



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Special Envoy de Mistura begins first visit to Syria

UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura and Deputy Envoy Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy began their first visit to Damascus on 9 September. The two envoys were met on their arrival by Deputy Foreign Minister Faysal Mekdad. During their visit, they will hold consultations with officials in the Government, members of the opposition in Syria, civil society representatives and other stakeholders. They will continue with visits to other capitals during October.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?cuff=3>

SG welcomes US effort to build coalition to counter ISIL threat

On 8 September, the Secretary-General spoke by telephone with US President Barack Obama. The Secretary-General welcomed efforts to build a broad coalition to counter the threat posed by the extremists who have occupied large areas of Iraq and Syria. He also thanked President Obama for the US' efforts to assist Iraqis, who are in dire need of humanitarian assistance, especially in areas rendered inaccessible by the extremists.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3533>

New Human Rights Chief calls for efforts to stop conflicts in Iraq and Syria

In his first address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 8 September, new UN Human Rights Chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged the international community to halt the increasingly conjoined conflicts in Iraq and Syria. "Dedicated efforts are urgently needed to protect religious and ethnic groups, children – who are at risk of forcible recruitment and sexual violence – and women, who have been the targets of severe restrictions", he stated. The High Commissioner said that from its initial anchor in the chaos of the Syrian conflict, "the Takfiri or so-called ISIL group which currently controls large swathes of northern Iraq has demonstrated absolute and deliberate disregard for human rights. The scale of its use of brute violence against ethnic and religious groups is unprecedented in recent times", he noted.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Media.aspx?IsMediaPage=true&LangID=E.dpuf>

OPCW: "Compelling confirmation" of chlorine gas used as weapon in Syria

The fact-finding mission (FFM) appointed by the OPCW Director-General to examine alleged uses of chlorine gas as a weapon in Syria has found "compelling confirmation" that a toxic chemical was used "systematically and repeatedly" as a weapon in villages in northern Syria earlier this year. In a report issued on 10 September, the Mission states that "the descriptions, physical properties, behaviour of the gas, and signs and symptoms resulting from exposure, as well as the response of patients to the treatment, leads the FFM to conclude with a high degree of confidence that chlorine, either pure or in mixture, is the toxic chemical in question." The FFM's report presents the key findings from dozens of interviews with victims, physicians, first responders and eyewitnesses to the attacks.

<http://www.opcw.org/news/article/opcw-fact-finding-mission-compelling-confirmation-that-chlorine-gas-used-as-weapon-in-syria/>

Half the Syrian children are now out of school, says UNICEF

Almost 30 million children are out of school in emergency or conflict-affected countries, approximately half of all children out of school worldwide, said UNICEF on 9 September. In Syria, nearly three million children, half the Syrian school population, are now not attending classes on a regular basis. To maintain opportunities for children to learn, even amidst crisis, UNICEF supports emergency education efforts ranging from temporary classrooms and alternative learning spaces for internally displaced and refugee children, to the provision of millions of notebooks, backpacks and other vital school supplies. However, those programmes remain severely underfunded. "Last year global emergency education programmes supported by UNICEF only received 2 per cent of all funds raised for humanitarian action," said Josephine Bourne, UNICEF's head of global education programmes. "A record number of emergencies means that more children than ever are at risk and we urgently need the resources to reach these children", she noted.

http://www.unicef.org/media/media_75652.html

UN Twitter account

Iraq, Syria top priorities for new @UNRightsWire #humanrights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein <http://ow.ly/BfnFB>
9 September

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura & Deputy Envoy Ramzy Ezzedine Ramzy to visit Damascus & region, see: bit.ly/1xxMu9X
8 September

Retweeted by United Nations

#Syria's brutal war threatens international peace & security:

<http://sm.ohchr.org/1pxfCE6>

6 September

Facebook

The UN is working to secure the release of the 45 peacekeepers detained in Golan. "It is our goal to achieve the immediate, safe and unconditional release of these peacekeepers." said the Under-Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operations Hervé Ladsous. Read more: <http://bit.ly/1pq2AIE>

UN Radio in Arabic

Syria briefs the Human Rights Council on the problem of limited water resources in the country

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145526/#.VBCaK6PTIhk>

Dr. Abdullah Dardari: The main cost of the conflict in Syria is the lost opportunity for economic growth and development

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145533/#.VBCas6PTIhk>

Syrian refugees and displaced Iraqis share bread in the Domez camp

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145518/#.VBCbbqPTIhk>

Confirmation of the repeated use of chlorine gas as a weapon in northern Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145492/#.VBCbwaPTIhk>

Bashar Jaafari: Children who live in terrorist groups areas are subjected to brainwashing and become suicide bombers

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145334/#.VBCc9KPTIhk>

UNICEF: 30 million children affected by conflicts and crises will not go to school this year, including the children of Gaza and Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145319/#.VBCdS6PTIhk>

UN Special envoy to Syria will visit Damascus and other capitals in the region
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145283/#.VBCdgaPTIhk>

The spread of ISIL in Iraq and Syria is an affront to the enjoyment of human rights
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145258/#.VBCduaPTIhk>

**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/>