



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

No. 204/28 June 2017

UN Human Rights Chief urges forces in Al-Raqqa to protect civilians

High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on 28 June voiced grave concern for the fate of civilians caught up in the anti-ISIL/Da'esh offensive in Al-Raqqa, where up to 100,000 civilians remain trapped as the offensive intensifies. According to the Human Rights Office, at least 173 civilians have been killed by air and ground strikes since 1 June – although the real death toll may be much higher. "The intense bombardment of Al-Raqqa over the past three weeks has reportedly left civilians terrified and confused about where they can seek refuge as they are caught between ISIL's monstrosities and the fierce battle to defeat it," High Commissioner Zeid said. "Civilians must not be sacrificed for the sake of rapid military victories," he stressed. The High Commissioner called on all forces battling ISIL in Al-Raqqa, including international forces, to review their operations to ensure full compliance with international law, including taking all feasible precautions to avoid loss of civilian lives.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21810&LangID=E>

"We are at a time of testing of political will for real de-escalation"-Special Envoy warns

Briefing the Security Council on 27 June, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said that serious efforts were underway to deliver further implementation agreements regarding the de-escalation zones before an Astana meeting on 4-5 July. The Envoy said that since the signing in May of the de-escalation agreement in Astana many towns had returned to some degree of normalcy. However, in some areas, fighting has continued and even intensified. "We are at a time of testing whether the political will exists for real de-escalation and more meaningful political talks and move beyond preparatory talks", he also told the Council. On the preparations for the next round of intra-Syrian talks in Geneva from 10 to 14 July, the Envoy said that he encouraged the invitees to prepare actively and looked forward to discuss issues across four "baskets" – governance issues, constitutional issues, electoral issues, counter-terrorism, security governance and medium term confidence-building issues. Mr. de Mistura said he was considering to convene a further round towards late August or early September, before the UN General Assembly meeting.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-06-27/note-correspondents-staffan-de-mistura-un-special-envoy>

WHO delivers medical treatments to two displaced people camps in Al-Raqqa governorate

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 22 June responded to an acute shortage of life saving medicines by dispatching a shipment of more than 12,000 treatments to the two main camps for internally displaced persons in rural Al-Raqqa. This shipment will support treatment of patients who lack adequate access to medical care. "We are eager and committed to deliver regular health assistance to people in all locations and presently for the civilians in the eastern and north eastern areas in Syria where the needs are pressing," said Ms Elizabeth Hoff, WHO representative in Syria. Al Karameh camp in rural Al-Raqqa governorate hosts more than 35,000 children, women and men while Ain-Issa camp hosts more than 3,500 people.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/more-than-12-000-treatments-delivered-to-ain-issa-and-karameh-camps-in-al-raqqa-governorate.html>

UNHCR welcomes admission of Syrians by Morocco

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) welcomed on 22 June Morocco's decision to admit a group of Syrian refugees stranded in difficult circumstances at the country's border with Algeria since 17 April. The remaining 28 refugees from an original group of 41, including women and children, were collected on 20 June by the Moroccan police from the border and transported by bus to Bouarfa, from where they were transferred to Rabat. UNHCR is working with the authorities of Morocco and other countries to find a durable solution to the plight of these vulnerable refugees.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/press/2017/6/594b8b2d4/unhcr-welcomes-admission-syrians-morocco.html>

Inter-agency aid convoy reaches rural Homs

On 22 June, a UN/Red Cross/Syrian Arab Red Crescent inter-agency humanitarian convoy delivered food and other items to nearly 110,000 people in the Ar-Rastan area of rural Homs. According to the office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the last inter-agency convoy to the area was on 30 March. The UN continues to call for safe, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need across the country, particularly the more than 4.5 million men, women and children in hard-to-reach and besieged areas.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170623.doc.htm>

UN Radio in Arabic

الأمين العام يوجه نداء إلى جميع الأطراف المتحاربة في سوريا من أجل حماية المدنيين والبنية التحتية

The Secretary-General appeals to all warring parties in Syria to protect civilians and infrastructure.

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245743/#.WVO_SOvyuUI
2017/06/21

مفوضية اللاجئين ترحب بقرار المغرب السماح بدخول لاجئين سوريين

UNHCR welcomes Morocco's decision to allow Syrian refugees to enter Morocco.

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/245888/#.WVO_0OvyuUk
2017/06/22

فيما يحث على دعم اجتماعي أستانة وجنيف المقبلين، دي مستورا يشير إلى أن الصورة في سوريا مختلطة

While urging support for the future meetings in Astana and Geneva, Special Envoy de Mistura points out the mixed situation in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/246146/#.WVPAY-vyuUk>

2017/06/27

Twitter

UN Human Rights@UNHumanRights – 28 June

"Civilians must not be sacrificed for the sake of rapid military victories in #Raqa - #Zeid

<http://ow.ly/WexU30d2PQj>

UN Media Liaison @UNMediaLiaison – 27 June

#UNSC at 10am EST: Briefing by Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura on #MiddleEast

#Syria. Follow live: <http://webtv.un.org> @Bolivia_ONU

World Food Programme @WFP – 26 June

This is what a year of fighting #hunger looks like. Know more about WFP in Syria with the interactive year in review <http://publications.wfp.org/en/annual-report/2016> ...

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 24 June

The @UN wishes all in #Syria a blessed #EidElFitr

كل عام والجميع في #سورية بخير

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 23 June

A @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC convoy delivered #ArRastan #Homs #Syria w/ food, nutrition, health & other emergency supplies for 107,500 people

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 23 June

While displacement out of #ArRaqa is difficult to track, @UNOCHA estimates 50,000 people displaced. Latest report: <http://ow.ly/ABLx30cPyLY>

OCHA Syria ✓ @OCHA_Syria- 22 June

The @UN @antonioguterres deeply alarmed by the suffering of people in #Syria particularly those in #ArRaqa. READ: <http://ow.ly/FqZi30cNCbs>

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/>