



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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At the close of the first round of talks between delegations from the Syrian government and the opposition, Joint Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has invited the parties to return to Geneva on February 10th. Speaking to the media after the Munich Security Summit on 1 February, the Secretary-General said that during consultations with US Secretary of State Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, he had urged them to use their influence to ensure the talks proceed as planned. "The parties may still be fighting, but now they are also talking. This is the only hope for a political solution", he said.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2130#.UvFimLTyL-s

In a statement issued on 3 February, the UN Spokesperson said that United Nations and League of Arab States Deputy Joint Special Representative Nasser al-Kidwa had confirmed to the Secretary-General his intention to leave his position, effective this week. He also indicated his willingness to serve the United Nations in other capacities, should the Secretary-General wish. The Secretary-General expressed his appreciation to Mr. al-Kidwa for his service in trying to end the bloodshed in Syria and move toward a Syrian-led transition based on the 30 June 2012 Geneva communique.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7445>

As UN agencies continue to call for sustained access to thousands of civilians cut off from humanitarian assistance, WFP started airlifting food from Iraq to northeast Syria. The first WFP flight landed at Qamishli airport with 40 metric tonnes of food on 4 February. A total of 10 flights are scheduled to deliver more than 400 metric tonnes of food, as well as other items – mainly clothing, detergent and soap – for UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration to feed 30,000 displaced people for a month.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-airlifts-bring-aid-most-vulnerable-northeast-syria-amid-growing-challenges>

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on 2 February that over 700 food parcels had been delivered to the Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus where severe cases of malnutrition have been reported. The agency reiterated its call for long-term access to meet the enormous needs. "To make any progress in addressing these needs, UNRWA's presence and humanitarian assistance work must be permitted to continue and expand over a period of months, not days. We must accelerate the pace of distribution," an UNRWA spokesperson stated.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47064&Cr=Syria&Cr1=#.Uu_korTyL-s

According to the first report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Syria, which covers a period of nearly three years, the ongoing conflict is having an alarming impact on children. The report stresses that the use of weaponry and military tactics that are disproportionate and indiscriminate by Government forces and associated militias has resulted in countless killings and the maiming of children, and has obstructed children's access to education and health services. It also notes that armed opposition groups have been responsible for the recruitment and use of children both in combat and support roles, as well as for conducting military operations, including using

terror tactics, in civilian-populated areas, leading to civilian casualties, including children. The report presents a series of recommendations to halt violations and increase the protection of children affected by the conflict in Syria.

<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/627/07/PDF/N1362707.pdf?OpenElement>

In a document issued on 2 February, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission said that the total of pledges and contributions to the UN Trust Fund to support the destruction of Syria's chemical weapons programme amounts to over USD 16 million as of 31 January 2014. The UN trust fund is used to procure and move non-military logistical equipment necessary for the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons and other related services, as requested by Member States in line with Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

http://opcw.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?link=DONOR_CONTRIB.pdf&tabid=6576&mid=10437&language=en-US

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New polio vaccination round begun in Syria

3 February, Homs, Syria – The queue was already formed when three volunteer polio vaccinators arrived at 'Mohammed El Durra' school in Homs that was transformed last year into a shelter for over 500 displaced people. In less than two hours, 120 children residing in the shelter were immunized. Supported by the WFP and UNICEF, this is the fourth vaccination campaign across Syria since the outbreak of polio was confirmed last October. To date, 23 laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported by the Government.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/new-polio-vaccination-round-begun-syria>

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=>

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/>