



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General calls on all parties to allow more aid convoys in Douma

Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement on 6 March voiced concern about continued reports of attacks throughout the besieged enclave of eastern Ghouta, which reportedly claimed the lives of more than 100 people on 5 March, as well as reports of shelling of the city of Damascus. An inter-agency convoy of the UN, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the International Committee of the Red Cross, which was delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance to 27,500 people in need in Douma, Eastern Ghouta, could not complete the delivery because of insecurity. As a result, 14 of the 46 trucks in the convoy were not able to fully offload critical humanitarian supplies. Nearly half of the food carried on the convoy could therefore not be delivered. Moreover, a part of the medical and health supplies to be included for delivery were removed by the Syrian authorities. The only other inter-agency convoy to reach besieged Eastern Ghouta this year took place on 14 February, bringing assistance to 7,200 people. The Secretary-General commended the courage of all humanitarians working tirelessly to ensure that people in need throughout Syria receive life-saving humanitarian aid. He called on all parties to immediately allow safe and unimpeded access for further convoys to deliver critical supplies to hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need, in particular, to complete the delivery to Douma, including medical and health supplies, planned for 8 March, in order to reach a total of 70,000 people, as previously agreed with the Syrian authorities.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-06/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-eastern-ghouta>

Special Envoy discusses political process with Iran, Russia and Turkey

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura attended a meeting with representatives of Iran, Russia, and Turkey, hosted on 6 March by the Russian Federation in Geneva. He discussed with the three guarantors important follow-up to the Sochi Final Statement and the advancement of the Geneva political process towards the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015). In light of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018), discussions also focused on the situation on the ground and the immediate priority of de-escalation as well as the situation of detainees, abductees and missing persons.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-03-06/note-correspondents-press-statement-behalf-un-special>

Rights investigative panel calls for immediate release of detainees in Syria

In his latest report on human rights violations in Syria, the UN-mandated International Commission of Inquiry on Syria said that over the last eight years, victims of the Syrian conflict have suffered greatly as violence escalated to new heights. The report documents human rights violations that occurred between July 2017 and January 2018 across Syria and stresses the need for the international community to take urgent steps

to ensure that victim's needs for justice and accountability are met. "Remedies which go beyond calls for criminal justice and address, for example, the situation of tens of thousands of detainees or account for those who have been disappeared or abducted must be given greater attention", said Commission Chair Paulo Pinheiro.

Recommendations in the report include a call for the immediate release of children, women, the elderly, and disabled, and access by independent monitors to all places of detention in Syria.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22766&LangID=E>

Human Rights Council urges probe into events in Eastern Ghouta

During an emergency debate on the situation in Eastern Ghouta on 5 March, the Human Rights Council requested the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria to urgently conduct a comprehensive and independent investigation into recent events in Eastern Ghouta. The Council (A/HRC/37/L.1) welcomed Security Council Resolution 2401 (2018) which demands that all parties to the conflict cease hostilities without delay for at least 30 consecutive days to allow safe, unimpeded delivery of humanitarian assistance and medical evacuations. The Council also demanded that all parties, particularly the Syrian authorities, allow safe access by the UN and aid workers to all people in need, including immediate access for aid deliveries and medical evacuations to and from Eastern Ghouta. Addressing the Council, High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said that what the world was seeing, in Eastern Ghouta and elsewhere in Syria, were likely war crimes, and potentially crimes against humanity. He stressed the critical role the Human Rights Council could play in ensuring justice for the suffering inflicted on the Syrian people, including through the referral of Syria to the International Criminal Court.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22750&LangID=E>

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=22746&LangID=E>

[https://documents-dds-](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G18/054/85/pdf/G1805485.pdf?OpenElement)

<ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G18/054/85/pdf/G1805485.pdf?OpenElement>

Syria remains one of the most dangerous places for children- UNICEF

UNICEF warned on 2 March that, despite the adoption of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018), violence continued in several places across Syria, escalating in some and flaring up in others. Violence was also ongoing in Idlib, Afrin, Deir ez-Zor, Damascus, parts of Aleppo and Eastern Ghouta with reports of children killed and injured. UNICEF reiterated that Syria remains one of the most dangerous places to be a child.

https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syria/media_102721.html

UN 'will not give up' on push for ceasefire- Special Envoy de Mistura

The UN will continue to push for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 2401 (2018), ask both sides to stop shelling each other's areas, and allow humanitarian convoys to reach Eastern Ghouta, said the Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura. Speaking to reporters in Geneva on 1 March, he said "We cannot afford the luxury of giving up", and added that the UN is determined not to allow the situation in Eastern Ghouta to become the same it was in Aleppo.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2018-03-01/note-correspondents-transcript-joint-press-stakeout-un>

Italy contributes Euro 1 million to help Palestine refugee children in Syria continue to go to school

The Government of Italy has contributed Euro 1 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in support of the Agency's 2017 Emergency Appeal for Syria. The grant will support operating costs for 14 safe learning centers for Palestine refugee children in Syria and ensure that they continue their education. "The prolonged crisis has had a devastating impact on schoolchildren, with many of them experiencing displacement and disrupted access to schools," said Mohammed Abdi Adar, UNRWA Director in Syria. "We thank the Italian government for supporting Palestine refugee children in Syria by ensuring that they can continue their education and are equipped for the future."

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/italy-contributes-eur-1-million-emergency-appeal-help-palestine-refugee>

UN Radio in Arabic

UN Secretary-General calls for immediate access for humanitarian convoys to Eastern Ghouta

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003772>

New report on deliberate attacks against civilians in Syria; UN condemns lack of commitment to stop the fighting

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003712>

An inter-agency aid convoy arrives in Douma but some medical assistance is removed

<https://news.un.org/ar/interview/2018/03/1003642>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights calls for accountability for human rights violations in Eastern Ghouta

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003512>

Human Rights Council adopts a resolution calling for an urgent investigation into the Eastern Ghouta events

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003592>

United Nations and partners prepare aid deliveries in Douma, Eastern Ghouta

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003572>

Special Envoy de Mistura: "We did not and will not abandon trying to implement Security Council resolution on ceasefire in Syria"

<https://news.un.org/ar/story/2018/03/1003441>

Interview with Hanny Megally, member of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria on the commission's latest report

<https://news.un.org/ar/audio/2018/03/1003742>

Twitter

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 7 March

The @UN Secretary General @antonioguterres calls on all parties to immediately allow safe and unimpeded access to deliver aid to those in desperate need in #Syria and to complete deliveries to #Duma #EastGhouta for a total of 70,000 people

<http://un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-06/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-eastern-ghouta> ...

United Nations Retweeted UN Geneva @UNGeneva – 7 March

In #Syria, "civilians... have often been the deliberate target of attacks through increasingly cynical means & methods of warfare by all parties in the conflict" - @UNCoISyria's Paulo Pinheiro on the Commission's latest report <https://goo.gl/TzNt8a> #COISyria

UN in Syria Retweeted Jakob Kern @JakobKern1961 (@WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria)- 7 March

Young children in #Duma #EastGhouta told @WFP they haven't seen the sunlight in over 20 days. Forced to stay underground to avoid the constant shelling, they live in basements with poor hygiene, little to no ventilation and nearly no access to food or medicine. "WE WANT PEACE"

UNHCR Syria Retweeted Sajjad Malik @malik_sajjad (UNHCR Country Representative in #Syria)- 7 March

#EasternGhouta mothers told me of horrific situation living in cramped basements. Hard to keep children occupied, not enough food & water, no education for over 2 months. Traumatized children. They are desperate for fighting to stop.

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria- 6 March

Following yesterday's mission to #Duma #EastGhouta, @UN team reported a desperate situation where people have endured months of lack of access to humanitarian aid. Food for civilians was in short supply or prohibitively expensive and high rates of acute malnutrition were observed

UNHCR Syria Retweeted Sajjad Malik @malik_sajjad- 6 March

I saw destruction, death, displacement in #EasternGhouta in Douma. Parties have obligation under IHL & human rights law to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure at all times.

WHO Syria@WHOSyria- 6 March

Life is hard inside #Eastern_Ghouta for hundreds of thousands of civilians who got their chances of access to proper healthcare decreased by the removal of more than 124000 treatments from the convoy that headed to #Douma city on Monday. #Syria #Ghouta

World Food Programme @WFP - 6 March

For the first time in four months, WFP and humanitarian partners reached Douma, #Syria, bringing food for thousands of people and specialized nutrition supplies for malnourished children.

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria -5 March

The @UN @SYRedCrescent @ICRC are entering #Duma in #EastGhouta with health and nutrition supplies, along with food for 27,500 people in need, many life-saving health supplies were not allowed to be loaded

UNHCR Syria Retweeted Sajjad Malik @malik_sajjad - 5 March

HAPPENING NOW @UN @ICRC_sy @SYRedCrescent aid convoy to #EasternGhouta exiting #Duma after nearly 9 hours. We delivered as much as we could amidst shelling. Civilians are caught in a tragic situation.

UNRWA@UNRWA- 5 March

When small businesses grow, both founders and their families benefit. @UNRWA provides micro-loans to entrepreneurs to help them start, or expand, their business. We helped So'ad buy a second sewing machine. In January, @UNRWA provided 780 loans in #Syria. <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/syria-unrwa-humanitarian-snapshot-january-2018> ...

<https://twitter.com/MohammedAAdar/status/970607858596401152>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 4 March

The conflict in #Syria has forced many children to miss school. Support classes for 9th graders were launched in January 2018 and are reaching 3,500 students - 1,900 girls and 1,600 boys - in 62 @UNRWA schools across Syria #DignityIsPriceless

<https://twitter.com/MohammedAAdar/status/970246257888329728>

World Food Programme @WFP- 4 March

War and hunger go hand in hand. Nearly 7 years into the conflict, basic food prices in #Syria have increased by 800% compared to pre-crisis period.

OCHA Syria @OCHA_Syria – 4 March

The @UN and partners plan to deliver humanitarian aid to #Duma #EastGhouta tomorrow. The convoy will consist of 46 truckloads of health, food and nutrition supplies, with more convoys to come for a total of aid for 70,000 people in need.

United Nations Retweeted UNICEF @UNICEF -2 March

This is not just a war in Syria.

This is a war on children: <http://uni.cf/2FL2rRz>

#ChildrenUnderAttack

Social media campaigns

UNRWA Global fund-raising campaign

UNRWA launched in 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

@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

#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, 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/>