



## **Syrian Crisis**

# **United Nations Response**



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

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### **Special Envoy de Mistura continues his talks on freeze in Aleppo**

On 2 March, the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, met in Damascus with Syrian Government officials to discuss the freeze of fighting in Aleppo. As part of his peace efforts, a mission was dispatched to Aleppo to assess the situation on the ground and ensure that, once the Freeze is announced, humanitarian aid can significantly increase.

<http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?cuff=3>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150302.doc.htm-0>

### **UN Humanitarian Chief travels to Jordan and Lebanon to discuss the impact of the Syrian crisis**

UN Humanitarian Chief Valerie Amos began on 2 March a four-day visit to Jordan and Lebanon to discuss the impact of the Syrian crisis with senior officials and humanitarian partners. Addressing the World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultation for the Middle East and North Africa in Amman, Ms. Amos called for new ideas on how best to protect civilians, safeguard access and reinforce international humanitarian and human rights law. In her remarks, she praised the hospitality and generosity shown by Syria's neighbours as refugees fled across the border, noting that shouldering this burden was putting strain on public services, infrastructure and the economies of host countries. She also pointed to the contributions of the entire region's people and Governments, as well as regional organizations and NGOs to the humanitarian response.

<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/3%20Mar%2015%20USG%20Amman%20WHS.pdf>

### **Violence and brutality continue unabated and with total impunity UN official tells the Security Council**

In a briefing to the Security Council on 26 February, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Kyung-wha Kang said that as Syria enters its fifth year of conflict, violence and brutality continue unabated and with total impunity. She noted that the indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas, by all parties, had claimed more lives during the month of February and displaced thousands.

Ms. Kang urged the Council to do all in its power to hold the parties accountable and improve humanitarian access in Syria. "Every month we report on the same violations. The parties to the conflict continue to act with impunity: killing and abducting civilians; denying access; removing vital supplies from convoys. This pattern must be broken", she said. Also briefing the Council, High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres stressed that the refugee crisis was reaching a tipping point. He said that with over 3.8 million Syrian refugees registered in neighbouring countries, the humanitarian crisis has overwhelmed existing response capacities.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/assistant-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-deputy-emergency>

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/un-high-commissioner-refugees-antonio-guterres-open-briefing>

## **Early efforts to address human rights might have averted a catastrophe in Syria, says Secretary-General**

In a video message delivered at the opening of the 28<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council on 2 March, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations has the mandates and tools it needs to prevent human rights violations. However, he warned that the biggest challenge to using these tools is the lack of political consensus among Member States. "The world faces serious violations of human rights, from discrimination and inequality to oppression and violent extremism. Our shared challenge is to do far more to keep these and other abuses from occurring in the first place", the Secretary-General stated. Referring to the conflict in Syria, he added that the latter offers just one example where early United Nations efforts to address human rights violations might have averted a human and political catastrophe. The Secretary-General called on Member States "to do their part in generating a much-needed shift in the way we work".  
<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8427>

### **UN Twitter:**

\$1billion needed to tackle soaring needs in #CARcrisis, Syria, Iraq #SouthSudan - @WHO <http://ow.ly/JDNcc>  
- 28 Feb 2015

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

Valerie Amos: millions of people's life from Libya to Palestine, Yemen, Syria and Iraq changed as a result of violence in the region  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/162056/#.VPc2ufnF9Q0>

Staffan de Mistura works hard to freeze the conflict in Aleppo  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161842/#.VPc3oPnF9Q0>

Security Council holds a session on the humanitarian situation in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161766/#.VPc4CPnF9Q0>

Kyung-wha Kang: Use of blockade on humanitarian aid and basic services as a weapon of war in Syria must stop  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161707/#.VPc4UvnF9Q0>

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) warns of abandoning Syrian refugees and the host countries  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/161688/#.VPc4iPnF9Q0>

## **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/>