



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Special Envoy briefs the Security Council on the Intra-Syrian talks

In an open briefing of the Security Council on 12 April, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said that modest but incremental progress had been made during the fifth round of the Intra-Syrian talks in Geneva. "The parties engaged on substance for nine full days – not a small feat. The discussions were mostly business like, correct. And on the final day, they told me, all of them, they were ready to return to Geneva for a sixth round in May at our invitation". Speaking to reporters afterwards, Mr. de Mistura said that stakes were high following the recent development and there was a common agreement within the Security Council on the urgency of supporting a political process. The Envoy added that the UN was ready to relaunch the UN facilitated talks in Geneva to ensure that there is a serious attempt to have a ceasefire.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/staffan-de-mistura-enviado-especial-sobre-la-situaci%C3%B3n-en-siria-consejo-de-seguridad-7921%C2%AA-sesi%C3%B3n/5395564851001>

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy-on-the-situation-in-syria-security-council-media-stakeout-12-april-2017/5395804434001>

Nearly 400,000 civilians cut off from aid in eastern Ghouta

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned about the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation for the 400,000 people trapped in eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus amid reports of continued shelling. In the past weeks, Government forces reportedly have prevented commercial trucks from entering eastern Ghouta, resulting in price hikes of basic staples. "It is critical that the UN and partners be given access to the area before the conditions deteriorate further", UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters at UN Headquarters on 11 April. The last UN humanitarian delivery to any of the besieged areas of eastern Ghouta areas was nearly six months ago. The UN also reminded all parties of their obligation to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure as required by international humanitarian law and human rights law.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170411.doc.htm>

UN humanitarian convoy reaches more than 30,000 people in Rural Damascus

A UN/Syrian Arab Red Crescent inter-agency humanitarian convoy delivered life-saving assistance, including food, water, sanitation and health supplies, to 35,000 Syrians in need on 8 April in the of Yalda, Babila and Beit Sahm in Rural Damascus. Some surgical items were, however, removed from the supplies. The last inter-agency convoy to the area was nearly two years ago.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170410.doc.htm>

Briefing the Security Council, UN official calls for inquiry in alleged chemical weapons attack in Syria

During an emergency meeting on 7 April, Security Council members were briefed by Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman on United States airstrikes against a military base in Syria. At the outset of his remarks, Mr. Feltman recalled alarming reports of an alleged chemical weapons attack which had resulted in 86 deaths and more than 300 injuries on 4 April. "It is important that this Council send a strong, collective message that any use of chemical weapons will not be tolerated and will have consequences," Mr. Feltman emphasized. He added that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security, urging the 15-member body to unite and exercise that responsibility to investigate the alleged use of chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhoun.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56524#>

Secretary-General urges restraint following US airstrikes against Syria, calls for accountability

In a statement following the US air strikes in Syria, the Secretary-General António Guterres decried the "abhorrent" chemical weapons attack in Khan Sheikhoun, and the death of and injury to many innocent civilians. "I have long stated that there needs to be accountability for such crimes, in line with existing international norms and Security Council resolutions." At the same time, the Secretary-General appealed for restraint to avoid any act that could deepen the suffering of the Syrian people and reaffirmed that there is no other way to solve the conflict than through a political solution. He urged the parties to urgently renew their commitment to making progress in the Geneva talks.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-04-07/secretary-generals-statement-syria>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56524#>

Use of chemical weapons near Idlib may amount to a war crime-OHCHR

The alleged use of chemical weapons on Khan Sheikhoun near Idlib, if confirmed, would amount to a war crime, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) said on 7 April. OHCHR noted that the attack on Khan Sheikhoun was far from an isolated incident. There had been many other incidents in various parts of Syria in recent weeks where civilians had perished. Idlib and Raqqqa were among the governorates that had been subjected to the most intensive bombing to date. In March alone, the UN Human Rights Office had documented that more than 130 civilians had reportedly been killed and a further 170 injured in Raqqqa, and more than 100 killed – a third of them children – and over 50 injured in Idlib.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/43864DDE236AEC88C12580FB0050B4B6?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/43864DDE236AEC88C12580FB0050B4B6?OpenDocument)

Over \$6 billion pledged by international donors at Syria conference

Pledges for USD \$6 billion have been received at the Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria, a spokesman for the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on 7 April. The contribution will help respond to humanitarian needs inside Syria and neighbouring countries for 2017. Additionally, 41 Member States pledged USD \$3.7 billion for 2018 and beyond.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/43864DDE236AEC88C12580FB0050B4B6?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/43864DDE236AEC88C12580FB0050B4B6?OpenDocument)

Rise above 'fractured' discourse on refugees, migrants, Secretary-General tells General Assembly

Addressing a General Assembly meeting on the global refugee crisis on 7 April on behalf of the Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet Maria Luisa Ribeiro Viotti recalled that some 11 million Syrians had fled their country and more than six million remain displaced inside Syria. Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan host the largest numbers of refugees in the region. In her remarks, she appealed to Member States to rise above the fractured discourse on refugees and migrants and adopt courageous policies that guarantee the safety and security of our citizens without compromising on compassion and empathy. In the words of the Secretary-General: "No country can do it alone and no country can refuse to do its part", she said.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-04-07/secretary-generals-remarks-general-assembly-meeting-global-awareness>

UNRWA Commissioner-General concludes visit to Russia

The Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, concluded a two-day mission to Moscow on 7 April. He met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mikhail L. Bogdanov to discuss the worsening humanitarian situation and the needs of Palestine refugees following the Commissioner-General's visit to Aleppo and Damascus. "The recent decision by Russia to establish a multi-year funding agreement is an important step and a strong message to Palestine refugees that the world remains committed to upholding their rights." said Mr. Krähenbühl.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-commissioner-general-concludes-official-visit-russian-federation>

UN Radio in Arabic

UN warns of deteriorating situation in Eastern Ghouta and demands humanitarian access
الأمم المتحدة تحذر من تدهور الوضع في الغوطة الشرقية وتطالب بالوصول الإنساني

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239055/index.html>

2017-04-11

Aid convoy arrives in three Syrian towns for the first time in two years

وصول قافلة مساعدات إلى ثلاث بلدات سورية للمرة الأولى من عامين

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/238941/index.html#.WO4r8bdMQIE>

2017-04-10

UN urges parties involved in Syria conflict to comply with international humanitarian law
الأمم المتحدة تحث الأطراف المنخرطة بالعمليات العسكرية في سوريا على الامتثال للقانون الإنساني الدولي

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/238735/index.html#.WO4sJ7dMQIE>

2017-04-07

Secretary-General calls for restraint, following the United States bombardment on the air base in Syria

في أعقاب القصف الجوي الأمريكي على قاعدة الشعيرات في سوريا الأمين العام يدعو إلى ضبط النفس

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/238698/index.html#.WO4sOLdMQIE>

2017-04-07

Twitter

United Nations@UN -11 April

See how @Syria_IOM staff are using art to help communities affected by the conflict in Syria: <http://bit.ly/2oN25AW> via @UNmigration

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 8 April

Today @SYRedCrescent @UN delivering food, WASH, nutrition & health supplies to people in hard-to-reach Yalda, Babila & Beit Sahem #Syria

United Nations Retweeted UNFPA-Syria- 8 April

As @UNFPA faces funding cuts, your help is needed to save lives in crisis zones, including Syria. <http://bit.ly/2ocdaNL>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 7 April

At least 27 children confirmed killed, a further 546 people injured in #Idlib #Syria attack said @UNICEF

UN Geneva@UNGeneva- 7 April

"Use of chemical weapons in #Syria, if confirmed, would amount to a war crime" - @UNHumanRights spokesperson to @UNGeneva press corps.

Facebook

The UNRWA Education in Emergencies programme in Syria supports 53,135 Palestine refugee child. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2ohhoEp#forPalesinerefugees>
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1390702084309688/?type=3&theater>

In response to the ongoing Syria crisis, UNRWA has played a crucial role in ensuring that Palestine refugee children from Syria, including those who have been displaced to Jordan and Lebanon, are able to access quality education through the UNRWA Education in Emergencies programme.

Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2ohhoEp>
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/posts/1390655744314322>

A recent UNRWA report found that UNRWA students in Syria were overall the best performing among others in the region.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl: "Credit must also go to our Education in Emergencies programme, delivering the promise of an educated future to more than 46,000 students in ways which are innovative and flexible."

[#forPalestinerefugees](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1389463631100200/?type=3&theater>

Did you know that the UNRWA Education in Emergencies programme in Syria aims to mitigate the impact of the conflict in terms of the UNRWA students' feeling of safety and security, their well-being and ultimately their ability to learn?

[#forPalestinerefugees](#)
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1387796627933567/?type=3&theater>

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

#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/>

#NoLostGeneration: The initiative was launched by UNICEF and partners in 2013 to focus attention on the plight of children affected by the Syrian crisis. By articulating real concerns about the possible 'loss' of a generation of children to the effects of violence and displacement, the initiative put education and child protection at the centre of the response inside Syria and across the refugee hosting countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt).
<http://nolostgeneration.org/about>

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>

UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/crisis-syria>

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