



## **Syrian Crisis** United Nations Response



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

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### **ISIL and Syrian Government responsible for use of chemical weapons, UN investigative panel tells the Security Council**

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da'esh) was responsible for using sulfur mustard in a September 2016 attack in Umm Hawsh and the Syrian Government was accountable for the release of sarin in an April 2017 attack in Khan Sheikhoun, the head of a Security Council-mandated investigation said on 7 November. "There has been sufficient evidence of a credible and reliable nature to make its findings," said Edmond Mulet, Head of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (OPCW-UN JIM), during a briefing to the Security Council. He added that despite the challenges of investigating complex cases during an armed conflict, the Mechanism has taken great care to ensure that its methodology and findings were technically and scientifically sound. He said the Mechanism has been guided by the terms of reference approved by the Security Council, conducting its work "in an independent, impartial and professional manner." Mr. Mulet noted that 12 Member States provided case-specific information, including Syria.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58051>

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1736826.pdf>

### **UN voices concern about the situation of thousands of civilians trapped in east Ghouta**

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on 7 November expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situation in east Ghouta. Almost 400,000 civilians remain inside the besieged area, where they face deteriorating humanitarian, health, living and security conditions. The population represents nearly 95 per cent of the entire besieged population within Syria. Recent World Food Programme (WFP) assessments indicate severe shortages of food supplies and a sharp increase in the prices of basic commodities. The UN is also concerned over a recent escalation of airstrikes in Aleppo and Idlib Governorates. A UN Spokesperson called on all parties to the conflict to take all measures to protect civilians, as required under international humanitarian law.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db171107.doc.htm>

### **UN Refugee Chief calls on world leaders to find solutions to global displacement**

High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi on 2 November urged global leaders to find political solutions to the world's conflicts, if the swelling numbers of forcibly displaced people are ever to return home. "Securing solutions for the millions of people uprooted around the world, and avoiding a repeat of the massive outflows that have taken place over recent years, ultimately rests on political solutions," the High Commissioner said in a briefing to the Security Council. Painting a dire picture of the

reality the international community now faces, he said that a succession of major new crises has caused massive displacement across virtually all regions of the globe and that the number of people forcibly displaced worldwide is now approaching 66 million – up from 42 million in 2009. Mr. Grandi cited several ongoing crises, including in Syria and Iraq, which together accounted for a quarter of all those forcibly displaced.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58018>

### **UNRWA students work with overseas partner school online as part of “My Voice- My School” project**

This autumn, students across 15 schools in Syria, Gaza, Belgium, the United Kingdom and Norway are connecting through the virtual exchange project, My Voice-My School. Over 12 weeks, UNRWA students are working with their overseas partner schools to explore the importance and impact of education, and develop a student advocacy project suggesting how education can be improved for all young people. During the project, classes in both locations meet online three times via video link to share ideas, and student projects and discussions are filmed and photographed to bring these young voices to the attention of a wider audience via the press and social media.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/virtual-exchange-syria-and-gaza-quality-education-all>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

JIM report confirms the responsibility of the Syrian forces and ISIL for using chemical weapons in Khan Sheikhoun and Umm Hawsh

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268166>

تقرير دولي يؤكد مسؤولية القوات السورية وداعش عن استخدام أسلحة كيميائية في خان شيخون وأم حوش  
2017-11-07

UNESCO condemns the killing of journalists in Iraq and Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268003>

اليونسكو تدين مقتل صحفيين في العراق وسوريا  
2017-11-03

More than 350,000 people have been displaced from Deir al-Zour, since August

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/268013>

منذ أغسطس، نزوح أكثر من 350 ألف شخص من دير الزور  
2017-11-03

High Commissioner Grandi urges the international community to address the root causes of conflicts

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/267942>

### **Twitter**

United Nations - 2 November

After briefing the UN Security Council, @RefugeesChief spoke live with UNHCR's @melissarfleming:

<http://bit.ly/2A1pCD4>

UNHCR Syria@UNHCR in SYRIA - 2 November

Children of E #Aleppo #Syria witnessed severe conditions, now back in neighborhoods coping, w/help of @Refugees partners #ChildProtection

UNHCR Syria Retweeted The UN Times @TheUNTimes - 1 November

UN agencies deliver critical food aid, medicines to families trapped in rural #Damascus in #Syria:  
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58004#.WfkCDROPK34>

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA -1 November

UNHCR Relief Items incl #winter clothes, blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping matts & mattresses. w/  
@UNinSyria @ICRC\_sy & @SYRedCrescent

UNHCR Syria@UNHCRinSYRIA - 1 November

#Breaking Humanitarian aid including UNHCR relief items reached 92,750 ppl in hard-to-reach  
Talbiseh in #Homs & Tull El-Homor in #Hama #Syria

### **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/>