



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



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

**No. 91/ 22 April 2015**

### **Senior UN officials deeply concerned about the situation of besieged Palestine refugees**

Amid continued fighting in Yarmouk, Deputy Special Envoy for Syria Ramzy Ezzeldine Ramzy, along with the Head of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA), Pierre Krähenbühl, briefed the Security Council on 20 April on their visit to Damascus and efforts to increase aid deliveries inside the Palestine refugee camp. Following the briefing, the UNRWA chief told reporters that the humanitarian situation in Yarmouk "remains very extreme in both circumstances and hardships". He said several thousand people remain in Yarmouk and he was determined to establish distribution points to allow them to access humanitarian aid and to increase assistance to those who had managed to escape to nearby neighborhoods.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150420.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50636#.VTajYJPgW3Y>

### **Security Council demands end of attacks against civilians and unhindered access in Yarmouk**

In a statement issued on 20 April, Members of the Security Council said they were deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian situation inside the Palestine refugee camp and called for unhindered humanitarian access. The Council demanded the immediate withdrawal of ISIL and Al-Nusra Front from Yarmouk and the cessation by all parties of all attacks against civilians. At the same time, the Council expressed its support for the UN's three-point plan aimed at assisting Palestinian refugees trapped in Yarmouk, which includes: 1) Providing assistance for civilians who are unwilling or unable to leave Yarmouk; 2) Assisting those who want to "temporarily relocate" from the camp to do so in accordance with international humanitarian law; 3) Assisting Yarmouk residents who have already fled.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11865.doc.htm>

### **UNRWA appeals for US\$30 million to support emergency relief efforts in Yarmouk**

UNRWA launched on 17 April a humanitarian appeal, seeking an immediate injection of US\$30 million to provide life-saving assistance to civilians in the Yarmouk refugee camp over the next three months. The agency said that in the past week it had significantly stepped up its food and medical assistance. UNRWA said it is working in every neighboring area to the east and south-east of Yarmouk and continues to provide aid to civilians from Yarmouk who remain displaced in the north-eastern area of Tadamoun. Those receiving assistance are Palestinian and Syrian families displaced or affected by conflict, as well as host communities.

<http://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/yarmouk-emergency-call-funds>

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/yarmouk-situation-update-19>

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/yarmouk-situation-update-18>

### **Delivery of aid remains extremely challenging warns Secretary-General**

In his latest report to the Security Council on humanitarian access in Syria, the Secretary-General said that despite the continued efforts of United Nations agencies and partners, the delivery of humanitarian assistance remained extremely challenging. Among the main factors impeding access in some areas, he cited insecurity and shifting conflict lines, deliberate interference, restrictions on access and onerous administrative procedures that constrain the effective delivery of assistance. "All parties to the conflict must realize the toll this conflict continues to take on ordinary civilians. Yet they persist. Their actions raise serious moral and legal questions, which the international community, including the Security Council, must address. Those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law must be held accountable", stressed the Secretary-General in the report.

[http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/264](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/264)

### **UNICEF urges EU countries to step up action to prevent more tragedies in the Mediterranean**

Following two deadly incidents of migrant boats capsizing in the Mediterranean Sea, UNICEF called on European authorities to put the best interests of children first. "Two deadly incidents in just two days on the Mediterranean Sea stress the need for swift, collective and courageous action", the UN Children's Fund noted in a statement on 21 April. "Thousands have made perilous journeys to Europe, fleeing brutal conflicts back home such as in Syria. Children who find themselves on these journeys are exposed to abuse, exploitation and possibly death and, if they survive, are often placed in unsafe and unsuitable conditions and/or criminalized. We ask that all actions are guided by the best interests of every one of these children, every step of the way", UNICEF stated.

[http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_81609.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_81609.html)

### **UN Twitter:**

The latest on @UNRWA's response to the #Yarmouk crisis is here: [#SaveYarmouk](http://goo.gl/VwgxNO)  
- 16 Apr 2015

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

Video & Audio interview: The Jordanian Ambassador talks about the situation in Yarmouk and the consequences of the Syrian conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166572/index.html#.VTfJ1iFVhHw>

UNRWA briefs Security Council on the situation in Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166527/index.html#.VTfKQiFVhHw>

Security Council calls on all parties to protect civilians in Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166527/index.html#.VTfKQiFVhHw>

UNRWA needs \$30 million to help the displaced from Yarmouk

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166371/index.html#.VTfKmSFVhHw>

The Syrian Government looks forward to the scheduled visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/166142/index.html#.VTfKyyFVhHw>

### **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/>