



## **Syrian Crisis**

### **United Nations Response**



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

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#### **UN Special Envoy takes note of agreement on constitution drafting committee**

Staffan de Mistura, the Special Envoy for Syria, attended the Congress of the Syrian National Dialogue in Sochi, Russia on 29-30 January. In remarks following the adoption of a Final Declaration, the UN Envoy said he took note of the agreement on the formation of a constitutional committee comprising the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic delegation along with a wide-represented opposition delegation for drafting a constitutional reform. "You did work hard today. You concluded that a Constitutional Committee should, at the very least, comprise the Government, Opposition representatives in the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva, Syrian experts, civil society, independents, tribal leaders and women - and women. I have heard your appeal that this assignment comes to the UN to get a Constitutional Committee established". Mr. de Mistura added that he will be consulting widely and will be indicating as soon as possible how he intends to proceed in setting a schedule and process for constitution drafting in Geneva.

In a statement prior to the Sochi meeting, the Secretary-General noted that the Congress would be an important contribution to a revived intra-Syrian talks process under the auspices of the United Nations in Geneva, based on the full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué (2012) and Security Council resolution 2254 (2015).

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-01-30/note-correspondents-staffan-de-mistura-special-envoy-syria>

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-01-27/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-syria>

#### **More than 270,000 civilians displaced by violence in north-west Syria, UN Security Council is told**

Briefing the Security Council on Syria on 30 January, Deputy Relief Chief Ursula Mueller said an estimated 13.1 million Syrians are in need of protection and humanitarian assistance, including 6.1 million people who are displaced within the country. Ms. Mueller voiced particular concern for the safety and protection of civilians caught up in the violence in north-west Syria. "Airstrikes and fighting in southern Idlib and northern Hama have resulted in over 270,000 people being forced out of their homes since 15 December, driving people from their homes to other areas of Idlib", she said. Further north, in Afrin, the United Nations is carefully monitoring the situation of over 300,000 people living in the district that is witnessing fighting.

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

#### **UN condemns attack on hospital and medical facilities in northern Syria**

Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis Panos Moumtzis spoke out against the attacks on health services and staff in northern Syria. On the morning of 29 January,

the Owdai Hospital in Saraqab City in Idlib Governorate was damaged by two airstrikes, which destroyed part of the hospital building and rendered it inoperable. The attack reportedly occurred as the hospital was receiving injured people from another airstrike on Saraqab's main market an hour earlier. "This brutal attack is the fourth time within 10 days, that a hospital in Saraqab was impacted by an airstrike resulting in major structural damage. Initial reports received showed at least five people were killed, including a child, and injuries to at least six people, including three medical staff", the UN official said in a statement on 30 January.

The United Nations calls for an end to attacks on medical units and health staff, and calls on all parties to take all measures to protect civilians.

[https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RHC%20Statement%20on%20Idlib%20Hospital\\_ds.pdf](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/RHC%20Statement%20on%20Idlib%20Hospital_ds.pdf)

### **UNRWA launches a US\$ 800 million appeal for its operation in Syria and occupied Palestinian territory**

Amid a funding crisis, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched on 30 January an appeal for its emergency programmes of over US\$ 800 million. Of that amount, about US\$ 400 million are intended for humanitarian assistance for Palestine refugees in Syria and the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). The appeal also covers some 50,000 Palestine refugees from Syria who have fled to Lebanon and Jordan. At a launch event in Geneva, UNRWA Commissioner-General, Pierre Krähenbühl, explained that the majority of Palestine refugees in the occupied Palestinian territory and from Syria "rely on UNRWA to provide aid which is literally life-saving, including food, water, shelter and medical assistance. Our appeal," he said, "enables UNRWA to continue delivering desperately needed relief to those affected by deepening emergency situations. However, the Agency's critical financial crisis following the reduction in US funds threatens our ability to deliver these vital services."

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/unrwa-launches-us-800-million-emergency-appeal-syria-gaza-and-west-bank>

<https://www.unrwa.org/donate>

### **Respect for human rights key to Syria peace- Angelina Jolie**

During a visit of the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan on 28 January, UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie said that any negotiated solution to Syria's conflict must respect the human rights and dignity of all Syrians, including millions of refugees living in neighbouring countries. On her fifth visit to Jordan since 2011, Ms. Jolie visited families living in Za'atari camp, the largest refugee settlement in the Middle East and home to more than 80,000 Syrians. "We should never forget that the war began with demands by Syrians for greater human rights," she told a news conference at the camp. "Peace in their country has to be built on that", she added.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/latest/2018/1/5a6e15c14/angelina-jolie-says-respect-human-rights-key-syria-peace.html>

### **Special Envoy concludes new round of UN-facilitated peace talks**

Wrapping up a 9th round of Intra-Syrian talks in Vienna, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura told reporters on 26 January that "the ultimate goal of a constitutional process is to enable the Syrian people to freely and independently determine their own future in UN-supervised parliamentary and presidential elections, meeting the requirements laid out in resolution 2254." Recalling that the only sustainable solution to the Syria crisis is through "an inclusive and Syrian-led political process," the Special Envoy said. "I share the immense frustration of millions of Syrians, inside and outside the country, at the lack of a political settlement," Mr. de Mistura said, expressing hope that the talks in Sochi

would contribute to a revived and credible intra-Syrian talks, which he plans to reconvene "in the near future."

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-01-26/note-correspondents-statement-special-envoy-syria-staffan>

### **UNICEF alarmed by toll of escalating violence on children**

As fighting escalated in several parts of Syria, UNICEF has received alarming reports of at least eleven children killed and many more injured in ongoing violence in Afrin district, north-west Syria. In neighbouring Idlib, at least nine children were reportedly killed in the past week alone in attacks on the towns of Saraqab and Khan Shaykhoun. In Damascus, three children were killed in an attack in the Bab Touma area of the Old City. "The grim tally of children killed in Syria in the past two weeks has increased daily", UNICEF Representative in Syria, Fran Equiza, warned on 26 January.

"Nearly seven years into the conflict, children continue to be the hardest hit by unprecedented destruction, displacement and death. They have lost lives, homes and childhoods. Enough is enough."

<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/world-becoming-numb-killing-children-statement-fran-equiza-unicef>

### **UN Radio in Arabic**

- دي مستورا يلتقي وفدي الحكومة والمعارضة السورية في فيينا

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272153>

Special Envoy de Mistura meets with the government and the Syrian opposition in Vienna

- دي مستورا: أشاطر ملايين السوريين الشعور بالإحباط وما يلزم الآن هو الإرادة السياسية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272248>

Special Envoy de Mistura: I share the frustration of millions of Syrians and what is needed now is political will

- اليونيسف: مقتل أكثر من 11 طفلا وجرح العديد بسبب أعمال العنف في عفرين

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272197>

UNICEF: More than 11 children have been killed and many injured as a result of the violence in Afrin

- الأمم المتحدة تقبل دعوة روسيا لإيفاد ممثل إلى مؤتمر الحوار الوطني السوري في سوتشي

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272254>

The United Nations accepts Russia's invitation to send a representative to the Syrian National Dialogue Conference in Sochi

- دي مستورا يصل إلى سوتشي لحضور مؤتمر الحوار الوطني السوري

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272321>

Special Envoy arrives in Sochi to take part in Syrian Congress of National Dialogue

- منسق الشؤون الإنسانية الإقليمي لأزمة سوريا يدعو إلى السماح بوصول الإغاثة إلى المحاصرين في الغوطة الشرقية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272303>

The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syria Crisis calls for relief to be allowed to those trapped in the besieged Eastern Ghouta

- مسؤول دولي يدعو إلى وقف إطلاق النار لتوصيل المساعدات إلى الغوطة الشرقية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272294>

International official calls for ceasefire to deliver aid to Eastern Ghouta

- دي مستورا يستعد لإجراء مشاورات لتشكيل لجنة دستورية من الحكومة والمعارضة والمستقلين

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272417>

Special Envoy de Mistura is preparing to hold consultations to form a constitutional committee of the government, opposition and independents

- بعد 8 سنوات من الصراع، أكثر من 13 مليون سوري بحاجة إلى المساعدة والحماية

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272408>

After 8 years of conflict, more than 13 million Syrians need help and protection

- نداء من الأونروا لتوفير 800 مليون دولار لبرامج الطوارئ في الأرض الفلسطينية المحتلة وسوريا

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/272387>

A call from UNRWA for \$ 800 million for emergency programs in the occupied Palestinian territory and Syria

## **Twitter**

UN Geneva@UNGeneva- 31 January

Read: Latest statement by @UN Special Envoy for #Syria, Staffan de Mistura, in Sochi: <https://goo.gl/T9pFHA>

OCHA@OCHA\_Syria – 31 January

Read @UschiMuller briefing the @UN #SecurityCouncil on latest developments in #Afrin #EastGhouta #Idleb #ArRaqqa and more

<https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/assistant-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-deputy-emergency-2> ...

OCHA@OCHA\_Syria – 31 January

NEW tool for humanitarians working on the #SyriaCrisis: Share and use new interactive dashboards on inter-agency operations; and 4Ws presence and response from within #Syria

<http://ocha-sy.org/index.html>

UN Geneva@UNGeneva

A @UNGeneva, l'@UNRWA lance un appel d'urgence de 800 millions de dollars pour les réfugiés palestiniens. Les explications de @PKraehenbuehl, Commissaire général de l'@UNRWA - <http://ow.ly/ZPaW30i5CMJ> Translate from French

UNHCR Syria @UNHCRinSYRIA- 30 January

More UNHCR Syria Retweeted Syrian Red Crescent  
Solar lamps provide much-needed #light & #power for the ppl in areas with no electricity.  
6000 Solar lamps reached ppl in #DeirEzzor via joint #humanitarian delivery by @UN, @SYRedCrescent , @ICRC\_sy & @Federation

OCHA@OCHA\_Syria- 30 January  
Read @UN @PanosMoumtzis statement on attacks on hospitals and other medical facilities in #Idleb northwestern #Syria, depriving hundreds of thousands of people of their basic right to health

UNHCR United States@UNHCRUSA- 30 January  
"It is heartbreaking to return to Jordan and witness the levels of hardship + trauma among Syrian refugees as this war enters its 8th year" - UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie

UN Refugee Agency@Refugees- 28 January  
UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie in @ZaatariCamp, Jordan today: No negotiated peace without human rights and dignity for the Syrian people.  
Full statement: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2018/1/5a6de63b4/unhcr-special-envoy-angelina-jolie-negotiated-peace-human-rights-dignity.html> ...

UNHCR United States@UNHCRUSA- 30 January  
"It is heartbreaking to return to Jordan and witness the levels of hardship + trauma among Syrian refugees as this war enters its 8th year" - UNHCR Special Envoy Angelina Jolie

OCHA@OCHA\_Syria – 26 January  
Is the world becoming numb to the killing of children? Read statement from @UNICEF @franequiza on children killed by violence in #Afrin #Idleb #Damascus #Syria

### **Social media campaigns**

#### **UNRWA Global fund-raising campaign**

UNRWA launched on 20 January 2018 the #DignityIsPriceless global campaign in response to the unprecedented funding reductions by the U.S. Government to protect the dignity of Palestine refugees by providing emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable, and by not disrupting the education of their children and healthcare for families. Through a call to action, UNRWA aims to raise five hundred million USD (500\$M). #FundUNRWA #DignityIsPriceless

<https://www.unrwa.org/donate>

**#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/>