



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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USG Ladsous backs UNDOF Force Commander and peacekeepers for their courage

Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous on 3 September praised the peacekeepers in the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), who have come under attack from the Syrian militant group and 45 Fijian peacekeepers have been kidnapped, for their "steadfastness and courage at all levels". He particularly recognised Force Commander General Singha, "who displayed complete professionalism and very strong leadership in making decisions all along". Mr. Ladsous added that General Singha is "to be commended and I place on the record my full trust in the way he performed his duty".

(Transcript of the press conference is attached in the email.)

UN continues efforts to seek the release of UN peacekeepers in Golan

Speaking at a press briefing on 3 September, the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General said that the 45 Fijian peacekeepers forced from Position 27 in Golan on 28 August continue to be detained by armed elements. While the UN continues to seek their immediate and unconditional release, no additional information is available on their status and location.

<http://www.un.org/sg/spokesperson/highlights/index.asp>

Security Council demands the immediate and unconditional release of peacekeepers

In a press statement issued on the same day, the Security Council strongly condemned continued attacks on United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) positions in the Golan Heights. The Council members demanded the immediate and unconditional release of the Fijian peacekeepers, as well as their safe passage, stressing that UNDOF's mandate, impartiality, operations, safety, and security must be respected. They called upon all parties to cooperate with UNDOF in good faith to enable it to operate freely and to ensure full security of its personnel. The Council members also called upon countries with influence to strongly convey to those responsible in the UNDOF area of operation the need to immediately release the peacekeepers.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2014/sc11548.doc.htm>

UN agencies deliver food aid to over 4 million people inside Syria

Over the past six weeks, a record-breaking number of 4.1 million people inside Syria received food aid from the World Food Programme (WFP) and its partners. This happened due to improved access with increased cross-line operations within Syria and more cross-border convoys. The agency says that since 25 July, a total of five cross-border convoys from Turkey and Jordan carried food rations in the hard-to-reach areas of Aleppo, Idleb, Quneitra and Da'ra governorates. The improved access follows the adoption of Security Council resolution 2165, which authorized the movement of UN aid into Syria through four border crossings.

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-reaches-record-number-people-inside-syria-food-assistance>

UNRWA and WFP to start cash for food programme for Palestine refugees

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and WFP signed on 1 September a memorandum of understanding to provide cash for food assistance for Palestine refugees from Syria in Lebanon. Under the agreement, WFP will provide UNRWA with up to 50 per cent of the funds required to ensure Palestine refugees in Lebanon receive food assistance through to December 2014. The amount credited by UNRWA to Palestine refugees is at the same rate as the WFP regional emergency operation figure, which is currently US\$30 per month.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unrwa-and-wfp-partner-secure-food-assistance-palestine-refugees-syria>

Secretary-General calls for immediate end to use of cluster munitions

In a message to a meeting of States parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Costa Rica on 2 September, the Secretary-General reiterated his call for an immediate end to the use of these weapons. "Instances and allegations of their use by States that are not party to the Convention continue, including in South Sudan and Syria", he said. "I call on those states that have not done so to adhere to the Convention", he added, noting that there is also much work to be done in destroying stockpiles, clearing contaminated land and assisting victims.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7963>

Human right rapporteurs condemn attacks against journalists

On 1 September, the UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression, together with a group of international rapporteurs, urged the international community to condemn and oppose recent attacks, ongoing kidnappings, and arbitrary and unjustified incarcerations of journalists around the world. "The prevailing impunity for attacks on civilians, including journalists, encourages perpetrators to believe that they will never be held to account for their grave crimes," the rapporteurs warned in a press statement. "Journalists must be ensured the highest degree of protection by States and non-state actors," the human rights experts said.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14981&LangID=E>

UN Twitter account

Record number of 4.1 million people fed by @WFP in #Syria in August thanks to improved aid access <http://bit.ly/1pkR2Gm>

- 2 Sep 2014

3 million Syrians are refugees. 1 in 8 Syrians forced to flee their country - @Refugees explains scope of the crisis: <http://rfg.ee/AQGsk>

- 29 Aug 2014

Syria operation is now largest operation in UNHCR's 64-year history. <http://rfg.ee/APRPn> pic.twitter.com/IT0EBZ8WGE via @Refugees

- 29 Aug 2014

Facebook

UNHCR is reporting that the number of Syrian refugees has crossed the 3 million mark, amid reports of horrifying conditions inside the country.

Almost half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their homes and flee for their lives. One in every eight has fled across the border, fully a million people more than a year ago. A further 6.5 million are displaced within Syria. Over half of those uprooted are children.

Help is being provided, see: <http://j.mp/XYyu9T>

-August 30

UN Radio in Arabic

The members of the Security Council reiterate their condemnation of the detention of United Nations peacekeepers in the Golan Heights:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144952/#.VAdSN6PTIhk>

The number of Syrian refugees reaches 3 million

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144674/#.VAdTUaPTIhk>

UN Humanitarian Deputy Chief Kang: The extremist groups threaten what is left of secularism and tolerance in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144603/#.VAdT3qPTIhk>

Secretary General condemns the detention of peacekeepers of UNDOF:

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144658/#.VAdTAKPTIhk>

Security Council demands the immediate and unconditional release of soldiers of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144634/#.VAdTmKPTIhk>

43 UNDOF soldiers detained in the Golan Heights

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/144606/#.VAdUUaPTIhk>

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>

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/>