



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No 30/ 12 February 2014**

### **Peace talks resume in Geneva between the Syrian Government and the opposition**

The second round of UN-brokered Inter-Syrian peace talks between the Government and the opposition began in Geneva on 10 February. After meeting with both parties, Joint Special Representative Brahimi told the media that the talks were not making much progress. He urged all the parties to speed up the negotiations process, noting that cooperation from both sides and support from outside were required. Mr. Brahimi also indicated that he will hold a trilateral meeting (on 13 February) with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov and United States Under-Secretary of State Wendy Sherman.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear\\_en%29/E9C582D61F42569EC1257C7C0053C600?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpNewsByYear_en%29/E9C582D61F42569EC1257C7C0053C600?OpenDocument)

### **Secretary-General strongly condemns massacre in village in central Syria**

In a statement issued on 12 February, the Secretary-General condemned in the strongest terms the reported killing of dozens of civilians in the Syrian village of Ma'an. He called for the perpetrators of this massacre, and all other crimes in Syria, to be brought to justice.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7454>

### **UN agencies and partners deliver aid to civilians in the Old City of Homs**

On 11 February, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that more than 1,130 people were evacuated from the old city of Homs and food supplies were delivered for 2,500 people. OCHA announced that the humanitarian pause (which started on 7 February) had been extended until 13 February and expressed hope that negotiations would allow the sustained delivery of aid to the 250,000 people in besieged communities in Syria and those in desperate need across the country. Welcoming the agreement by the parties to extend the pause in Homs, a OHCHR spokesperson told reporters that there must not be an assumption that those who remain in Old Homs and other besieged areas are all combatants. In addition, he said, attacks against individuals who are *hors de combat* due to sickness, injury, capture or surrender are prohibited by international humanitarian law.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest\\_en%29/BFC40FDF4FA9B9D9C1257C7C00367398?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/BFC40FDF4FA9B9D9C1257C7C00367398?OpenDocument)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14241&LangID=E>

### **Influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey**

As fighting reportedly continues to intensify in Aleppo in northern Syria, UNHCR said that 20,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Turkey since January. Over recent days, more than 500 people have been arriving daily across official crossing points, sometimes as

many as 1,000-2,000 daily. About one-third of the recent influx, some 7,000 people, is accommodated in camps. Turkey opened its 22nd camp in early January and the authorities are considering opening further new camps to help cope with the new influx. <http://www.unhcr.org/52fa45926.html>

### **Further shipment of chemical weapons out of Syria**

A third consignment of chemical weapons was removed from the Syrian port of Latakia, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission announced on 10 February. The third shipment of chemical weapons was transported aboard a Norwegian vessel under an international escort. While noting the movement and recent destruction of 93 percent of the isopropanol, OPCW Director-General expressed the hope that these activities would generate more momentum. In a statement, he emphasized that a significant effort was needed to ensure the chemicals that still remain in Syria are removed without further delays. <http://opcw.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=6576&ctl=Details&mid=10358&ItemID=20765&language=en-US>  
<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/statement-by-the-director-general-7/>

### **Select UN stories**

#### **UNRWA strongly condemns school explosion in southern Syria**

11 February - The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) strongly condemns the parties responsible for an explosion close to UNRWA's Turaan School in Muzerib, 11 km north-west of Dera'a City, southern Syria, in which some 40 school children were injured, along with four UNRWA school staff. One of the UNRWA staff members sustained serious injuries to his chest. The children, all between six and ten years of age, were struck by glass shattered by the force of the explosion as they sat in their classrooms during the morning shift. UNRWA deplores this attack on an UNRWA school premises and the serious physical and psychological harm caused to hundreds of Palestine refugee children. The incident is a serious violation of international law, not least because the school is a flagged United Nations facility. <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-strongly-condemns-school-explosion-southern-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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)  
IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>