



## Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

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### **SE Staffan de Mistura continues meetings within the framework of the Geneva Consultations**

On 1 June 2015, the Special Envoy for Syria met with a delegation from the Kingdom of Bahrain, led by Mr. Yusuf Abdulkarim Bucheeri, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, who shared his government's views on a political solution to the conflict in Syria and the ongoing developments on the ground. "This four-year brutal conflict has proven that no one will ever win through military means," Mr. de Mistura said at the end of his meeting.

On 2 June, he met with Patriarch Ignatius Aphrem II, Patriarch of Antioch and All the East and Supreme Head of the Universal Syrian Orthodox Church, who presented his views about the peaceful future of Syria and its various communities. "It is very important that the voices of the religious leaders and their communities be heard and taken into account as we search for peace in Syria. Their representatives have an essential role to play in promoting peacemaking and reconciliation in the Syria of tomorrow", Mr. de Mistura stated after the meeting.

On 29 May, he met with a delegation of civil society organizations from the United States working on the Syrian crisis. He said afterward that listening to civil society organizations — especially those who work on advocacy and the medical doctors who put their lives at risk every day to save the victims of chemical attacks or shelling — was yet another reminder of the daily realities of the Syrian civilians who pay the highest toll of this conflict. He said it was also an opportunity to reflect on the aspirations of the diaspora. The Special Envoy also met with delegations of European countries, namely Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

On 28 May, he met with Dr. Aref Dalila, who shared his views on the situation in Syria and the evolution of the ongoing conflict. They also discussed ways to support Syrian sides in launching a political process. Mr. de Mistura also met with a delegation of elected Security Council members (Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, Venezuela). They discussed the ongoing political efforts and possible role of the United Nations.

[www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150529.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150529.doc.htm)

[www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150528.doc.htm](http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/db150528.doc.htm)

### **UN envoy condemns death of at least 70 civilians in Aleppo**

In a press statement issued on 30 May, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, strongly condemned the death of at least 70 civilians in Syria's northern Aleppo province by barrel bombs dropped from government helicopters. "The news of aerial bombing by Syrian helicopters on a civilian market area of the Aleppo neighborhood of Al Shaar deserves the most strong international condemnation," he said. Mr. de Mistura

stressed that the protection of civilians during armed conflicts is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law, and applies in all circumstances and without distinction.

[www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3970](http://www.un.org/sg/offthecuff/index.asp?nid=3970)

[www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51011#.VW331s\\_BzGc](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51011#.VW331s_BzGc)

### **Top UN relief official urges Security Council to save Syria from 'hopelessness and further despair'**

On 28 May, the then top United Nations humanitarian official, Valerie Amos, in her last briefing to the Security Council urged the 15-member body to set aside its political differences and come together to find a solution for the "intractable" and drawn-out Syrian conflict. She urged the Council "to demonstrate its leadership and uphold its responsibility" through specific measures, including ensuring the protection of civilians; ensuring that the parties to the conflict abide by their international legal obligations; bringing an end to the siege of more than 400,000 people; considering all possible avenues to ensure accountability; stepping up financial support for humanitarian efforts and respecting the non-political nature of humanitarian aid.

[www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50995#.VW360s\\_BzGc](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50995#.VW360s_BzGc)

[https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Valerie%20Amos\\_Statement%20to%20Security%20Council%20on%20Syria\\_28%20May%202015%20CAD.pdf](https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/USG%20Valerie%20Amos_Statement%20to%20Security%20Council%20on%20Syria_28%20May%202015%20CAD.pdf)

### **Yarmouk students complete their national exams**

Palestine refugee students have been returning to the besieged refugee camp of Yarmouk, Damascus, after they spent the past two weeks taking national exams outside the camp. A total of 152 ninth grade students were involved. For the past two weeks, with the support of UNRWA and the Syrian General Authority for Palestinian Arab Refugees (GAPAR), 152 students from Yarmouk boarded at the UNRWA Palestine School and the GAPAR-run Said al-Ass Institute in Alliance, Damascus. UNRWA teachers volunteered to prepare the students to sit for their national exams while counsellors ran psychosocial support sessions.

[www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/overcoming-unimaginable-odds-continue-their-education-yarmouk-students](http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/overcoming-unimaginable-odds-continue-their-education-yarmouk-students)

### **OCHA: Emergency Response Fund Update (January-May 2015)**

In January 2015, the new Syria Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) allocated US\$4 million to six projects for life-saving winter response interventions. In addition, three projects were approved on a rolling basis as of May 2015, including a health project by a national NGO. An additional project to support a planned airlift to besieged areas of Deir Ezzor is under review. The majority of approved projects include components aiming to address needs in hard-to-reach areas and efforts are being made to increase the number of NGOs that benefit from the fund in line with Syria ERF's commitment to allocate 50% of funds to NGOs by the end of 2015.

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/26\\_may\\_2015\\_syria\\_erf\\_update\\_0.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/26_may_2015_syria_erf_update_0.pdf)

### **On-going 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>.

### **#ChildrenofSyria**

UNICEF and its partners are committed to keeping Syrian children from becoming a 'lost generation'. Critical efforts are being made to minimize the impact of the crisis on children – including in the life-saving areas of health, nutrition, immunization, water and sanitation, as well as in the future of children, through education and child protection.

<http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/syria/>  
<http://childrenofsyria.info/>

### **UN Twitter:**

A Syrian family counts its blessings. Their story - <http://goo.gl/uo853A> #Syria #Lebanon @ivorprickett  
<https://twitter.com/UNHCRUK/status/606065815062872065>  
3 June 2015

Civilians in **#Yarmouk** facing vulnerability of 'highest severity,' @UNRWA #SyriaCrisis  
<http://ow.ly/NHCdl>  
[https://twitter.com/OCHA\\_Syria/status/606021302659489792](https://twitter.com/OCHA_Syria/status/606021302659489792)  
3 June 2015

They escaped the Syria conflict and struggle on as refugees. "These kids are incredible. Survivors." - @Tara\_Moss [pic.twitter.com/rxEUn59L0Q](http://pic.twitter.com/rxEUn59L0Q)  
<https://twitter.com/unicefaustralia/status/605984739376271361>  
3 June 2015

"We want peace, stability and to get our dignity as women back." Syrian refugee families speak with @Tara\_Moss [pic.twitter.com/QU1rK1vrrV](http://pic.twitter.com/QU1rK1vrrV)  
<https://twitter.com/unicefaustralia/status/605942124916281346>  
3 June 2015

Mr. Faris Shehabi, a young Palestine refugee, tells the heartbreaking story of his escape from **#Yarmouk** camp, **#Syria**: <http://bit.ly/1cvXiMA>  
<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/605830447197601792>  
2 June 2015

War has pummeled the Palestine refugee community in **#Syria** - Ban Ki-moon says situation in **#Yarmouk** is even worse  
[https://twitter.com/UN\\_Spokesperson/status/605733579931455488](https://twitter.com/UN_Spokesperson/status/605733579931455488)  
2 June 2015

Overcoming unimaginable odds, **#Yarmouk** students complete their national exams. Read more: <http://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/overcoming-unimaginable-odds-continue-their-education-yarmouk-students>  
1 June 2015

## **UN Radio in Arabic:**

de Mistura: Syrian conflict has proved that no one will win by military means  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/170131/#.VW8T-M9VhBc>

de Mistura condemns the killing of civilians by barrel bombs in Aleppo  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/170049/#.VW8VD89VhBc>

Rabaa El-Gharani: Sexual violence in Iraq is more terrifying than the one happening in Syria  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/170002/#.VW8Vws9VhBc>

Bashar Jaafari: Western countries have threatened that the draft resolution on Iraq antiquities will not pass if it mentions the Syrian antiquities  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/169859/#.VW8WJs9VhBc>

Valerie Amos calls on the Security Council to set aside their differences in order to solve the Syrian crisis  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/169855/#.VW8Wec9VhBc>

de Mistura meets the Iranian and Emirate delegations in Geneva  
<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/169674/#.VW8XR89VhBc>

## **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/>