



## United Nations Response



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

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### **Special Envoy de Mistura continues consultations in Geneva**

The UN Spokesperson told reporters on 12 May that Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, held consultations with the Chairman of the National Coordination Committee for Democratic Change (NCC), Hassan Abdel Azim, as well as with the Chairman of the Building the Syrian State political party, Louay Hussain. At the conclusion of these consultations, Mr. de Mistura stressed that it was critical to reach out to Syrian political actors. “No one more than the Syrians themselves recognize the urgency of bringing the conflict to an end”, he stated. As part of ongoing consultations, the Special Envoy met over the past week with delegations from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and France as well as with former Special Envoy Kofi Annan. Mr. de Mistura also met with various Syrians, including representatives of civil society and religious leaders to hear further views and perspectives on ways to resolve the conflict.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150511.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150508.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150507.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150512.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50835#.VVODE0bgW3Y>

### **“Widespread and systematic sexual violence committed in Syria and Iraq,” warns UN official**

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura, told reporters on 7 May that sexual violence is being committed in a widespread and systematic manner and with a high-degree of sophistication by most parties to the conflict in Syria and Iraq. During a press briefing on a visit to the region where she met with women who escaped ISIL captivity, Ms. Bangura described instances of forced marriage as well as of women being sold for sex. “ISIL have institutionalized sexual violence and the brutalization of women as a central aspect of their ideology and operations, using it as a tactic of terrorism to advance their key strategic objectives,” she said. The Special Representative said she had requested the Security Council to integrate protection and empowerment of women into its counter-terrorism response.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50794#.VVEEmEdFFBLN>

### **UNRWA calls on donors to increase their support**

As the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) continued aid relief distribution to displaced Palestinians and Syrians from the Yarmouk camp, the agency urged donors to increase their support. “UNRWA’s capacity to sustain life-saving emergency interventions, whilst responding immediately to urgent developments such as the one impacting Yarmouk since April 1st, is undermined by chronic underfunding”, the agency warned on 12 May. UNRWA said it needed an immediate injection of \$30 million as the Syria Crisis Appeal has only received 21% of the funding required. To date, more than 95% of Palestine refugees now rely on UNRWA to meet their daily needs of food, water and healthcare.

<http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/emergency-reports/yarmouk-situation-update-26>

<http://www.unrwa.org/resources/emergency-appeals/syria-regional-crisis-emergency-appeal-2015>

### **UN Disarmament Chief expects all chemical weapons facilities destroyed by late June**

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane told the media on 7 May that she expected the destruction of remaining chemical weapons production facilities to be completed by the end of June in Syria. Ms. Kane was speaking after briefing the Security Council on the progress in the elimination of Syria's chemical weapons programme.

<http://webtv.un.org/watch/angela-kane-unoda-on-syria-chemical-weapons-%E2%80%93-security-council-media-stakeout-07-may-2015/4224069396001>

### **UN Goodwill Ambassador struck by situation of Syrian youth, who are refugees in Jordan**

Following a visit to the Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps in Jordan, UN Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini stated on 11 May that he felt strongly for the young people whose lives have been affected by war in Syria. According to UNHCR, Jordan hosts over 625,000 Syrian refugees. "What struck me is the immense tragedy of their arrested development," he said. While noting that the situation in Syria had "unraveled" since his previous visit a year ago, he added that the young people he met "do not want to be a burden, they are trying their very best to maintain the course of their lives the best they can".

<http://www.unhcr.org/5550c9956.html>

### **On-going social media campaigns:**

UNRWA has launched the **#4Syria** campaign to highlight the fourth anniversary of the Syrian conflict. The campaign calls for an end to the conflict and seeks to raise funds for UNRWA's programmes to support Palestinian refugees from Syria. It features testimonies of Palestine refugees -- voices that, amid the tragedy, brim with positive energy and determination -- as well as documents highlighting UNRWA's emergency work in the region. The campaign can be viewed at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>.

Another campaign launched by UNRWA, **#SaveYarmouk** seeks to shed light on the grave deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yarmouk, following the recent escalation of fighting. The campaign includes stories, updates from Yarmouk as well as recorded voices of residents describing the terrible conditions in which they are living. With no access to regular food supplies, clean water, health care, electricity or heating fuel, Yarmouk's civilian population is on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe. For those who wish to support UNRWA's work in Syria, they can donate through the campaign's website:

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

### **UN Twitter:**

Author & @Refugees Goodwill Ambassador @khaledhosseini met Syrian refugees in @ZaatariCamp. [Video: https://youtu.be/IXIWWkgyCQU](https://youtu.be/IXIWWkgyCQU)  
- 12 May 2015

The inventors: Meet 3 refugees who are making life better at Azraq camp  
[http://trib.al/hqfGohu\\_pic.twitter.com/dDGW5FyhBX](http://trib.al/hqfGohu_pic.twitter.com/dDGW5FyhBX) via @refugees  
- 10 May 2015

UN official re: Syria & Iraq - "Women & girls are at risk and under assault at every point of their lives." <http://ow.ly/MF9VO>  
- 7 May 2015

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

Staffan de Mistura: No one more than the Syrians knows the importance of ending the conflict

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168381/#.VVNsA IVhBc>

Azraq camp for Syrian refugees celebrated its first anniversary

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168341/#.VVNsafIVhBc>

UNESCO and Japan offer quality education for displaced Syrians and refugees in Iraq

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168145/#.VVNs6PIVhBc>

Syrian youth in Jordan .... and their hope in a bright future

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168052/#.VVNtVfIVhBc>

Angela Kane expects the completion of the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities by late June

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167948/#.VVNt-fIVhBc>

Bangura: sexual violence in the Syrian conflict is a terrorist tactic of war

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167915/#.VVNuMvIVhBc>

de Mistura meets official in the Saudi government during the Geneva consultations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/167894/#.VVNufvIVhBc>

### **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/>