



## **Syrian Crisis**

### **United Nations Response**



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

**No. 209/9 August 2017**

#### **UN concerned about safety of thousands of civilians in Raqqa**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) on 9 August voiced deep concern about the safety and protection of the thousands of civilians inside Raqqa city. An estimated 10,000 to 25,000 people remain trapped in the city amid ongoing violence. The humanitarian community is assisting displaced people with food and medicine in at least 46 sites, camps or areas of high concentration of internally displaced people. In July, over 263,000 people were reached with relief assistance. Due to the fighting on the ground, the UN has currently no access to Raqqa city. The UN reminds all military actors of their obligations to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access, in line with international humanitarian law.

<https://www.un.org/sq/en/content/ossq/noon-briefing-highlight>

#### **Foreign terrorist fighters return from Syria disillusioned by the groups they joined - UN study**

Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) are motivated to leave Syria and return to their countries of origin by disappointment and disenfranchisement by the organization they joined, according to a study conducted by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) on 4 August. The report is based on direct interviews with 43 fighters from 12 nationalities in seven countries. While foreign terrorist fighters are most likely to be male, young and disadvantaged economically, educationally, and in terms of the labour market, the study found that the flow of women, especially from Western countries has increased since early 2016. The authors believe that despite some shortcomings – such as the small sample size – the survey remains a useful tool for Member States to enhance their understanding of phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, and design more effective policies and programmes to stem the flow and facilitate the effective reintegration of returnees.

[http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/assets/img/Report\\_Final\\_20170727.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/assets/img/Report_Final_20170727.pdf)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=57312>

#### **UN Envoy hails Lebanon's generosity towards Syrian refugees**

Speaking at the launch of a media campaign on reducing tensions between Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees on 3 August, Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Sigrid Kaag, stressed Lebanon's exceptional generosity towards all refugees. Ms. Kaag said that there is no other country in the world that bears the burden as graciously, generously and with an open spirit and heart. Lebanese Information Minister, as well as representatives of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and other partners attended the press encounter alongside Ms. Kaag.

<https://unscol.unmissions.org/special-coordinator-kaag-launch-media-campaign-reducing-tensions-between-lebanese-host-communities>

#### **Investigative panel on Syria calls for justice for the Yazidis**

Three years after the Da'esh attack on the Yazidis, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria urged the international community to recognize what it calls the crime of genocide being committed by Da'esh against the Yazidis and to take steps to refer the situation to justice. In a statement on 3 August, the Commission said that thousands of Yazidi men and boys remain missing and Da'esh continues to subject some 3,000 women and girls in Syria to horrific violence, including brutal daily rapes and beatings.

[https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear\\_en\)/EF8BAA8F2E4436C1C12581710050EBDE?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/EF8BAA8F2E4436C1C12581710050EBDE?OpenDocument)

### **Secretary-General regrets resignation of Syria investigative panel Commissioner**

Answering questions from journalists on 7 August following the resignation of Carla del Ponte from the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, the UN Spokesperson said that the Secretary-General noted with regret her decision and is grateful for her service and her contribution to the important work of the panel. As the international community continues to search for a political solution to the Syrian crisis, the Secretary-General reiterates the importance of accountability for crimes against civilians during the conflict. In that regard, he supports the continued work of the Commission as an important and integral part of the accountability process.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170807.doc.htm>

### **WHO delivers medical supplies to Qamishli to support humanitarian response**

For the first time in three years, the World Health Organization (WHO) delivered on 1 August about 30 tons of medicines and medical supplies by road to health facilities and mobile clinics in Qamishli. The supplies will support the delivery of health services to displaced people from Raqqa, rural Deir Ez-zor and Hassakeh governorates in the northern and eastern regions of Syria.

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-delivers-medicines-and-medical-supplies-to-al-qamishli.html>

### **UNRWA holds annual education conference in Damascus**

On 31 July, the education programme of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Syria inaugurated its annual conference in Damascus. The two-day event brought together school teachers, counsellors and principals, as well as other education support staff, including protection staff, the teachers' union, members of the community and partner agencies such as UNESCO and UNICEF. The yearly conference provides a platform for a comprehensive review of the previous academic year and discussion on the challenges, achievements and overall direction of the programme.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/annual-unrwa-education-conference-syria-reviews-achievements-and-challenges>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

Severe humanitarian needs in Raqqa and Deir Ezzour

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249474/index.html#.WYtLXesrLcs>

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria expresses appreciation for del Ponte's contributions

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249426/index.html#.WYtMOesrLcs>

A Syria youth spokes about sustainable development goals and peace

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249315/index.html#.WYtNm-srLcs>

From Maaloola, a struggle for two girls to finish their education in Lebanon

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249116/index.html#.WYtOJ-srLcs>

A Syrian refugee talks about his experience and success in Greece

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249222/index.html#.WYtOZ-srLcs>

Media campaign to defuse tensions between Syrian refugees and Lebanese citizens

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249153/index.html#.WYtOm-srLcs>

International Independent Commission for Syria calls for justice on the third anniversary of ISIL's attack on the Yazidis

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/249139/index.html#.WYtO1OsrLcs>

## **Twitter**

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria- 9 August

"I gathered the children and ran away," watch one man's account of escaping #ISIL with his family #ArRaqqa #SyriaCivilians are #NotATarget

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria- 8 August

Read @UNICEF staff account of first aid convoy to besieged #Nashabiyeh #EastGhouta for 7,200 people in need: <http://ow.ly/4b4530efwRJ>

OCHA Syria ✓@OCHA\_Syria- 7 August

World Humanitarian Day is coming up recognizing that all aid workers and civilians in #Syria are #NotATarget. [See: http://ow.ly/ySqX30edj0u](http://ow.ly/ySqX30edj0u)

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees- 7 August

"It helps me forget my troubles a bit." For Mohammed, his pigeons are a symbol of peace and a constant reminder of home, Syria.

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA- 1 August

There are 58,734 ppl seeking #Refuge in #Syria <http://goo.gl/bWNR3A>  
@UNHCRinSYRIA provides them w/ #protection, shelter & other services

UNICEF MENA @UNICEFmena - 3 August

#Syria: 200,000 people have fled #Raqqa since April, half of them are children.  
@UNICEF is on the ground responding to their needs:

## **Facebook**

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency- 8 August

Two years ago, these cousins were getting ready to resettle in Canada. Soak up their cuteness and we'll have a update on their reunion later this week!

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency shared AJ+'s video- 7 August

Smart sisters Sara and Taqla are top of the class in Lebanon - and want to use their brains to rebuild Syria.

#Throwback to 1970: #Palestine\_refugees have always been eager to learn! Photo from Sbeineh #refugee camp in #Syria. Find more photos from the UNRWA #Archive at [unrwa.photoshelter.com](http://unrwa.photoshelter.com/#forPalestinerefugees)  
<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1510958822284013/?type=3&theater>

Meet Siham and Hamida!

These two sisters are Palestine refugees living in Syria. The last time they had seen each other was over a year ago, due to the conflict in Aleppo, Syria. Road closures, a lack of continuous phone access and physical disabilities had made it harder for the sisters to stay in touch. Visit our website to know how UNRWA helped them reunite:

<http://bit.ly/2ua5nVk>

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1507949942584901/?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](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, more than 15 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/>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 21 July

Cash assistance allows me to buy milk for my 3-year-old son," Siba, 21, #Syria. Siba received cash assistance, thx to donors like #Japan

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/888346603312091136>