



# Weekly Report

## Syrian Arab Republic

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- 1** UN Secretary-General's address to Arab League emphasizes need for political solution in Syrian conflict
- 2** Outbreak of polio in Syria threatens Middle East
- 3** Strategically located Christian-majority town becomes latest military and media battleground

### ***UN Secretary-General's address to Arab League emphasizes need for political solution in Syrian conflict***

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the Arab League in Kuwait on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, 2014, maintaining that there is no military solution to the conflict in Syria.
- The address called on countries to end the flow of arms to all parties and highlighted a collective international responsibility to end the conflict.
- Source: UN Secretary-General Statements

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7544>

### ***"Man-made" outbreak of polio in Syria threatens Middle East***

- Despite a massive campaign to vaccinate children in surrounding countries, health agencies warn of a risk that polio could spread throughout the Middle East from Syria.
- WHO claims 25 laboratory confirmed cases and 13 cases pending confirmation, but Syrian doctors estimate that there are at least 110 cases.
- Outbreak likely to be due to man-made conditions, such as the denial of vaccines and contaminated water due to poor living conditions.
- Doctors claim that for each case reported, there are likely anywhere from 200-1000 people carrying and spreading the virus.
- Source: BBC News

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26734465>

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*"Put together the attacks on doctors...and the denial of vaccines to areas considered politically unsympathetic...and here we have a man-made outbreak [of polio]." – Annie Sparrow, Pediatrician*

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### ***Strategically located Christian-majority town becomes latest military and media battleground***

- Syrian rebel forces overtake Armenian-Christian town of Kessab, spawning a media war.
- Reports of mass murder and desecrated churches contradict claims of Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which found that most Christians fled prior to fighting, and that there was no evidence of civilian casualties or desecration of religious sites.
- Rebels released statements and video evidence concerning the protection of Kessab civilians in efforts to dispel any perceptions that they are intolerant of Syria's religious minorities.
- Source: TIME

<http://time.com/40378/syria-kessab-christians/>