



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



**A Weekly Update from the
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Secretary-General calls for decisive action to confront extremist armed groups

During a press conference on 23 September, the Secretary-General urged world leaders gathered in New York to come together decisively in support of efforts to confront extremist armed groups in Syria. "It is undeniable -- and the subject of broad international consensus -- that these extremist groups pose an immediate threat to international peace and security", he said. "Confronting terrorist groups operating in Syria requires a multi-faceted approach. This approach should be designed to address the immediate security risks, to stop atrocity and crimes, and over the longer term, to eliminate the conditions in which these groups take root", he added. Welcoming the international solidarity to confront these challenges, the Secretary-General also underscored the importance of all measures being fully in line with the UN Charter and international humanitarian law. "Protecting the Syrian people requires immediate action, but action that is rooted in the principles of the United Nations", he noted.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3572>

Secretary-General discusses situation in Syria and Iraq with King of Jordan

In a meeting with King Abdullah II of Jordan on the margins of the UN General Assembly on 24 September, the Secretary-General stressed his deep concern about the security threats posed by extremist elements from Syria and Iraq. He thanked Jordan for hosting Syrian refugees, and stressed the importance of ensuring that border crossings remain open for all refugees. He also expressed great appreciation for Jordan's role in supporting the continued operations of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) during a period of high tensions.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3588>

Fighting terrorism needs to be accompanied with political process -- UN Special Envoy

On 23 September, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, briefed the Security Council on his recent visit to Damascus. In his address, he outlined his three main priorities for Syria: lowering the level of violence, increasing access to aid and promoting the political process. While noting that the current period is a "delicate and dangerous" one, Mr. de Mistura stressed that the international community has to make sure that the 11 million Syrians in urgent need of aid are helped. He also told the Council that the fight against terrorism needed to be accompanied with a genuine political process, including all Syrians, noting that President Assad agreed on the importance of a political process.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48796#.VCLgthbz7kc>

More than 130,000 Syrian refugees have crossed into Turkey

On 23 September, the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR, said that over 138,000 refugees, mainly Kurds fleeing ISIS threat to villages in northern Syria, have crossed into Southern Turkey. Refugees passed through the two remaining open border points at Yumurtalik and Murstipinar/Akmanak, according to the agency. UNHCR has been operating mobile registration centres near one of these border crossings. Once registered, refugees receive an ID card, which provides access to free health care services in Turkish clinics, as well as other aid provided by local municipalities, non-governmental organizations and other aid agencies.

<http://www.unhcr.org/54214ed19.html>

OHCHR says hundreds of thousands live in fear of persecution in northern Syria

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) expressed grave concern about the situation of civilians near the northern Syrian town of Kobani. An OHCHR spokesperson told reporters on 23 September that the agency had received alarming reports of deliberate killing of civilians, including women and children as well as the abduction of hundreds of Kurds by ISIL. Since 15 September, ISIL had reportedly captured at least 105 Kurdish villages in Kobani. Hundreds of thousands remained in the region, living in fear of the kind of persecution that ISIL had carried out against religious and ethnic minorities elsewhere in Syria and Iraq.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15085&LangID=E>

Millions more children at risk as the Syrian crisis deepens

Ahead of a meeting of key government, NGO and UN partners on the margins of the UN General Assembly, a report released by the No Lost Generation initiative says that the deepening crisis in Syria continues to put an entire generation of children at risk. The report notes that adolescents are particularly vulnerable and underserved, with anger and frustration at their situations making them more susceptible to the lure of armed groups. Creating opportunities to prevent them from being drawn into violence and conflict is critical. The No Lost Generation initiative appealed for \$885 million to fund education and child protection services in Syria and host countries in 2014. To date, \$301 million (34%) has been received, leaving a gap of \$584 million.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/no-lost-generation-initiative-protecting-futures-children-affected-syria>

UN Twitter account

Ban Ki-moon on #Syria: Extremist groups pose an immediate threat to international peace and security bit.ly/1Cb41Ui
12:20 PM - 23 Sep 2014

UN @Refugees agency steps up aid operations as 130,000 Syrian refugees cross into Turkey <http://j.mp/1wGJ8NO>
11:15 PM - 22 Sep 2014

Syria crisis: @WFP says drastic reduction in food assistance to Syrians is unavoidable. Info: wfp.org/stories/syria pic.twitter.com/vwrst4kFc4
1:05 AM - 19 Sep 2014

UN Radio in Arabic

De Mistura: The suffering of the Syrian people cannot continue
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/147215/#.VCL2v1fTlhk>

Secretary General: Terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq have no place in Islam
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/147207/#.VCL3LIftIhk>

De Mistura: We will do everything possible to reduce violence in Syria
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/147165/#.VCL3flftIhk>

Jordan heads a meeting on the humanitarian situation in Syria and new pledges for countries hosting refugees
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/147064/#.VCL3x1ftIhk>

Secretary General expresses regret for the casualties resulting from air strikes on Syria and calls for avoiding and minimizing civilian casualties
http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/147030/#.VCL3_1ftIhk

With Syrian refugees pouring into Turkey, humanitarian needs increasing
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146972/#.VCL4X1ftIhk>

Syrian Kurds face persecution at the hands of ISIL fighters
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146940/#.VCL4oFftIhk>

Syrian Ambassador in Geneva: Israel encourages terrorist organizations to enter the area of separation
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146874/#.VCL4-VftIhk>

Ban Ki-moon and Nabil Elaraby discuss ISIL, Syria and Gaza
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146802/#.VCL5QVftIhk>

UNHCR is stepping up relief measures in the wake of the sudden influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/146689/#.VCL5xFTIhk>

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/>