



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No 48/ 25 June 2014

Secretary-General suggests six points as way forward in Syria

In a major speech delivered at the Asia Society on 20 June, entitled "Crisis in Syria: Civil War, Global Threat", the Secretary-General suggested six points to chart a principled and integrated way forward to international action" on Syria. The six points are: To end the violence, which he said is "the immediate priority of the United Nations"; the international community must do its utmost to protect people – their human rights, their human dignity, their safety and security; new efforts needed to start a serious political process for a new Syria, saying the Geneva Communique of June 30th 2012 set out a clear roadmap for a democratic political transition; any peace process will have to ensure accountability for serious crimes; finish the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria, 92 per cent of which have been removed and destroyed and address the regional dimensions of the conflict, including the extremist threat.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2261

Secretary-General welcomes completion of removal of chemical weapons

The Secretary-General welcomed the removal of the remaining 7.2 per cent of chemical weapons material from Syria on 23 June. In a press statement, he congratulated the OPCW-UN Joint Mission for completing this most challenging of tasks in an active war zone. The Secretary-General noted that "when there is political will- as demonstrated by the successful implementation of the tasks of the Joint Mission- there can be progress towards peace".

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7807>

100% of Syria's chemical weapons destroyed or removed

The OPCW-UN Joint Mission indicated that with this last movement, the total of declared materials destroyed or removed from Syria had reached 100%. In addition to the completion of the removal operation, Syria has destroyed all declared production, mixing and filling equipment and munitions, as well as many buildings associated with its declared chemical weapons programme. With the exception of twelve production facilities that are awaiting a decision by the Executive Council of OPCW, all of the declared chemical weapons have been eliminated. The Joint Mission added that the most operationally challenging task within the effort to eliminate Syria's chemical weapons programme has come to an end.

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/AboutOPCWUNJointMission/tabid/54/ctl/Details/mid/651/ItemID/325/Default.aspx>

Over 10 million in need of humanitarian assistance in Syria- UN report

In his latest report to the Security Council on the implementation of resolution 2139, (S/2014/427), the Secretary-General said that efforts to expand humanitarian assistance to those most in need have been met with continued delays and obstruction. As a result, the humanitarian situation has continued to deteriorate. According to the report, an

estimated 10.8 million of people are now in need of assistance, 6.4 million of whom are internally displaced. The number of people living in hard-to-reach areas has likely risen to 4.7 million and there has been no improvement in providing sustained relief, in particular, in those areas.

While reminding the parties to the conflict of their obligations under international law, the Secretary-General urged the Security Council to do more to demand that the violence end and that vital humanitarian assistance reaches all areas of Syria.

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2014/427

Ending the violence remains among UN's immediate priorities

On 23 June, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East. In his remarks, he noted that more than 1.1 million refugees were now registered in Lebanon, restrictions on the entry of Palestine refugees from Syria had been re-introduced, and the situation in the Palestinian camps remained worrying. Mr. Feltman reiterated the six points suggested by the Secretary-General on the way forward in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2014/sc11446.doc.htm>

UNRWA calls for swift resumption of aid deliveries in Yarmouk

Following reports of a 21 June agreement between Syrian authorities and armed opposition groups inside the Yarmouk Palestinian refugee camp, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is urgently seeking the resumption and expansion of its humanitarian activities inside Yarmouk, where humanitarian conditions remain dire. In a press statement on 25 June, the agency said it stands ready to implement a rapid humanitarian response so that the immediate and longer term needs of Yarmouk's civilian population can be met.

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

Select UN stories

Disaster-Stricken Communities Need Solidarity, Not Charity, Say Experts

Global humanitarian aid actors should adopt policies of solidarity with strife-torn and disaster-stricken communities rather than charity, and ensure aid workers had the requisite skills to deliver their specific mandates, experts on the matter told the United Nations Economic and Social Council on 24 June.

"It's time to come to grips with the humanitarian fundraising industry. It's too much of a cargo cult. Too much feeds on helplessness," said Nigel Fisher, UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria, during a panel discussion.

During the ensuing discussion on challenges that arose from the Syrian crisis, Mr. Fisher said there were great impediments, notably the politicization of aid, and a lack of solidarity among humanitarian actors, resulting in competing claims of effectiveness.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/ecosoc6629.doc.htm>

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=>

OPCW-UN Joint Mission

<http://opcw.unmissions.org/>

UN Humanitarian agencies

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>
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