

**EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR'S  
KEY MESSAGES ON SYRIA  
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## **I. Key Messages**

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1. For months we have received worrying reports of violence against civilians in Syria, yet the United Nations still has not been granted full access to properly assess their humanitarian needs. We need access now, to provide aid and assistance wherever it is required.
2. The Syrian authorities and security forces have consistently failed to comply with their obligations under international law. Continuing reports of deadly clashes in Syria mean I have to call yet again upon all parties to refrain from using excessive force against unarmed civilians and demonstrators, and during military operations.
3. I am particularly worried about the situation of children, young people, women, the elderly, the sick and wounded, and of people displaced by recent military operations, as well as by reports of arbitrary detentions. A number of injured Syrians have sought medical assistance in neighbouring countries. The injured and wounded must have access to medical treatment without fear of reprisals. Medical facilities and ambulances should be protected from attack at all times.
4. This crisis has serious spill-over effects for the region. More than 20,000 Syrians fled to Turkey, Lebanon and other neighbouring countries at the peak of the crisis last month. Some people have started to return. I thank neighbouring States for keeping their borders open, and encourage them to continue providing a safe haven and assistance to those seeking refuge.

**For more information, please contact:**

**Amanda Pitt**, Acting OCHA NY Spokesperson, [pitta@un.org](mailto:pitta@un.org), Tel. +1 917 367 5126 (desk), +1 917 442 1810 (cell);  
**Mark Turner**, Deputy OCHA NY Spokesperson, [turner5@un.org](mailto:turner5@un.org), Tel. +1 917 367 5707 (desk), +1 917 628 4192 (cell)

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

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