



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Geneva II Conference

At a press conference on 23 December, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that the preparations are on track to convene the Geneva II conference and that the list of invitees is almost complete. More than 30 nations have been invited to the conference to be held on 24 January 2014. "Negotiations will be difficult, but without them, there is only bloodshed and despair on the horizon," the Secretary-General said. The goal of the conference is to achieve a political solution to the conflict by implementing the Geneva communiqué, which was adopted on 30 June 2012, and calls for establishing a transitional government that would lead to the holding of elections.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46812&Cr=syria&Cr1=#.UrmmsPtPm4>

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3216>

JSR expresses concerns ahead of the Geneva II

At a 20 December press briefing on the preparations for Geneva II, JSR Brahimi expressed his "anger and regret" about the intensified fighting which is preventing access for humanitarian aid and concern for an increasing number of kidnappings and prisoners unjustly detained. He said that the UN and NGOs are trying to get aid to about 10 million people out of 23, who need help. "Getting to them is still a problem and I hope we are going to work, all of us, to make sure that access improves to all the people who need help."

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3212>

OPCW-UN Joint Mission receives funds from EU for weapons disposal

The EU will contribute 12 million euros to the OPCW Special Trust Fund, Catherine Ashton announced on 20 December. The Director-General of the OPCW said that the funds would be used "to defray the costs of commercial disposal of chemicals which are to be removed from Syria." The OPCW has issued a notice inviting tenders.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=11516&language=en-US>

The UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide

In a statement on the 20 December, Adama Dieng, the Special Adviser on Genocide expressed deep concern that reprisal attacks are being committed against Alawites and minorities groups perceived to be associated with the Syrian Government. "I urge all parties to the conflict to adhere to international humanitarian and human rights law, which prohibits the targeting of individuals or groups based on religious or ethnic identity as well as attacks against civilians not taking direct part in hostilities," Mr. Dieng said.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/Syria/press.asp?sID=44>

Second Pledging Conference to be held in January 2014

The second Pledging Conference for Syria aims to rally international financial support to meet the basic humanitarian needs of these millions of Syrians. It will be held on 15 January 2014 in Kuwait City and will be chaired by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon and hosted by the Emir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah. OCHA has said that more than 2.2 million Syrians have fled to neighbouring countries since January 2012 and more than 9 million Syrians need assistance now, including 6.5 million people displaced inside their own country.

<http://www.unocha.org/syria-humanitarian-pledging-conference>

UNRWA unable to deliver aid to Palestinian refugees in Damascus suburb

UNRWA issued a statement on 20 December expressing its concern and underscoring the plight of Palestinian refugees in the Damascus suburb of Yarmouk. The agency said that it has been unable to deliver desperately needed supplies to the area since September 2013.

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/2013/12/unrwa-concerned-about-fate-of-some-20000-palestinian-refugees-in-syria/index.html>

Select UN stories

Enforced disappearances in Syria widespread, reports UN rights panel

Enforced disappearances are being committed throughout Syria as part of a campaign of intimidation and as a tactic of war, says a report published by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria investigating human rights violations in the country. The report, released in Geneva on 19 December, draws on first-hand interviews conducted by the Commission over the period between March 2011 – when the conflict began – and November 2013.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=46781&Cr=Syria&Cr1=>

Lacking a nationality, some refugees from Syria face acute risks

A 2013 survey in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq found that some 10 per cent of Syrian Kurdish refugees are stateless, as many were forced to flee Syria before they could apply for nationality or were not eligible because they had never been registered by the Syrian authorities. UNHCR is launching initiatives in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon to meet with refugee families, sensitize local authorities, and clarify registration procedures within the refugee population.

<http://www.unhcr.org/52b45bbf6.html>

Relevant links

DPI Focus Page on Syria:

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

OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria: <http://opcw.unmissions.org>

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/>