



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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Secretary-General warns of threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and violent extremism

The Secretary-General addressed the Security Council's open meeting on 19 November on the threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism and violent extremism. He told the Council that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters and the scourge of violent extremism are not just security challenges, but they can affect the stability and the social fabric of communities, countries and regions. While welcoming the Council's increased attention to the threat, he said that despite strengthened international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extremism, the number of foreign terrorist fighters in the Syria and Iraq conflicts has grown to over 15,000 from more than 80 countries. "We must continue to think more deeply into the fundamental conditions that allow extremism to thrive. Looking at these challenges solely through a military lens has shown its limits", he noted.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8206>

Special Envoy to begin work on proposed "conflict freeze" in Aleppo

During a monthly Security Council meeting on the Middle East on 17 November, Assistant Secretary-General ad interim for Political Affairs, Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, briefed on the situation in Syria. In his remarks, he recalled the action plan proposed to the Council, noting that Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and his team would immediately begin work on the modalities of a proposed "freeze" in the northwestern city of Aleppo.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11649.doc.htm>

UNRWA: Far more needs to be done to bring humanitarian aid to Yarmouk

Addressing the Advisory Commission meeting of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) on 17 November, Commissioner-General Pierre Krähenbühl said that the effects of the conflict for Syrians and Palestine refugees continue to be catastrophic. Over 60% of the Palestine refugees are displaced or have become refugees a second time over, in Lebanon or Jordan, in Turkey or in Egypt. On the situation in the Yarmouk Palestine refugee camp, he said that 16,000 to 18,000 civilians remain trapped, living in hunger, cold and constant fear. The Commissioner-General noted that since the summer, there has been a noticeable decline in UNRWA aid deliveries to the camp. "Far more needs to be done in terms of assistance and of protection for the people in Yarmouk, something that continues to be explicitly raised with the Syrian authorities", he said.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/opening-statement-mr-pierre-krähenbühl-commissioner-general-unrwa>

Large numbers of Syrian refugee children in Lebanon are out of school- UNHCR study

In a report released on 17 September entitled "Barriers to Education for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon," the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) noted that nearly four years after the start of the Syrian crisis, the arrival of more than 1 million refugees in Lebanon has severely strained the country's public services, including in the area of education. The study found that despite having generously opened access to its schools for a large number of refugee children, the Lebanese education system and public schools lack the capacity and resources to accommodate the large increase of school-aged children. UNHCR estimates that 420,000 Syrians aged 6-14 are in need of education services, and many of these children have been out of school for two or more years. Overall, the study found that the main barriers for this range from financial constraints such as the cost of transportation or school supplies and the need for support to family economies, to structural reasons such as a lack of capacity in schools, the need of official documentation and differences in curriculum.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/barriers-education-syrian-refugee-children-lebanon-november-2014>

UN Commission of Inquiry: Syrian victims reveal ISIS' calculated use of brutality and indoctrination

The UN commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic published its latest report, "Rule of Terror: Living under ISIS in Syria", on 14 November. Based on over 300 first-hand victim and witness accounts, the report documents shocking incidents of the armed group's use of terror to subjugate Syrians living in its areas of control, as well as the use of extreme violence against both civilians and captured fighters.

"Those that fled consistently described being subjected to acts that terrorize and aim to silence the population," said Paulo Pinheiro, chair of the commission. In the paper, the commission paints a devastating picture of civilian life inside ISIS-controlled areas in northeastern Syria. Executions, amputations and lashings in public spaces have become a regular occurrence. The report also details ISIS' horrific abuse of Yazidi women and girls, some of whom, after being abducted in Iraq in September 2014, were taken to Syria and sold into sexual slavery in markets in locations across Ar-Raqqa governorate. Among the commission's recommendations is a call to engage international accountability mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court, to hold individuals, including ISIS commanders, responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15295&LangID=E#sthash.qBo7S6ZC.dpuf>

UN Twitter account:

Video: \$58.45m funding gap could leave nearly a million displaced Iraqis & Syrians out in the cold <http://youtu.be/u-yBDBuM8Ic> via @Refugees

- 16 Nov 2014

New #COISyria #humanrights report reveals calculated use of brutality & indoctrination by #ISIS: <http://fal.cn/2Yf> via @UNRIghtsWire

- 14 Nov 2014

UNHCR warns of winter crisis for almost 1 million displaced Iraqis & Syrians

<http://trib.al/pzaUCU4> pic.twitter.com/zUd8iVJ9vx via @Refugees

- 11 Nov 2014

UN Radio in Arabic:

Iraqi Ambassador: ISIS controls important Iraqi infrastructure and it is essential to destroy it

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/153203/index.html#.VGzF4_nF9Q0

Kuwait supports an international resolution regarding human rights in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/153058/index.html#.VGzF7PnF9Q0>

Qatar's assurance about its constructive role, while calling for the protection of Syrians

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/153059/index.html#.VGzF7fnF9Q0>

Syrian Ambassador: Human Rights Council Resolutions are politicized, biased, and controlled by Saudi and Qatari money

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/153000/index.html#.VGzF7_nF9Q0

Secretary-General: G-20 has the ability and responsibility to put the world on a better track

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152923/index.html#.VGzIOfnF9Q1>

War of words between the Syrian and Israeli Ambassadors over the Occupied Golan Heights in the General Assembly

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152890/index.html#.VGzF9PnF9Q0>

Pinheiro calls on States to stop the flow of foreign fighters to Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152868/index.html#.VGzF9fnF9Q0>

WHO warns of measles outbreaks

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152693/index.html#.VGzF9_nF9Q0

Ban Ki-moon: One country or one organization cannot address world problems alone

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152642/index.html#.VGzF-PnF9Q0>

UAE covers more than 30% of healthcare costs in Syrian refugee camps in Jordan

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/152518/index.html#.VGzF-fnF9Q0>

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=>

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/>