



Syrian Crisis United Nations Response



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

No. 202/14 June 2017

Next round of Geneva talks may be held in July, says UN Special Envoy

Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura told reporters in Oslo, Norway, on 14 June that the next round of Intra-Syrian talks could take place in July in Geneva. "They need to be in July, and they will be in July, and it will be after Ramadan, but also once we have helped and made sure that the de-escalation (agreement) really works". He expressed the hope that the G20 summit to be held in Hamburg on 7-8 July would provide an opportunity of discussing the overall picture of the future of Syria.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpNewsByYear_en\)/2DE941A496DF995AC125813F005D460A?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpNewsByYear_en)/2DE941A496DF995AC125813F005D460A?OpenDocument)

Genocide, crimes against humanity in Syria must not continue to go unaddressed – Chair of human rights investigative panel

Speaking at the 35th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, on 14 June, the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, said that "genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, blatant violations and abuses of human rights law and continuous, wilful violations of international humanitarian law must not continue to go unaddressed". He added that to bring about a sustainable peace, there must be meaningful accountability for the catalogue of horrors that the investigative panel has documented. "Warring parties must not let yet another opportunity pass by. The parties must press to ensure that any de-escalation in hostilities is accompanied by renewed efforts to access communities in need, to strengthen the human rights protections for all people across Syria, and to generate meaningful momentum for peace", Mr. Pinheiro stressed.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=21741&LangID=E#sthash.SWKuErWg.dpuf>

WFP convoy delivers food aid to displaced families in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) on 13 June delivered food to more than 80,000 displaced people in seven hard-to-reach areas in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor governorates in northern Syria. Sixteen trucks loaded with a one-month supply of food assistance in areas where regular deliveries of humanitarian assistance has been suspended for more than three years due to the conflict. "Reaching families displaced in Raqqa and Deir Ezzor with food assistance after three years of isolation is a breakthrough for WFP in Syria," said Jakob Kern, WFP Representative and Country Director in Syria. "The humanitarian community can now restore a lifeline of support for thousands of families who have endured years of isolation and unspeakable hardship."

<http://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/wfp-delivers-food-displaced-families-syria%E2%80%99s-raqqa-and-deir-ezzor>

Secretary-General speaks out against criticism of UNRWA

Secretary-General António Guterres on 12 June voiced concern about recent public criticism of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and the integrity of its operations. He expressed his support for UNRWA and his admiration for the role it plays in delivering essential services and protecting the rights of millions of Palestine refugees across the Middle East. "UNRWA operates in the front lines of difficult conflict situations and provides education for half a million refugee girls and boys, teaching them human rights and tolerance. Its education and relief activities contribute critically to stability in the region," he stressed in a statement. The Secretary-General called on all Member States to continue their support to the Agency in order for UNRWA to be in a position to fulfil impartially and efficiently its essential role and to implement its humanitarian mandate to serve Palestinian refugees until a just and durable solution to their situation is found.

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2017-06-12/statement-attributable-spokesman-secretary-general-united-nations>

Special Envoy de Mistura visits Moscow, meets with senior Russian officials

As part of his ongoing consultations to prepare the next round of intra-Syrian talks, Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura travelled to Moscow on 8 June to meet the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, and Minister of Defense, Sergey Shoygu. Alessandra Vellucci, on behalf of the Office of the Special Envoy on Syria told reporters in Geneva said that during his talks with Mr. Lavrov, Mr. de Mistura had underlined the complementarity of the Astana Talks and the Geneva Talks, noting that they were interconnected. In his discussion with Mr. Shoygu, Mr. de Mistura addressed issues related to humanitarian assistance, demining, and the de-escalating the environment.

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/FF68375156291524C125813A0059776C?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/FF68375156291524C125813A0059776C?OpenDocument)

Over 40,000 children are at risk in Raqqa – UNICEF

More than 40,000 children remain trapped in extremely dangerous conditions in the city of Raqqa amid heavy fighting, a spokesman for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), Christophe Boulierac, said on 9 June. The agency had received alarming reports that at least 25 children had been killed and scores injured in the latest violence in Raqqa city. He emphasized that an estimated 80,000 children from Raqqa city are now internally displaced and living in temporary shelters and camps. UNICEF called on all parties to protect children inside Raqqa, provide safe passage to those wishing to leave the city and grant a protected environment to civilians who had fled the city.

https://www.unicef.org/media/media_96396.html

[http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/\(httpBriefingsLatest_en\)/FF68375156291524C125813A0059776C?OpenDocument](http://www.unog.ch/unog/website/news_media.nsf/(httpBriefingsLatest_en)/FF68375156291524C125813A0059776C?OpenDocument)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56945>

Despite Iraq, Syria losses, Da'esh gaining ground in other regions, says SG's report

Presenting the Secretary-General's latest report on the threat posed by ISIL/Da'esh to international peace and security on 8 June, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman described recent developments, demonstrating how the terrorist group had been weakened financially and pushed out of areas in Iraq and Syria. While noting

that Member States were making progress to counter the threat, including by adopting legal frameworks to address financing and foreign fighter threats, more must be done, he said, as ISIL persisted in making inroads in regions around the world, with affiliates emerging in East Africa, Afghanistan and South-East Asia. Further, monthly financing from the sale of hydrocarbons and extortion still amounted to tens of millions of dollars and ISIL's online presence continued to inspire attacks worldwide, he added, highlighting the report's focus on the need to further choke financing, tackle foreign terrorist fighters and battle the group's internet presence.

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12862.doc.htm>

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2017/467

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56934>

Vaccine-derived poliovirus confirmed in Syria – WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 9 June confirmed that a circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 outbreak had been confirmed in the Deir Ezzor governorate. The virus strain was isolated from two cases of acute flaccid paralysis (AFP), with onset of paralysis on 5 March and 6 May, as well as from a healthy child in the same community. Outbreak response plans are being finalized, in line with internationally-agreed outbreak response protocols, including plans for targeted vaccination campaigns to rapidly raise population immunity. Additionally, active searches are being conducted for further cases of acute flaccid paralysis. While access to Deir Ezzor is hampered due to insecurity, the governorate has been partially reached by several vaccination campaigns against polio and other vaccine-preventable diseases since the beginning of 2016. Most recently, two campaigns have been conducted in March and April 2017 using bivalent oral polio vaccine (OPV). However, only limited coverage was possible through these campaigns. Syria also introduced two doses of inactivated polio vaccine in the infant routine immunization schedule in 2018.

<http://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/palais-briefing-notes-cholera-yemen-and-circulating-vaccine-derived>

UN agency chief urges world to 'step up' as refugee numbers outpace resettlement spots

Against the backdrop of increasing refugee numbers around the globe, fuelled by crisis and insecurity, and an ever widening gap in places to resettle them, the top United Nations official dealing with refugee issues has called on governments to "step up" and deliver places for refugees in line with the commitments they have made. "The fact is global resettlement needs today far outweigh the places made available by governments by a factor of 13 to one, despite more countries taking part in the programme and an increase in private sector and community involvement," said Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, at the opening of the UN agency's annual resettlement consultations in Geneva, Switzerland on 12 June.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56954>

Conflict and drought deepen food insecurity in Africa, Middle East – UN agency

Protracted fighting and unrest are swelling the ranks of displaced and hungry in some parts of the world, even as large agricultural harvests in some regions are buoying global food supply conditions, according to a new report by the United Nations agriculture agency. "Civil conflict continues to be a main driver of food insecurity, having triggered famine conditions in South Sudan and put populations in Yemen and northern Nigeria at high risk of localized famine," said the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in its [Crop Prospects and Food Situation](#) report, released on 9 June.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56943>

<http://www.fao.org/giews/reports/crop-prospects/en/>

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/892734/icode/>

UN Radio in Arabic

المنطقة في القتال بـ شدة بـ ينما الرقعة، في النار خط في علا قون ط فل ألف 40 من أكر ثر: ال يونر يسف
UNICEF: More than 40 000 children caught in fighting in Raqqa as violence increases in the area

<http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/244474>

9/6/2017

ال عسكري ال ضغظ من ال رغم على ال عالم وعبر ال صراع بـ مناطق مسد تمر داعش تـ نظيم تـ تهديد: فل ثمان جـ يـ فري
Jeffery Feltman says the ISIL/Da'esh threat continues in the conflict area and around the world despite military operations

http://www.unmultimedia.org/arabic/radio/archives/244404/index_search.html

8/6/2017

Twitter

UN Geneva@UNGeneva – 14 June

#Syria: "Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes... must not continue to go unaddressed" - Chair of #COISyria P.Pinheiro #HRC35

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 13 June

See how the #Syria Humanitarian Fund is helping local organisations respond to the needs of families in #Damascus Governorate and beyond

World Food Programme@WFP- 13 June

#HappeningNow in #Syria: WFP reaches 55,000 people with food & nutritious items in 6 areas inside #Raqqa, Deir Ezzor.

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 12 June

#ArRaqqa: Kevin Kennedy, Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for #SyriaCrisis briefed over 70 donors on @UN & partners response & challenges

UNICEF@UNICEF- 11 June

#Syria: >40k children in the line of fire in Ar Raqqa as fighting intensifies @UNICEFmena #ChildrenUnderAttack <http://uni.cf/2ra1rNN>

United Nations@UN- 9 June

United Nations Retweeted UN Political Affairs

Threat from ISIL intensified by its use of Internet & social media to disseminate propaganda to wide int'l audience -@UN_DPA chief

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 9 June

Over 169,000 people in #Raqqa #Syria displaced by violence in last 2 months and in need of protection and assistance <http://ow.ly/vNGB30csOE3>

OCHA Syria@OCHA_Syria- 9 June

OCHA Syria Retweeted UNICEF

Civilians need safety and protection in #Raqqa city #Syria where alarming reports of deaths and injuries are increasing

UNICEF MENA @UNICEFmen- 12 June

#Syria: Children should be at school, not at work

Share AbdulAziz's story: #NoChildLabour #WorldDayAgainstChildLabour

#ChildrenNotWorkers

Social media campaigns

#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

@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

#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, 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/>