



## **Syrian Crisis**

### **United Nations Response**



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

**No. 194/19 April 2017**

#### **UN senior officials speak out against attack on convoy, renew calls for safety and protection of people being evacuated**

The United Nations condemned on 15 April the attack near Rasheedin, in the Aleppo Governorate on a convoy carrying evacuees from the besieged towns of Foah and Kefraya to Government-controlled areas. "We call on the parties to ensure the safety and security of those waiting to be evacuated. Those responsible for today's attack must be brought to justice", UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. Also reacting to the attack, Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien urged parties to the conflict to protect civilians. "International humanitarian law is very clear: warring parties must protect civilians and distinguish between military and civilian targets". While the United Nations was not involved in the agreement regarding the besieged four towns, he said that the UN was ready to increase our support for the evacuees. Humanitarian organizations, including the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and U.N. partners, provided assistance to the injured, including by transferring to hospitals. In a separate statement, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake expressed horror about the bus convoy attack. "We must draw from this not only anger, but renewed determination to reach all the innocent children throughout Syria with help and comfort".

The deadly attack was also condemned by the Security Council in a press statement issued by Council President Nikki Haley (United States) on 18 April. The members of the Security Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice and stressed that those responsible for these terrorist attacks should be held accountable.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sqsm18494.doc.htm>

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Statement%20Syria%202016.04.17.pdf>

[https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_95593.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_95593.html)

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12796.doc.htm>

#### **Attack on convoy likely amounts to war crime - UN Human Rights Office**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights said on 18 April that according to the Aleppo Forensic Medical Department, hospitals in Aleppo city had received the bodies of 96 civilians, including 67 children. At least 120 civilians were also treated in the Aleppo University Hospital. OHCHR said that some of the injured civilians remain missing - some are believed to have been taken by armed opposition groups to opposition controlled hospitals in Idlib Governorate. "It is an attack which likely amounts to a war crime", OHCHR Spokesman Rupert Colville told journalists. "We reiterate the High Commissioner's call for accountability and the need to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court," Mr. Colville said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21506&LangID=E>

### **OPCW says allegation of chemical weapon attack near Idlib is credible**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons said on 13 April that preliminary assessment showed that allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Khan Sheikhun area of Idlib were credible. At a meeting of the OPCW executive Council in The Hague, OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü shared the steps taken by a fact-finding mission to investigate the incident. He said that experts had collected samples which were currently being analysed, together with information gathered from various sources <https://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-executive-council-meets-to-address-alleged-use-of-chemical-weapons-in-the-syrian-arab-republic/>

### **Un Radio in Arabic**

The Security Council condemns the terrorist attack in the Rasheedin area in Aleppo

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239495/#.WPd1yILMwdU>

2017-04-19

High Commissioner for Human Rights renews call to refer the situation in Syria to International Criminal Court

[مفوضية حقوق الإنسان تجدد دعوتها لإحالة الوضع في سوريا إلى المحكمة الجنائية الدولية](#)

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239427/index.html#.WPd16VLMwU>

2017-04-18

United Nations calls upon all parties in Syria to allow the delivery of life-saving relief to those in need

[الأمم المتحدة تدعو كل الأطراف في سوريا إلى السماح بتوصيل الإغاثة المنقذة للحياة للمحتاجين](#)

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239349/index.html#.WPd1\\_VLMwU](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239349/index.html#.WPd1_VLMwU)

2017-04-17

Secretary-General condemns attack on civilians in western Aleppo

[الأمين العام يدين هجوما في الراشدين بغرب حلب](#)

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239343/#.WPd2I1LMwdU>

2017-04-15

The alleged use of chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhun is credible

[ادعاء استخدام السلاح الكيميائي في خان شيخون ذو مصداقية](#)

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/239333/#.WPd2LFLMwdU>

2017-04-13

### **Twitter**

United Nations@UN- 18 April

Syria: @UNHumanRights calls on all parties to ensure the safety & protection of all people being evacuated <http://ow.ly/NhLU30aX8Ng>

United Nations@UN-18 April

Over 5 million Syrians have taken refuge in the 5 neighbouring countries. @UNMigration info: <http://bit.ly/2osVL4H>

OCHA Syria✓@OCHA\_Syria-16 April

More than 60 children reportedly killed in an attack on a bus convoy yesterday outside #Aleppo #Syria said @UNICEF <http://ow.ly/NRvG30aTKcK>

OCHA Syria✓@OCHA\_Syria-16 April

Horrified by reports of scores of people killed during evacuation from besieged #Foah #Kefraya #Syria @UNReliefChief <http://ow.ly/ISch30aTMd7>

United Nations Retweeted UN News Centre@UN\_News\_Centre – 16 April

Intn'l law very clear: warring parties must protect civilians – @UN aid chief, condemning attack on #Syrian evacuees

United Nations retweeted @UNICEF- 16 April

Statement by Anthony Lake, UNICEF Executive Director, on 60 children reportedly killed outside #Aleppo yesterday.

UN Spokesperson@UN\_Spokesperson- 15 April

We condemn Saturday's attack against a civilian convoy in #Syria: <http://bit.ly/2oeyn77>

## **Facebook**

United Nations shared United Nations Human Rights's photo- 17 April

"Our futures globally are intertwined, mutually dependent. It's up to all of us to reach out to include each of us, to work together for our mutually assured dignity, not destruction. And that is a quest for the truly brave."

-- United Nations Human Rights chief Zeid.

United Nations shared United Nations Human Rights' post- 13 April

Syria: "Being released and not killed was not down to the humanity of the torturers...but thanks to you. Human rights organizations, bloggers, activities, organizations...your support in undertaking a large solidarity campaign and therefore putting the regime under pressure not to kill me but to ultimately release me", says Noura Aljizawi, Syrian activist. Read more here: <http://ow.ly/xGGk30aLC2j>

## **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)

**#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](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>

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/](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)