



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General on Geneva II Conference

Wrapping up a visit to Lithuania, the Secretary-General told reporters on 18 November that he was hoping to convene an international peace conference on Syria in Geneva by mid-December. "I have been working very closely with the relevant Governments and other actors on the international conference that I plan to convene in Geneva to press for a diplomatic solution to the crisis. Our target date for the conference is mid-December", he said. On a related question from the media, the Acting Deputy Spokesperson noted that JSR Brahimi will hold his next tripartite meeting with Russian and US officials on 25 November in Geneva to take stock of the situation.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2013/db131118.doc.htm>

OPCW adopts destruction plan of Syria's chemical weapons

On 15 November, the OPCW Executive Council approved a detailed plan of destruction to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons. In the plan, Syrian chemical weapons will be transported for destruction outside its territory to ensure their destruction in the safest and soonest manner and no later than 30 June 2014. Welcoming the decision, Director General Ahmet Umzucu noted that the destruction phase was the most challenging and its timely execution will require the existence of a secure environment for the verification and transport of chemical weapons. He called for continuing international support and assistance for this endeavour.

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-executive-council-adopts-plan-for-the-destruction-of-syrias-chemical-weapons-programme-in-t/>

In a statement to the OPCW Executive Council on the same day, Special Coordinator Sigrid Kaag said that while the OPCW-UN Joint Mission had made "heartening progress", substantial work remains to be done and a number of challenges lie ahead. She stressed that one of the Mission's priority was coordination of donor offers to ensure the Joint Mission is adequately equipped--and the Syrian authorities appropriately supported--to ensure removal and destruction of chemical materials within the set ambitious timelines.

http://opcw.unmissions.org/Portals/opcw-un-syria/1_Statement%20by%20Special%20Coordinator%20at%20OPCW%20EC_15Nov13.pdf

Further influx of Syrian refugees in Lebanon

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on 19 November that an estimated 6,000 people have arrived in north-eastern Lebanon from Syria in recent days. The spark for the displacement is the reported escalation in violence in the central town of Qarah and surrounding villages. UNHCR has expressed concerns that ongoing violence in the vicinity of Qarah and central Qalamoun towns could force more to flee Syria into the already stretched east-Bekaa area.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46528&Cr=syria&Cr1=refugee>

General Assembly Committee adopts resolution on human rights

On 19 November, the General Assembly's Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) approved by a recorded vote of 123 in favour to 13 against, with 46 abstentions, a draft resolution on the human rights situation in Syria. By its terms, the General Assembly would strongly condemn the continued widespread and systematic gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as all violations of international humanitarian law by the Syrian authorities and Government-affiliated *shabbiha*.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/gashc4091.doc.htm>

Select UN Stories

WFP and the Armenian Ministry of Diaspora to Provide Emergency Food Assistance to Syrian Armenians

19 Nov 2013 – The UN World Food Programme (WFP) began this week providing assistance to 5,000 Syrian Armenians displaced from Syria who have sought protection in Armenia. This WFP operation was put in place upon a request from the Ministry of Diaspora, responsible for the overall coordination of assistance to Syrian Armenians. "Syrian Armenians were once part of the thriving Armenian diaspora in Syria; many of them have lost their homes and livelihoods due to the conflict in Syria," said WFP Head of Office in Armenia Maria Lukyanova.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/armenia/wfp-and-armenian-ministry-diaspora-provide-emergency-food-assistance-syrian-armenians>

Relevant links

DPI Focus Page on Syria:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria: <http://opcw.unmissions.org>

UNICEF: <http://www.unicef.org/media/index.html>

WFP: <http://www.wfp.org/countries/syria>

OCHA: <http://www.unocha.org/crisis/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/>

UN on social media:

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