



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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On 18 August, the UN Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian conflict, led by Professor Åke Sellström arrived in Damascus. During a press encounter at Headquarters on 19 August, the Secretary-General said that the team of experts will conduct its activities in Syria for up to 14 days. That period could be extended by mutual consent. The Secretary-General urged full access to the sites of the alleged incidents. Noting that this was the first probe of allegations of the use of weapons of mass destruction in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Secretary-General stated that, if confirmed, the use of chemical weapons by any side under any circumstances must be held accountable and would constitute an international crime.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45650&Cr=palestin&Cr1=>

Joint Special Representative Lakhdar Brahimi welcomed on 20 August the forthcoming bilateral discussions on the Syrian crisis between Russia and the US in The Hague. While Mr. Brahimi will not participate in this meeting, he remains in constant contact with both the Russian and the US authorities. Another meeting to make further preparations of the "Geneva II" conference might be held in the near future, but it has not been decided yet where or when that meeting will take place.

<http://www.un.org/sq/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=2935>

As the number of civilians fleeing the conflict continues to rise, UNHCR reported on 20 August that over 30,000 Syrians had streamed into northern Iraq since last week and thousands more were waiting to enter, fleeing communities across a wide swathe of northern Syria.

The influx began on 15 August when the Kurdistan Regional Government authorities in northern Iraq suddenly opened access to the temporary Peshkhabour pontoon bridge, allowing several hundred people camped in the area since the previous week to enter Iraq. In response to the influx, UNHCR and partner agency teams have erected shelters to provide shade. Water and food distributions have also been set up at crossing points.

According to UNHCR, there are now more than 684,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon, 516,000 in Jordan, 434,000 in Turkey, 154,000 in Iraq and 107,000 in Egypt.

<http://www.unhcr.org/521360479.html>

On 15 August, UNHCR announced that it was sending the largest shipment of emergency relief items so far this year from its Dubai-based global stockpile intended for displaced civilians within Syria. Amongst the relief items being shipped by road in 33 trucks are blankets for 100,000 people, more than 27,000 kitchen sets for some 139,000 people and 50,000 jerry cans that will help more than 125,000 people.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unhcrs-largest-delivery-relief-items-displaced-syrians-departs-dubai>

## Select UN stories

### **UNRWA Condemns the Death of Member of Staff in Syria**

East Jerusalem, 14 August 2013- UNRWA strongly condemns the killing of Mr Imad Abdelhafeez, the eighth staff member to lose his life in the Syria conflict, and the second in less than a month.

While the facts surrounding Mr Abdelhafeez's death have yet to be verified, UNRWA said there are indications that kidnappers may have been involved. Kidnappings remain a common and destructive feature of the conflict in Syria.

<http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=1846>

### **Senior UN officials call on Security Council to boost protection of civilians**

19 August 2013 – The international community must step up efforts to protect civilians in armed conflict, and ensure that those responsible for war crimes are prosecuted, United Nations senior officials told the Security Council in a meeting that coincides with World Humanitarian Day.

Addressing the Council, UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos referred to the situation in Syria, expressing grave concerns at the failure to protect civilians in violation of the most basic rules on international humanitarian law and human rights law.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45649&Cr=humanitarian&Cr1=>

### **On mission in Syria, UNICEF's Iman Morooka gives you a glimpse into the dangers faced by humanitarian workers everyday**

As the conflict intensifies and spreads, UNICEF staff on the ground and dedicated partners struggle every day to access children and families affected, and deliver life-saving supplies and services, against all odds.

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syriancrisis\\_70158.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syriancrisis_70158.html)

### **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/>