



## **Syrian Crisis** United Nations Response



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

**No. 187/ 1 March 2017**

### **Aleppo aerial campaign deliberately targeted hospitals and humanitarian convoy amounting to war crimes - UN investigative panel**

The brutal tactics used by the parties to the conflict in Syria as they engaged in the battle for Aleppo city between July and December 2016 resulted in unparalleled suffering for Syrians and amount to war crimes, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry said in a report released on 1 March. The report is based on interviews, including with residents of Aleppo city, and the review of satellite imagery, photographs, videos and medical records. It also documents daily Syrian and Russian airstrikes against eastern Aleppo over several months which destroyed vital infrastructure resulting in disastrous consequences for the civilian population. "The violence in Aleppo documented in our report should focus the international community on the continued, cynical disregard for the laws of war by the warring parties in Syria. The deliberate targeting of civilians has resulted in the immense loss of human life, including hundreds of children", said Commission Chair Paulo Pinheiro.

<http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21256&LangID=E>

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56265>

### **UN resolution on use of chemical weapons in Syria fails to pass in the Security Council**

The UN Security Council on 28 February failed to adopt a draft resolution that would have imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to the use of chemical weapons in Syria. While nine Council members voted in favour, the text was vetoed by two of the five permanent members, Russia and China.

<https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56260>

### **WHO delivers five mobile clinics in northern Syria**

The WHO Regional Office for Europe announced on 1 March that it had delivered five mobile clinics to provide first aid and emergency care in northern Syria. Each unit can provide medical assistance to up to 1000 people per month. "Given the fact that many of northern Syria's health facilities have been destroyed and so many people have been displaced, these mobile clinics are the only way to bring health services to Syrians in need," said Dr Nedret Emiroglu, Director of Health Emergencies and Communicable Diseases at WHO/Europe. The clinics were made available with the support of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Operations (ECHO) and the Government of Norway.

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/countries/turkey/news/news/2017/03/who-mobile-clinics-bring-health-care-to-northern-syria>

### **UN extremely concerned about the safety of 400,000 people in Eastern Ghoutah**

In a statement on 27 February, UN Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said the UN remained extremely concerned about the safety of more than 400,000 people besieged in eastern Ghoutah in Syria as a result of intense fighting in the past week. The last aid delivery operation to the area was in October 2016, he said, and civilians currently have limited access to critical food and health assistance. The United Nations called on all parties to the conflict to spare civilians and civilian infrastructure and to ensure unimpeded, sustained and unconditional access to all people in need across Syria.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/db170227>

### **As talks resume, Special Envoy urges serious discussions**

In welcoming remarks to delegations at the intra-Syrian negotiations on 23 February, Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura reiterated that there was no military solution to the conflict. While noting that the crisis has cast a shadow across the region and the wider international community, he reminded participants of their historical responsibility to end years of bloodshed and of massive human rights violations. Mr. de Mistura added that Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) lays out a clear agenda, including specific language on governance, constitution, elections and for the way negotiations should be timed. "I am not expecting miracles. We face an uphill task. It will not be easy. There are a lot of tensions. There is a lot of suffering that everyone has been bearing. But we must apply ourselves to this task. We do know what will happen if we fail once again", the Envoy said.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news\\_media.nsf/\(httpPages\)/783737AB40135157C12580D0006F9D7A?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpPages)/783737AB40135157C12580D0006F9D7A?OpenDocument)

### **UN Secretary-General: only a political solution can bring peace to Syria**

On the day of the resumption of the intra-Syrian negotiations, Secretary-General António Guterres said he was encouraged that the Syrians, who have accepted the United Nations invitation to be in Geneva, sat together in the same room. He commended the work of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura for facilitating a resumption of the talks. After six years of bloodshed, the Secretary-General urged the delegations to engage in good faith as the Special Envoy seeks to facilitate the process. While acknowledging that progress will not be easy, the Secretary-General said he believes strongly that only a political solution can bring peace to Syria and that all those Syrians who have committed themselves to this goal should redouble their efforts for peace.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sgsm18454.doc.htm>

### **UNICEF appeals to parties in Geneva to put children first**

As efforts continue in Geneva to negotiate a political solution to Syria's conflict, UNICEF Regional Director Geert Cappelaere appealed on 23 February to all parties to put Syrian children first. "Since the start of the year, at least 20 children have reportedly been killed in attacks and many more injured, including a one-day old baby girl injured in Rural Damascus. In addition, nearly 2 million children remain largely cut-off from urgently needed humanitarian assistance," he noted. "It is high time for all parties and anyone with the interest of children in Syria at heart, to talk about the children. The more than 10 million Syrian children suffering directly and daily the consequences of this vicious conflict want only one thing: peace to come and having their childhood back", he added.

[https://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_94908.html](https://www.unicef.org/media/media_94908.html)

## **UNESCO partners with Syrian Ministry of Education to develop national education strategy**

The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a national consultation mission in Damascus, on 19-21 February 2017, to discuss UNESCO-Syria partnership in education. Three working groups were formed to identify areas of collaboration between the agency and education actors in Syria, and to brainstorm on a strategic plan to expand access to education and strengthen existing systems. It was agreed that UNESCO, in cooperation with the Syrian Education Ministry, will begin drafting the national plan for education, including revising curricula, training educational staff, and preparing a psychological and social support guide.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/unesco-partners-syrian-ministry-education-develop-national-education>

## **UN Radio in Arabic**

Security Council fails to pass a resolution on the use of chemical weapons in Syria

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/234471/#.WLbcWG8rJaQ>

مجلس الأمن الدولي يفشل في تمرير مشروع قرار يتعلق باستخدام الأسلحة الكيميائية في سوريا

28/02/2017

UN expresses concerns about the safety of 400,000 people trapped in eastern Ghoutah

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/234363/#.WLbbxG8rJaQ>

سوريا في الشرق الغوطة في محاصرين شخص ألف 400 سلامة إزاء القلق عن تعرب الأمم المتحدة الأمم

27/02/2017

Syrian women urge Special Envoy to address the issue of detainees and missing persons

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/234050/#.WLbbTW8rJaQ>

والأمم ففودين الأمم تقابلين قضية حل على الأمم تفاوضين لبحث الخاص الأم بعوث عبر رسالة يوجهن سوريات سيدات

23/02/2017

UNICEF appeals to parties to put children first

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/234116/#.WLbayW8rJaQ>

"أذتم؟ أولادكم الأط فال هولاء كان لو ماذا" تساءل ال يونيسف : سوريا

23/02/2017

Special Envoy cautions against a failure of the intra-Syrian negotiations

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/234100/#.WLbbJm8rJaQ>

والمعاداة الموت من المزيد سد نصد أخرى مرة ف شلنا إذا :ميس تورا دي

23/02/2017

## **Twitter**

United Nations @UN - 1 March

United Nations Retweeted UN Syria Commission

#COISyria says tactics used by parties to Syria conflict in decisive battle for Aleppo city amount to war crimes <http://ow.ly/A0Bf309tjT1>

United Nations Retweeted UN News @UN\_News\_Centre-28 February

#Russia and #China block #SecurityCouncil action on use of chemical weapons in #Syria

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56260 ...](http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56260...)

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria - 23 February

See @UNICEF's @gcappelaere statement urging all parties at #Geneva talks to put #Syria's children first: <http://ow.ly/l4q3309hw1u>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 27 February

Join our heartwarming photo challenge and send your love #forPalestinerefugees by posting a photo of you holding a ♥ & hashtag!

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/836146359606575105>

UNRWA@UNRWA- 27 February

♥warming photo challenge for Syria!! Send ur ♥photo w #forPalestinerefugees @UNRWA& stay tuned 4 a surprise on 20 March! Follow us for more!

<https://twitter.com/UNRWA/status/836146607737487361>

UN Geneva@UNGeneva- 26 February

Highlight of the week at @UNGeneva: @UN Envoy de Mistura addresses participants to #SyriaNegotiations on 23 February.

United Nations @UN- 26 February

A documentary featuring this Syrian family is nominated for an Academy Award. They visited the UN last year, see: <http://youtu.be/1-WUW0bdjS8>

UN Geneva@UNGeneva- 26 February

Highlight of the week at @UNGeneva: @UN Envoy de Mistura addresses participants to #SyriaNegotiations on 23 February.

UN Geneva @UNGeneva- 24 February

#SyriaNegotiations #UN Special Envoy to continue meeting Syrian parties over weekend: A/Chief of Staff Michael Contet for de Mistura

OCHA Syria @OCHA\_Syria - 23 February

See @UNICEF's @gcappelaere statement urging all parties at #Geneva talks to put #Syria's children first: <http://ow.ly/l4q3309hw1u>

## **Facebook**

United Nations shared UN Geneva's video -24 February 24 at 3:38am ·

"I hope that, one day, people will look back on today and say that at this time, and in this place, the Syrians started the long, hard journey towards peace." - UN Special Envoy for #Syria, Staffan de Mistura, welcoming invitees to #SyriaNegotiations on Thursday evening at UN Geneva.

Read his full speech, here: [goo.gl/9OSxLe](http://goo.gl/9OSxLe)

United Nations shared UN Geneva's video 23 February 23 at 11:54am ·

On the eve of the intra-Syrian negotiations starting today in Geneva, UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura stressed the need to "outpace" those who wished to see the negotiations come to nothing.

To date, the near six-year war in #Syria has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives and displaced millions.

Watch Mr. de Mistura brief the press at UN Geneva on 22 February.... See More

UNRWA-27 February

Join our heart warming photo challenge and show solidarity #forPalestinerefugees in Syria and beyond. Post a photo of you holding a heart with #forPalestinerefugees and stay tuned for what's coming next!

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1347746681938562/?type=3&theater>

UNRWA -27 February

Meet Eyad al-Sharti (pictured). Eyad is an UNRWA driver who recently helped deliver aid to Palestine refugees caught in war-torn Syria.

"We are exposed to threats on our way to a distribution site," he told us. Sometimes, there might be explosions, snipers or random shelling falling on us. On the road, we are frightened that something bad happens, God forbids, but it is our duty to reach aid to those who deserve it."

Thanks to you, we have provided warmth to almost 600 Palestine refugee families in Syria this winter. Please help us reach 800 by Wednesday [unrwa.org/shareyourwarmth](http://unrwa.org/shareyourwarmth)

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1347060935340470/?type=3&theater>

UNRWA-27 February

Thanks to your generosity, we have helped 574 Palestine refugee families get through the harsh winter months in Syria.

With freezing temperatures and only tents to shelter in, aid deliveries of food, blankets and fuel have got them through the winter.

Thank you so much.

<https://www.facebook.com/unrwa/photos/a.118302834882959.10295.105171192862790/1347912698588627/?type=3&theater>

### **Social media campaigns**

**#Shareyourwarmth**- UNRWA launched its winter fundraising campaign #shareyourwarmth in December 2016 to support the needs of this vulnerable population affected by the Syrian crisis and bring respite during the cold months.

<http://www.unrwa.org/galleries/photos/families-face-hardship-during-winter-khan-dunoun-shelter>

**#My Voice-My School** is an UNRWA project launched in 2015 and implemented by Digital Explorer to connect schools in Gaza, Syria, Lebanon with schools in Europe and USA through Skype exchanges. Through live video conversations and customized teaching materials, students and teachers explore how education can help them meet their future aspirations. [www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool](http://www.unrwa.org/myvoicemyschool)

**@ShareTheMeal:** In April 2016, the World Food Programme launched its phone application to support fundraising efforts for Syrian refugee children in Lebanon. ShareTheMeal's fundraising aims to support 1,400 refugee children. Through the app, smartphone users can join thousands of other people in making donations and support a selected community and monitor progress. Since the launch of the campaign, nearly 7.5 million meals have been shared.

[www.sharethemeal.org](http://www.sharethemeal.org)

**#Unite4Heritage** is a global movement run by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented attacks on world heritage sites, the campaign calls on everyone to stand

up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1254/>

**#NoLostGeneration-** The initiative was launched by UNICEF and partners in 2013 to focus attention on the plight of children affected by the Syrian crisis. By articulating real concerns about the possible 'loss' of a generation of children to the effects of violence and displacement, the initiative put education and child protection at the centre of the response inside Syria and across the refugee hosting countries (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt).

<http://nolostgeneration.org/about>

## **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 System 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>

UNFPA: <https://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/crisis-syria>

OHCHR: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/NewsSearch.aspx?CID=SY>

UNRWA: <http://www.unrwa.org/>

UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/>

UNESCO Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage Project:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/beirut/areas-of-action/culture/syria/emergency-safeguarding-of-the-syrian-heritage/>

UNESCO Observatory of Syrian Cultural Heritage <https://en.unesco.org/syrian-observatory/>

UNESCO Bridging Learning Gaps for Youth: <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/syria-crisis-response/bridging-learning-gaps/>

### **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)