



## **Syrian Crisis** **United Nations Response**



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

**No. 63 / 8 October 2014**

### **Secretary-General and Special Envoy urge international action to protect civilians in Kobane**

On 7 October, the Secretary-General expressed grave concern about the ongoing offensive by ISIL on the northern Syrian town of Ayn al-Arab, also known as Kobane, which has caused massive displacement of people, including into Turkey. "Gross and extensive violations of human rights have been committed by the terrorist group during its barbarous campaign in areas under its control in Syria and Iraq", he added further in a statement. The Secretary-General urged all those with the means to take immediate action to protect the civilian population of Kobane.

In a video message released on the same day, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura also called on the international community to take immediate steps to defend the population of Kobane and avoid a humanitarian tragedy. "They are fighting with normal weapons, whereas the ISIL has got tanks and mortars. The international community needs to defend them. The international community cannot sustain another city falling under ISIL. We need to act now", he stated.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8084>

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3668>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN6b7R21AVU&feature=youtu.be>

### **UN Human Rights agency voices concern at intensifying shelling by ISIL**

About 10,000 people have fled to the border following ISIL's continued advance towards Kobane, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). OHCHR reported on 7 October that there has been indiscriminate shelling and mortar fire by ISIL in the city and expressed deep concern about the safety of civilians who had not crossed into Turkey. Speaking at a press briefing in Geneva, an OHCHR Spokesperson told reporters that there had been street to street fighting in parts of Kobane. OHCHR was also very concerned about what would happen to any person captured by ISIL, given their atrocious record both in Iraq and in Syria with regard to captured fighters.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest\\_en\)/29DCD1FBBFEC5252C1257D6A0032F0E1?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/29DCD1FBBFEC5252C1257D6A0032F0E1?OpenDocument)

### **UNICEF welcomes release of 70 Kurdish children**

On 3 October 2014, UNICEF welcomed the release of 70 Kurdish children after four months of captivity. These children were kidnapped on 29 May 2014 while

traveling from their home-town of Ayn al-Arab in the northern Syrian governorate of Aleppo to take their final school examinations.

"The abduction, recruitment and use of children in hostilities are grave child rights violations. In this time of conflict, it is the obligation of all Parties to ensure that Syrian children be kept out of harm's way and granted unhindered and safe access to education," stressed UNICEF in a press statement.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_76131.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_76131.html)

### **Palestinian refugees in Yarmouk face water shortage - UNRWA**

The UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) said on 8 October that the Yarmouk camp has been without mains water supply since early September. As a result, the 18,000 residents have to rely on ground water and a single well which are unsafe and insufficient. The UNRWA Spokesperson said the agency is liaising with relevant authorities to address the issue, but to date, has not received permission to either distribute water or repair the supply pipes in Yarmouk. The agency also voiced concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation within the camp as it is only permitted to distribute aid three days a week. UNRWA reiterated its call for immediate and sustained humanitarian access to address these issues.

<http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>

### **UN Twitter account**

Keep schools out of conflict. @UNESCO Director-General condemns attacks on schools in Syria & Ukraine <http://ow.ly/Cfvoz>

- 3 Oct 2014

Syria: @UNrightswire condemns the destruction of places of religious significance by #ISIL: <http://sm.ohchr.org/1tmXCyI>

- 3 Oct 2014

Syria: UN child rights envoy appalled by deadly school attacks in Homs

<http://j.mp/1mWMEDn>

- 3 Oct 2014

### **UN Facebook page**

The UN Facebook page shared a OHCHR photo.

Syria: UN Human Rights Office alarmed by the situation in Kobane, also known as Ayn al-Arab, which is currently being attacked by ISIL. We are hugely concerned for the safety of any civilians remaining in Kobane, as well as in surrounding villages. Given ISIL's atrocious record of repeated murders and summary executions of prisoners in both Syria and Iraq, we are also extremely concerned about the fate of any combatants captured

<http://sm.ohchr.org/1s6iU7b>

- 7 Oct 2014

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

Staffan de Mistura calls on the international community to prevent the fall Kobane into the hands of ISIL

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148864/#.VDWITVfTIhk>

Human Rights Commission opens its session by referring to what is happening in Syria and Iraq

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148801/#.VDWI0FfTIhk>

OHCHR expresses concern about the situation in the town of Ayn al-Arab (Kobane)

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148770/#.VDWJHfTIhk>

Secretary-General calls for protection of civilians in Ayn al-Arab, northern Syria,

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148750/#.VDWJhFfTIhk>

The Security Council deplors the killing of Alan Henning by ISIL

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148723/#.VDWSuFfTIhk>

Security Council condemns bomb attacks on a school in Homs, Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148711/#.VDWTK1fTIhk>

OHCHR condemns the destruction of an Armenian Church in Deir al-Zour

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/148635/#.VDWTclfTIhk>

## **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/](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](http://www.unicef.org/photography/photo_2013.php#UNI82253)

IRIN: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/>