



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



**A Weekly Update from the
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JSR Brahimi urges the international community to re-energize peace talks

In an address delivered on behalf of the Secretary-General to a summit of the League of Arab States in Kuwait on 25 March, Joint Special Representative Brahimi urged the international community to take clear steps to re-energize the Geneva II talks. "It is our collective responsibility to help end this tragedy. I welcome recent efforts to improve humanitarian access. But this crisis can only be resolved through a political solution", he said. The JSR particularly appealed to regional actors to encourage all parties to return to the negotiating table. While stressing that the whole region was in danger of becoming embroiled in the conflict, he also reiterated his call for an end to arms flows to all parties.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7544>

Humanitarian access to Syria remains extremely challenging - UN report

The Secretary-General's first report on the implementation of resolution 2139 (2014), concerning the humanitarian situation in Syria, was submitted to the Security Council on 24 March. The report notes that one month since the adoption of the resolution, access to many areas remains extremely challenging for humanitarian organizations and delivering lifesaving items, in particular medicines, remains difficult. "The assistance reaching people continues to fall far short of what is required to cover even their basic needs", it says. In the report, the Secretary-General strongly urges the Syrian Government to streamline and speed up convoy procedures, ensure the safe passage of humanitarian convoys at all government-controlled checkpoints, desist from the removal of medical supplies from convoys and continue to speed up the approval of visas.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/208

In a press statement issued on 25 March, an UNRWA Spokesperson said that the agency remains deeply concerned about the desperate humanitarian situation in the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp and the fact that repeated ongoing violence has disrupted its efforts to alleviate the plight of civilians. UNRWA also urged all parties concerned to immediately allow and facilitate the resumption of food distribution to civilians inside Yarmouk.

<http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>

Cross border inter-agency convoy reaches north eastern Syria

On 25 March, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) confirmed that since the cross-border humanitarian operation between Turkey and Syria began five days earlier, some 78 trucks with much needed aid had crossed into Syria's Al Hassakeh governorate. The aid consisted of food supplies, blankets, mattresses, family and hygiene kits, medicines and medical supplies. The humanitarian assistance was

initially taken to UN warehouses and planned to be distributed by the UN and its partners based on the needs and vulnerability of the affected people.

http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/%28httpBriefingsLatest_en%29/E26665CBDEB17213C1257CA6003C849E?OpenDocument

OPCW Director General Meets Russian Foreign Minister

The Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Ahmet Üzümcü met on 24 March with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, on the margins of the Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in the Netherlands. Discussions focused on the ongoing OPCW-UN Joint Mission in Syria. The Director-General updated the Foreign Minister on the schedule for destroying the Syrian chemicals and stressed that ongoing engagement by the Russian Federation at all levels will be vital to the success of the mission.

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/director-general-meets-russian-foreign-minister/>

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/>