



Syrian Crisis

United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General calls for decisive action to address ISIS threat

Speaking to journalists on 16 September, ahead of the opening of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General noted that the ISIS is a threat to international peace and security as has already been declared by the Security Council. He urged the international community to act decisively to address this threat, stressing that it was critical to keep the protection of civilians issue at the forefront.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3539>

Serry says political measures are needed to end appalling violence in Syria

During a briefing to the Security Council on the Middle East on 16 September, UN Special Coordinator Robert Serry said that the situation in Syria had been developing at an alarming pace. He underlined the Secretary-General's appreciation of Member States' efforts to stop the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Al-Nusra Front, calling for those efforts to be accompanied by political measures to end the appalling violence in Syria.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2014/sc11563.doc.htm>

UN humanitarian chiefs urge more assistance for refugees in Lebanon

On 17 September, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres, and the head of the UN Development Programme, Helen Clark, called for more support to help Lebanon deal with the flow of Syrian refugees. During a visit to Syrian refugees in Deir El Ahmar, in the Bekka Valley, they stressed the need for a shift in the international response to the crisis: not only should assistance flow to refugees, said Guterres and Clark, but increasingly it must also flow to host communities in neighbouring countries to help them cope with the burden. Lebanon has taken the largest share of refugees from the three-year Syrian conflict. "The international community is not doing enough for Lebanon," Guterres said, adding that, "Preserving Lebanon's stability is everybody's business."

<http://www.unhcr.org/54185e1d9.html>

Commission of Inquiry: brutal crimes continue to be committed by all warring parties in Syria

The Chair of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria, Paulo Pinheiro, told the Human Rights Council on 16 September that the war in Syria was worsening every day and he had run out of words to depict the gravity of the crimes committed inside Syria. Presenting the Commission's latest report, he said that opposition armed groups continued to commit crimes with no regard for international law. He added, however, that ISIS and the anti-Government armed groups were not the only agents of death in

Syria. The Syrian Government remains responsible for the majority of the civilian casualties. Noting that the Syrian conflict would not be resolved on the battlefield, Pinheiro said that the rise of ISIS emphasised the need for the Government and the opposition to find common ground and commit to making compromises needed to reach a comprehensive political settlement.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15041&LangID=E>

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/A-HRC-27-CRP1_en.pdf

UNICEF and WHO deeply concerned about reported death of children in Idlib

On 17 September, the UN Deputy Spokesperson said that UNICEF and WHO were deeply concerned by the reported deaths on that day of a number of children in the Idlib area of Syria. "These deaths reportedly occurred in a location where a measles vaccination campaign was taking place, and as a precautionary measure we understand that the local health authorities have suspended the campaign in the district pending an investigation. We are awaiting further clarification of the facts", he added. "Measles is a major threat to children in Syria and the campaigns are vital to protect them from this highly contagious and sometimes deadly disease", the agencies stressed.

<http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2014/db140917.doc.htm>

UN Twitter account

Watch UN Commission of Inquiry on #Syria present report to UN Human Rights Council:

[#HRC27](http://ow.ly/BxZv8)

- 16 Sep 2014

UN Radio in Arabic

Syrian Ambassador: Transferring UNDOF personnel's from the Syrian side is an Israeli plan to create a buffer zone

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146100/#.VBnbZqPTIhk>

Interactive dialogue in Geneva with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146064/#.VBncaqPTIhk>

International Commission of Inquiry: ISIS is the latest beneficiary of the failure to end the Syrian conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146010/#.VBncr6PTIhk>

Half of those who are arriving by boat to Europe are from Syria and Eritrea

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145961/#.VBndAKPTIhk>

UNDOF leaves the Syrian side of the Golan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145965/#.VBndO6PTIhk>

Security Council: ISIS must be eliminated along with its ideology of intolerance, violence and hatred

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145924/#.VBndiqPTIhk>

Derek Plumbly discusses in Iran the challenges faced by Lebanon because of the Syrian war

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145887/#.VBneHaPTIhk>

United Nations stresses the need to protect civilians in Syria in the event of launching any action against ISIS

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/145838/#.VBneyqPTIhk>

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/>