



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General continues efforts to reconvene Geneva talks

During a press conference in Geneva on 3 March, the Secretary-General reiterated that the only way to end the crisis in Syria was through a negotiated solution. He said that together with JSR Lakhdar Brahimi, he was determined to bring the parties back to the negotiating table in Geneva. While noting that it was important that the third round of talks be held as soon as possible, he urged the Syrian Government and the opposition to engage constructively in a dialogue. He also called upon countries with influence on both sides to reflect on how the talks can achieve the progress that the Syrian people and the region so urgently need.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2155#.UxYy_YXyL-s

One-third of chemical weapons removed out of Syria

On 5 March, the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission briefed the Security Council in closed consultations on recent progress towards the elimination of chemical weapons from Syria. According to the fifth monthly report of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, all materials and equipment required by Syria are now in place for the expeditious removal of its remaining chemicals, including armoured jackets for the protection of containers. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Sigrid Kaag said that the Joint Mission has concluded that about one-third of Syria's chemical weapon materials has been removed or destroyed. "I have also informed the Security Council that the month of March is critical to look at continued progress towards the overall deadline" (of June 2014), she added.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/sigrid-kaag-joint-opcw-un-mission-on-syria-security-council-media-stakeout-5-march-2014/3297479478001/>

UNRWA calls for access to Yarmouk refugee camp

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) spokesperson said on 4 March that UNRWA remains deeply concerned about the desperate humanitarian situation in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp and the fact that increasing tensions and resort to armed force have disrupted its efforts to alleviate the desperate plight of civilians. In a statement, UNRWA demanded that all parties cease hostilities and seek to resolve their differences exclusively by peaceful means. The agency also urged all concerned parties to immediately allow and facilitate the resumption of food distribution to civilians inside Yarmouk.

<http://www.unrwa.org/yarmouk-updates>

Independent Commission of Inquiry issues its 7th report

On 5 March, the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria released its 7th report, which covers investigations conducted from 15 July 2013 to 20 January 2014 and is based on 563 interviews and other collected evidence. According to the report widespread attacks and sieges on civilian areas in Syria by pro-Government forces are leading to mass casualties, malnutrition and starvation. For the first time, the Commission has also identified specific non-State armed groups that have committed torture as a crime against humanity in Al-Raqqah governorate. Both pro-Government and non-State armed groups have committed massacres according to the findings. The report is due to be presented to the Human Rights Council on 18 March.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14314&LangID=E>

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/IICISyria/Pages/IndependentInternationalCommission.aspx>

Select UN stories

UNESCO and IRC open the first secondary school for Syrian refugees in Domiz camp

Duhok (Iraq), 3 March 2014 - In another major initiative to respond to the Syrian refugees' crisis in Iraq and to help provide decent learning opportunities for the thousands of young people in the camps, UNESCO and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) held a ceremony to announce the official opening of the Derek Secondary School, the first secondary school for Syrian refugees in Domiz Camp in Duhok. With its nine classrooms, and the capacity to host 600 students, the new school offers a direct and very efficient response to the educational needs of Syrian children and youth in the camp.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/iraq/unesco-and-irc-open-first-secondary-school-syrian-refugees-domiz-camp>

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/>