13 December

Ban: Security Council has not exercised its preeminent responsibility with regard to the maintenance of intl. peace & security. #Aleppo

United Nations@UN- 13 December

"Immediate task at hand is to stop the carnage" in Aleppo - Ban Ki-moon to Security Council <http://bit.ly/2hprnnT> #Syria

United Nations@UN- 13 December

Now underway in NYC: Ban Ki-moon appeals to Security Council to alleviate suffering in Aleppo. Watch live: <http://bit.ly/2hprnnT> #Syria

United Nations Retweeted- 13 December

UN Human Rights@UNHumanRights

#Syria: Aleppo terror and slaughter must be halted – #Zeid <http://ow.ly/jXDI30759FQ>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria -13 December

#Aleppo #Syria terror and slaughter must be halted said #Zeid @UNHumanRights <http://ow.ly/jgGa3075673>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 13 December

It is time for the world to stand up for the children of #Aleppo and bring their living nightmare to an end @UNICEF <http://ow.ly/7SfR307504L>

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 13 December

The @UN Secretary-General is alarmed over reports of atrocities against a large number of civilians #Aleppo #Syria <http://ow.ly/7fqP3074yrZ>

United Nations@UN- 13 December

Aleppo: The UN underlines obligation of all parties to protect civilians & abide by international humanitarian & human rights law. #Syria

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria-12 December

Providing assistance to people displaced from east #Aleppo #Syria, see latest @UN situation report <http://ow.ly/O7vD3073DZX>

UN Human Rights@UNHumanRights- 9 December

#Syria conflict: States "threw intl humanitarian law & human rights law out of the window" <http://ow.ly/Ma4H306X5OV> #StandUp4humanRights

Facebook

United Nations- 13 December

"I have said before that we have collectively failed the people of Syria.

The Security Council has not exercised its preeminent responsibility with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security.

History will not easily absolve us, but this failure compels us to do even more to offer the people of Aleppo our solidarity at this moment."

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

@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

#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, 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