



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Geneva II Conference

JSR Brahimi's Spokesperson announced on 17 December that the international peace conference on Syria will be held in two parts. A one-day opening session will take place in Montreux, followed by talks restricted to the two Syrian delegations at the UN Office in Geneva on 24 January. The talks would not be open-ended and a time-frame would be set after the negotiations start, she said.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46760&Cr=syria&Cr1=#.UrG5Tyd5iGk>

Secretary-General appeals for accountability

During a briefing to the Security Council on 16 December to present the final report of Professor Sellstrom's team of chemical weapons inspectors, the Secretary-General called for accountability for those responsible for the use of chemical weapon attacks in Syria. "The Security Council has said repeatedly that the use of weapons of mass destruction is a serious threat to international peace and security, and thus the Security Council has a primary role in bringing the perpetrators to justice", he noted. In his remarks, the Secretary-General further reiterated his appeal to the parties to take confidence building measures before the Geneva II conference, notably a cease-fire, unimpeded humanitarian access, the release of prisoners and the lifting of various sieges. The report which was submitted to the Secretary-General on 12 December concluded that chemical weapons have been used against civilians in the ongoing conflict, not only in the Ghouta area of Damascus on 21 August 2013, but also on a smaller scale in six other sites, including Jobar, Saraqueb, Ashrafiyah Sahnaya and Khan Al Assal.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2091#.UrHPASd5iGk
<https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/finalreport.pdf>

Head of OPCW outlines destruction plan for chemical weapons

OPCW Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü presented a plan for destroying Syria's chemical weapons outside the country to his Organization's Executive Council on 17 December. The plan aims to meet a deadline set by the Council to destroy Syria's priority chemicals by 31 March 2014 and other mostly commodity chemicals by 30 June 2014.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=11280&language=en-US>

Global humanitarian appeal is launched

On 16 December, USG for Humanitarian Affairs Valerie Amos launched a global humanitarian appeal to donors in Geneva seeking \$12.9 billion in funding for life-saving aid for millions of people in 2014. Of this, \$6.5 billion in funds was sought for

Syria and the neighbouring countries, one of the biggest amounts requested for a single humanitarian emergency in the history of the United Nations. Presenting the response plan, Ms Amos said that the UN support would include communities in neighbouring countries like Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq which hosting thousands of refugees.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/under-secretary-general-valerie-amos-remarks-press-launch-overview>

Airlift of humanitarian aid from Iraq to Syria

As displaced families face one the harshest winters ever, WFP, the UNHCR and UNICEF started airlifting urgently needed humanitarian aid from Erbil, Iraq to Qamishly in northeast Syria. The first WFP-chartered flight landed on 15 December with almost 40 metric tons of food. WFP plans to use 11 more airlifts to move enough food to feed over 30,000 people for one month.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/un-airlifts-humanitarian-aid-northeast-syria-displaced-families-face-harsh-winter>

Select UN stories

UNRWA Launches 2014 Syria Response Plan

East Jerusalem, 17 December - The war in Syria is devastating the lives of over half a million Palestine refugees who have been living in exile for six decades. The UNRWA Syria Regional Crisis Response Plan for 2014 sets out the Agency's interventions to strengthen the resilience of Palestine refugees, and to help them weather the dangers of the conflict. Of the 540,000 Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA in Syria, about 270,000 are displaced in the country, and an estimated 80,000 have fled.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-launches-2014-syria-response-plan>

DPI Focus Page on Syria:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=146&Body=Syria&Body1=>

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/

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

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