



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



A Weekly Update from the  
UN Department of Public Information

No. 83/25 February 2015

### Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Syria

Taking note of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura's briefing to the Security Council in which he conveyed the willingness of the Syrian Government to commit to the suspension of all kinds of shelling over Aleppo for a period of six weeks, the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 20 February appealed to "all parties to de-escalate the conflict in order to provide a reprieve for the long-suffering civilians of Syria." In order to end the killing and to prevent the fragmentation of Syria, a political process should be put in place and it must be "based on the full implementation of the Geneva Communique of 2012, that addresses the deep roots of the conflict and meets the aspirations of all Syrians," the UN chief added.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8410>

### UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria: Impunity prevails as little progress is made towards securing peace and justice for Syrians

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic briefed the UN Security Council on 20 February on its ninth report into human rights violations in Syria since the beginning of the uprising in March 2011. The report calls for paying attention to the crimes that are perpetrated against the Syrian people, and stresses the need for an international sustainable effort to find a political solution, to stop human rights violations and to break the cycle of impunity. According to the report, Government authorities carried out arbitrary arrests, torture and increased indiscriminate attacks on civilians in areas affiliated with the opposition, and the newly emerged terrorist groups - Jabhat Al-Nusra and the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham - also carried brutal attacks on civilians and minorities. "It is unconscionable that Syrians should continue to suffer as they have for the last four years and have to live in a world where only limited attempts have been made to return Syria to peace, and to seek justice for the victims," Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, Chair of the Commission, said.

The report will be presented to the Human Rights Council on 17 March 2015.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15594&LangID=E>

[http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A.HRC.28.69\\_E.doc](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A.HRC.28.69_E.doc)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50135>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/report-independent-international-commission-inquiry-syrian-arab-republ-7>

### High Commissioner for Human Rights highlights plight of thousands of detainees in Syria

In a press release issued on Thursday 19 February, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged the Syrian authorities to release all detainees held by the Government and its militias without due process, noting that activists, lawyers and human rights defenders were particularly targeted. He specifically highlighted the case of the three members of the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression - Mazen Darwish, Hani Al-Zaitani and Hussein Ghreer - who have been held for three years on terrorism charges and whose trial has been postponed with no set date. "Estimates of

the number of people in Syria who have been held at some point or other in Government and intelligence detention facilities since the first protests began in Daraa in March 2011 range from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands," he added. He called on the Syrian Government to "immediately release all those who have been jailed for peaceful expression of their views and to ensure that all those detained are accorded their full due process rights."

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15584&LangID=E>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/zeid-highlights-plight-thousands-detainees-syria>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50127>

### **WHO launches billion dollar appeal to tackle soaring needs in four crisis-torn countries**

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 24 February called on donors to provide \$1 billion to support efforts to provide needed life-saving health services to populations in the Central African Republic, Iraq, South Sudan and Syria. These countries, according to WHO, are classified as "Grade 3" category crisis, requiring the highest level of response that the UN can deliver. "In each crisis, needs range from basic health care such as childhood vaccinations to surgical care for severely wounded patients caught up in the conflicts," it added. Syria alone has "16.4 million people needing humanitarian health support; US\$687 million is required by the health sector (including US\$157 million by WHO) in Syria and neighbouring countries," WHO explained.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50168>

<http://www.who.int/hac/donorinfo/24february2015/en/>

### **WHO delivers life-saving medicine to eastern Aleppo**

The World Health Organization (WHO) delivered medicine and medical supplies to rural Aleppo and to the eastern part of the city, the Organization said on 23 February. "Working with partners, such as the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and local nongovernmental organizations, WHO sent life-saving medicine and medical supplies to two hospitals in eastern Aleppo City and Al-Bab, as well as three public health centres in Azza, Daret Ezzeh, and Al-Atareb districts for approximately 60,500 medical treatments," it explained.

According to WHO, only four hospitals in Aleppo are operational; eleven others have been damaged, five of which are totally destroyed.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/who-delivers-life-saving-medicine-eastern-aleppo-city>

<http://www.emro.who.int/syr/syria-news/who-delivers-life-saving-medicine-to-eastern-aleppo-city.html>

### **UNESCO launches "Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth" programme to scale up its education response to the Syria crisis**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched on 23 February its two-year programme "Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth" aimed at increasing "access to quality secondary and higher education, teacher training, as well as the resilience of education systems in affected countries, in particular Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq," it said. According to UNESCO, if these countries fail to provide the youth with the required knowledge and skills, "the region will face greater challenges including high levels of unemployment, violence, criminality and extremism. By building resilient education systems, education can tip the balance in favour of peace."

The newly launched programme is aligned with Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) - a joint plan jointly by OCHA, UNDP and UNHCR - supports UNICEF's No Lost Generation (NLG) strategy and is part of the nationally led response processes.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unesco-launches-bridging-learning-gaps-youth-programme-scale-its>  
[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco\\_launches\\_bridging\\_learning\\_gaps\\_for\\_youth\\_programme\\_to\\_scale\\_up\\_its\\_education\\_response\\_to\\_the\\_syria\\_crisis/#.VOyQo\\_nF-Sp](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/unesco_launches_bridging_learning_gaps_for_youth_programme_to_scale_up_its_education_response_to_the_syria_crisis/#.VOyQo_nF-Sp)

### **UN Twitter**

Security Council briefed on human rights violations in four-year #Syria conflict  
<http://ow.ly/Jo236>  
- 20 Feb 2015

Ban Ki-moon speaks to @JudyWoodruff @PBS @NewsHour on #CVESummit #Syria & more. <http://to.pbs.org/ISNw9C>  
<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/ban-ki-moon-preventing-terrorism-protecting-human-rights/>  
- 19 Feb 2015

### **UN FACEBOOK**

Syria: UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said on Wednesday that he sees a “glimmer of hope” for his proposed freeze of hostilities in the city of Aleppo amid continuing fighting throughout the country between Government forces and entrenched rebels.

The conflict in Syria has sparked the largest humanitarian crisis since the Second World War, with 7.6 million people displaced and 3.2 million refugees created. A further 12.2 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.

Over 150,000 people have died in the conflict and at least 680,000 have been injured.

Read more: <http://j.mp/1DDdjuo>  
-19 Feb 2015

### **UN Radio in Arabic:**

Ban Ki-moon calls on parties to the Syrian conflict to stop the bombardment of Aleppo for 6 weeks  
[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161286/#.VOz pH\\_nF9Q0](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161286/#.VOz pH_nF9Q0)

Sergio Pinheiro urges to not forget the abuses committed by government forces and other non-State actors in the Syrian conflict  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161273/#.VOz pXvnF9Q0>

Report of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria shows the suffering of civilians caused by all parties  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161233/#.VOz qAvnF9Q0>

High Commissioner for Human Rights highlights the plight of thousands of detainees in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161111/#.VOz qofnF9Q0>

## **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://unocha.org/syria> , [twitter.com/ocha\\_syria](https://twitter.com/ocha_syria) , [facebook.com/UNOCHA.Syria](https://facebook.com/UNOCHA.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/>