



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No. 19/ 27 November 2013**

### **Geneva II Conference**

The Secretary-General announced on 25 November that he will convene the international conference on Syria in Geneva on 22 January 2014. In his statement, he stressed that its goal is the full implementation of the Geneva communiqué of 30 June 2012, including the establishment, based on mutual consent, of a transitional governing body with full executive powers, including over military and security entities. The Secretary-General also urged all regional and international partners to begin working now to take steps to help the Geneva conference succeed, including toward a cessation of violence, humanitarian access, release of detainees and return of Syrian refugees and IDPs.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7305>

At the conclusion of a tri-partite meeting with US and Russian senior officials in Geneva on the same day, JSR Brahimi told reporters that discussions were ongoing with the Syrian Government and the opposition regarding the list of participants in the 22 January conference. He also indicated that a further tri-lateral meeting would take place on 20 December in Geneva. While noting that the conference will start without any preconditions and all issues would be on the table, he said that the formation of the transitional authority is one of the most important issues that has to be agreed upon in the conference.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/Syria/press.asp?sID=45>

### **International Support Group for Lebanon discusses Syrian crisis**

During a meeting of the International Support Group for Lebanon convened by Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on 25 September, participants underlined the continuing need for strong, coordinated support for Lebanon in response to the unprecedented challenges posed by the crisis in Syria. They noted that the next United Nations Regional Response Plan for refugees from Syria, due to be completed in December, would also address the immediate needs of host communities. Participants underlined the importance of the pledging conference that the Secretary-General will convene in Kuwait on 15 January 2014.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/pa13.doc.htm>

### **OPCW-UN Mission continues destruction activities**

The Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission of the OPCW and the United Nations Sigrid Kaag returned to Damascus on 25 November to meet with Syrian officials the on the work of the Joint Mission.

Meanwhile, the OPCW issued a press statement on 22 November saying that it had invited commercial chemical disposal firms to convey to the Organization their expressions of interest in destroying a range of chemical weapons declared by Syria. According to the statement, the chemicals to be disposed off commercially are estimated at 800 metric tons, accounting for a major part of the Syrian stockpile. A significant amount of Syria's declaration of its chemical weapons programme includes chemicals that fall in the category of common industrial chemicals or otherwise chemicals that can safely be rendered harmless or destroyed.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2013/db131125.doc.htm>

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/commercial-chemical-companies-invited-to-dispose-of-a-significant-part-of-chemicals-from-syria/>

## **Select UN Stories**

### **UNRWA Mourns the Death of Staff Member in Syria**

25 November-The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) expresses its deep sorrow at the death, on 24 November, of Mohammad Suheil Yousef Awwad, the ninth staff member to be killed as a result of the Syria conflict. Mr. Awwad died when a mortar shell struck his vehicle in Ghouta, a suburb south-east of Damascus City. He and three other passengers in the vehicle were killed instantly.

UNRWA deplores the mounting toll of civilian deaths and casualties in Syria, including among Palestinians and humanitarian workers. UNRWA calls on all concerned actors to redouble their efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the armed conflict in Syria.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-mourns-death-staff-member-syria>

### **Polio in the Syrian Arab Republic**

26 November 2013 - A total of 17 cases due to wild poliovirus type 1 have been confirmed in Syria. A comprehensive outbreak response continues to be implemented across the region. Seven countries and territories are holding mass polio vaccination campaigns targeting 22 million children under the age of five years. It is anticipated that outbreak response will need to continue for at least six to eight months, depending on the area and based on evolving epidemiology.

[http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013\\_11\\_26polio/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2013_11_26polio/en/index.html)

### **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:**

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)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>