



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No. 178/ 28 December 2016**

### **At Security Council, UN humanitarian official flags 'catastrophic' situation in Syria despite eastern Aleppo evacuations**

Briefing the Security Council on the situation in Syria on 23 December, a senior United Nations humanitarian official underlined the enormity challenges of the continuing humanitarian operations in the region. "As we meet today, the evacuation of the eastern districts of Aleppo may have concluded but the situation in Syria remains catastrophic," the Director of Operations at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), John Ging informed the 15-member Council, on behalf of the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, who also heads OCHA. Overall, more than 35,000 people were evacuated from the remaining besieged, opposition-held areas of eastern districts of Aleppo, including some 20,000 since the Security Council adopted a resolution approving UN monitors for the evacuations. A total of 308 buses, 61 ambulances and 1,231 private vehicles were used in the process, crossing numerous checkpoints from the besieged areas through the western part of the city and into western rural Aleppo, and onwards to the north-western city of Idlib.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55873>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief-59>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/db161223.doc.htm>

### **Thousands leave war-ravaged Aleppo as 'dangerous, complex' evacuation nears end – UN envoy**

A "very large, dangerous, difficult and complex evacuation" entered its final phase on 22 December, mainly from eastern Aleppo and from the two villages Foah and Kefraya, a senior United Nations humanitarian envoy announced, adding that it is "now a race against the clock and the winter to provide safety for the desperate people that have been trapped in the besieged city. Following that day's meeting in Geneva of the Humanitarian Access Task Force of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), Jan Egeland, the UN Senior Adviser on Syria, said that some 35,000 had left eastern Aleppo in over 200 buses and perhaps 750 cars and trucks, all leaving through the Ramouseh gate, where the UN has posted observers.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55866>

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/224AC01D2CCEA1CAC1258092002F25A4?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/224AC01D2CCEA1CAC1258092002F25A4?OpenDocument)

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2016-12-22/note-correspondents-transcript-stakeout-un-special-envoy>

### **UN approves mechanism to lay groundwork for investigations into possible war crimes**

The United Nations General Assembly voted on 22 December to establish an independent panel to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for war crimes or crimes against humanity in Syria. In a [resolution](#) adopted late yesterday by a recorded vote of 105 in favour and 15 against, with 52 abstentions, the Assembly – the universal

body comprising all 193 UN Members States – decided to set up what will be formally known as the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in [Syria] since March 2011, under the auspices of the UN.  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55862>  
[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/L.48](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/L.48)

### **Cash assistance to Palestine refugees from Syria in Jordan provides semblance of stability**

Mohammad Adnan Alwesh and his family – consisting of his wife Samah and their three kids, Tareq, Rayan and Adnan – fled from Yarmouk camp in Damascus in 2014. Their life in Amman has been far from easy since. Mohammad's family are among the more than 3,500 Palestine refugee families from Syria who rely on UNRWA cash assistance in Jordan. The family of five lives in a small, unfurnished apartment in Jabal al-Hussein, a neighbourhood in Amman. Since 2011, the continuing political upheaval in Syria has driven many Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) like Mohammad's family to flee to Jordan.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/cash-assistance-palestine-refugees-syria-jordan-provides-semblance-stability>

### **UN News in Arabic**

Security Council unanimously adopts a resolution on Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/226697/index.html#.WGPpEFMrJpg>

بالإجماع مجلس الأمن يعتمد قرارا حول سوريا

21/12/2016

General Assembly adopts a resolution to establish an independent mechanism to investigate possible war crimes

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/226832/index.html#.WGPpE1MrJpg>

الجمعية العامة تعتمد قرارا لإنشاء آلية مستقلة للمساعدة في مقاضاة المسؤولين عن الانتهاكات في سوريا

22/12/2016

United Nations: Today might be crucial for the evacuation of civilians and fighters from eastern Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/226852/index.html#.WGPpFFMrJpg>

الأمم المتحدة: اليوم قد يكون حاسما لإجلاء المدنيين والمقاتلين من شرق حلب

22/12/2016

United Nations investigation rules out the involvement of US-led coalition aircraft in attack on humanitarian convoy in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/226892/index.html#.WGPpFVMrJpg>

تحقيق الأمم المتحدة يستبعد تورط طائرة قوات التحالف في حادثة أروم الكبرى في سوريا

22/12/2016

Eastern Aleppo evacuation has ended

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/226977/#.WGPstVMrJpg>

انتهاء عملية الإجلاء من شرق حلب

23/12/2016

United Nations: Evacuation of eastern Aleppo has been completed, but the situation in Syria is still disastrous

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227023/index.html#.WGPpGFMrJpg>

الأمم المتحدة: عملية الإجلاء من حلب اكتملت لكن الوضع في سوريا مازال كارثيا

23/12/2016

Ban Ki-moon: My deepest regret on leaving office is the continuing nightmare in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/227201/index.html#.WGPpGVMrJpg>  
بان كي مون: أسفي العميق وأنا أترك المنصب هو الكابوس المستمر في سوريا  
28/12/2016

## **Twitter**

United Nations Retweeted

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria Dec 27

See @UN and partners access map in #Aleppo #Syria <http://ow.ly/uCTI307t6RY>

United Nations @UN Dec 27

Syria: @UNICEF is providing winter clothes & thermal blankets for 700K+ children  
<http://uni.cf/2h7qUat> Pls help: [bit.ly/2gWxXyb](http://bit.ly/2gWxXyb)

United Nations @UN Dec 26

Get more humanitarian updates on Syria via @reliefweb:  
<http://reliefweb.int/country/syr>

United Nations Retweeted

**CHA Syria** @OCHA\_Syria Dec 25

Highest priority is to access areas in east #Aleppo #Syria recently retaken by the Government, read latest report <http://ow.ly/KfYE307r3CZ>

United Nations Retweeted

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria Dec 24

Evacuation of east #Aleppo may have concluded, but the situation in #Syria remains catastrophic. Read @UN statement <http://ow.ly/bnrp307qnYP>

## **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)