



Weekly Report

Syrian Arab Republic

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- 1** UN refugee agency: More than 1 million Syria refugees now registered in Lebanon
- 2** Opposition and government forces blame each other for recent poison gas attack
- 3** US considering sending air defence systems to Syrian opposition

“UNHCR warns that the influx has actually been accelerating: in April 2012, there were 18,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon; by April 2013, there were 356,000; and now, in April this year, 1 million.” – UN News Centre

UN refugee agency: More than 1 million Syrian refugees now registered in Lebanon

- The Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) has registered more than 1 million refugees in Lebanon.
- Lebanon hosts the highest concentration of refugees in the world and the UNHCR warns of accelerating influx, currently registering approximately 2,500 Syria refugees every day in Lebanon.
- The World Bank estimates that the Syrian crisis cost Lebanon US \$2.5 billion dollars last year.
- Source: UN News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47495&Cr=lebanon&Cr1=syria#.Uz69h1wb1oV>

Opposition and government forces blame each other for recent poison gas attack

- Opposition accuses government forces of using poison in a recent attack in the Jobar quarter of Damascus and released video of a man receiving medical treatment for injuries allegedly related to the attack.
- A letter from the Syrian government to the UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, dated March 25, 2014, reported that intercepted “terrorist” communications indicated that terrorist groups planned to use poison gas in the Jobar area and to blame the attack on government forces.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/03/us-syria-crisis-gas-idUSBREA321Z920140403>

US considering sending air defence systems to Syrian opposition

- Following a lengthy meeting with Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah, US President Barack Obama is now considering allowing the shipment of portable air defence systems to aid Syrian opposition forces.
- Although the US previously refused such measures, a senior US official said the idea is being reconsidered, due in part to the US developing deeper ties with opposition forces over the past year.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/29/obama-king-abdullah-saudi-arabia-air-defence>