



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

**No. 95–20 May 2015**

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

As part of the ongoing Geneva consultations, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura on 20 May met with opposition figures and members of civil society. He listened to various perspectives and initiatives on supporting the Syrian people in their search for peace and efforts to realize their aspirations. Mr. de Mistura also discussed the deteriorating situation in Syria and the growing humanitarian concerns in the country. Mr. de Mistura received a delegation of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, led by Mr. Boudjemnaa Delmi, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva. The two touched upon the urgent need to find a peaceful solution to end the four-year-long conflict. The Special Envoy also met with a delegation of the State of Kuwait, led by Mr. Jamal Al-Ghunaim, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, who shared assessments of developments on the ground and perspectives on the resolution of the conflict in Syria. At the end of his meetings on 20 May, Mr. de Mistura said that "this was another day when I heard ideas on ways to end the conflict in Syria. What is urgently needed is a political will by the Syrian, regional and international sides to find a solution that would meet the aspirations of the Syrian people, who are the ones bearing the brunt of the conflict every day", he stressed.

*Links to previous reports on the Special Envoy's consultations are given below:*

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150518.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150519.doc.htm>

### **Secretary-General urges international community to unite to support Syrian-led political transition**

In his remarks to the 6<sup>th</sup> Asia Leadership Forum in Seoul, Korea, on 19 May, the Secretary-General called on the international community to unite and lend its full support to the United Nations to forge an inclusive, Syrian-led political transition. "Syria is the most obvious example of the burning need for collective, international action to preserve regional security and stability", the Secretary-General noted. The Secretary-General told reporters afterwards that the United Nations was doing everything possible to stop the tragedy engulfing Syria. "My Special Envoy continues to meet with Syrian and international interlocutors. We must urgently help the Syrian people reach a political solution to end the conflict", he said.

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments\\_full.asp?statID=2607](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2607)

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments\\_full.asp?statID=2609#.VVzFikbgW3Y](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/speeches/statments_full.asp?statID=2609#.VVzFikbgW3Y)

### **Lebanon hosts the highest number of refugees per capita in the world, UN Special Envoy tells the Security Council**

During a briefing to the Security Council on the Middle East on 19 May, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nikolay Mladenov told Council members that with 1.2 million registered Syrian refugees, Lebanon hosts the highest number of refugees per capita in the world. The Special Envoy urged international donors to fulfil existing pledges, and to both increase and expedite support for Lebanon.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11900.doc.htm>

## **Refugees trapped in Yarmouk face vulnerability of the highest severity, warns UNRWA**

Amid continuing fighting in the Yarmouk refugee camp, the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) voiced strong concerns about the safety of besieged civilians. "The vulnerability of civilians in Yarmouk remains of the highest severity," said UNRWA Spokesperson Christopher Gunness on 18 May. "Without access, the most basic humanitarian needs of up to 18,000 Palestinian and Syrian civilians, including 3,500 children, continue to be left unmet", Mr. Gunness added, noting that UNRWA's priority remains the delivery of humanitarian aid to civilians within Yarmouk itself. UNRWA reiterated its strong demand for respect of and compliance with obligations to protect civilians and the establishment of secure conditions under which life-saving humanitarian assistance can be delivered.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50883#.VVpS40bgW3Y>

## **Syria crisis threatens developments gains in the region -- UNDP report**

According to a UN Development Programme report, published on 19 May, the Syria crisis and the consequent population displacement have adversely impacted development gains for countries in the region. Entitled "Building Resilience, a Compendium for Partners", the report notes that as economies in Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq continue to face common challenges, the Syria crisis has diverted attention and resources from urgent development needs for national and local infrastructure. The lack of investment is affecting the creation of livelihood opportunities and has been insufficient to account for regional demographic trends, intensifying labor market competition, increasing unemployment and weakening social cohesion. The report presents a case for a robust investment in the area of resilience of people, communities and institutional systems affected by the crisis.

[http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/CPR/building-resilience--in-response-to-the-syria-crisis-/](http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/CPR/building-resilience--in-response-to-the-syria-crisis/)

[http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Compendium%200\\_Syri\\_resilience.pdf](http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/dam/rbas/doc/SyriaResponse/Compendium%200_Syri_resilience.pdf)

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

**#4Syria** campaign was launched on 20 March 2015 on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to highlight the Syrian conflict, which has entered its fifth year. 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. View the campaign at: <http://www.unrwa.org/syria-crisis/syria4thanniversary>

**#SaveYarmouk** was launched in January 2015 to shed light on the grave deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Yarmouk, following the escalation of fighting. The campaign includes stories and updates from Yarmouk as well as recorded voices of residents describing the horrible 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, donation is possible through the campaign's website: <http://www.unrwa.org/crisis-in-yarmouk>.

## **UN TWITTER (@UN)**

.@ILO report: Unemployment on rise in areas of Jordan hit hardest by Syrian refugee crisis. <http://bit.ly/1dft513>

- 19 May 2015

Civilians in Yarmouk facing vulnerability of highest severity, says @UNRWA  
<http://ow.ly/N5o3U>

- 18 May 2015

Refugees endure worsening conditions in 5th year of Syria conflict. Help @refugees here:  
<http://j.mp/1Ef9x6G> <https://twitter.com/UNHCRJo/status/599094410836516864> ...

- 18 May 2015

### **UN FACEBOOK**

The vulnerability of Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Yarmouk camp is of the highest severity. Without access, the most basic humanitarian needs of up to 18,000 civilians, including 3,500 children, continue to be left unmet.

Read more: <http://j.mp/1JU9GkV>

-18 May 2015

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

UNRWA needs financing urgently in order to save lives in Syria

[http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168943/#.VVtE8\\_IVhBc](http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168943/#.VVtE8_IVhBc)

De Mistura continues his meetings in Geneva, and Nabil Al-Arabi joins the consultations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168913/index.html>

Lebanon: Women's declaration on their experience of violence is accurate and sensitive

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168902/>

IOM helps displaced families fleeing from Idlib in north-western Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168756/index.html>

One-month old baby Amira is a victim of the siege of Yarmouk Camp

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168722/index.html>

De Mistura continues his consultations with the Syrian parties in Geneva

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168539/index.html>

Zainab Bangura gives a whiff of hope to the Syrian refugees in Elbeyli Camp, Gaziantep/Turkey

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/168610>

### **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/>