

1. Syrian response to the security crises

1.1. With all sides in Syria committed to an outright military victory, the lives of countless civilians are imperilled by the ongoing civil war. Nearly half of Syria's population has either been displaced or fled to neighbouring countries. The government continues to utilize its military resources to retain power at all costs and perpetrate crimes against humanity and war crimes. Under increasing military strain, the government has suffered serious territorial losses, and increasingly relies upon Iran and Hezbollah to fight the civil war. The Syrian government continues to wage war on armed rebels and populations presumed to be supporting them, regardless of the consequences to civilians trapped or displaced by the fighting.

The fracturing and radicalization of the opposition has compounded the difficulty of achieving a negotiated political settlement. ISIL and several other armed extremist groups pose a direct threat to civilians, especially those from minority religious communities. External political influence upon the Syrian government via the UN and regional actors remains weak. Despite adopting several resolutions concerning humanitarian access and chemical weapons, the UNSC has been unable to enforce their compliance, while long-standing divisions within the UNSC over Syria have allowed the situation to deteriorate to the point where few options for a peaceful political solution exist.

In accordance with international law, the United Nations renews its commitment to deliver humanitarian aid and implement the response plan with full respect to the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic and in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 46/182. In addition, the United Nations is committed to the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 2139 and 2165. The UN will also continue to advocate for greater respect for international law, international humanitarian law and international human rights law with relevant stakeholders. In implementing this plan, the humanitarian actors commit to respecting the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

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