



Weekly Report

**MARCH 3-10,
2014**

- 1** UN Report: More than 250,000 people denied humanitarian aid
- 2** Syria to miss major deadline to destroy 12 chemical weapons sites
- 3** Syrian government forces continue to make incremental strategic gains

“More than 250,000 people are besieged in the Syrian Arab Republic and subjected to relentless shelling and bombardment. They are denied humanitarian aid, food and such basic necessities as medical care, and must choose between surrender and starvation.” – UN Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic

Syrian Arab Republic

Ross Gower

UN Report: More than 250,000 people denied humanitarian aid

- Siege tactics by government forces have become blockades preventing basic supplies, such as food and medicine, amounting to a “starvation until submission campaign.”
- The use of starvation as a method of warfare is prohibited and “violates core obligations under the right to adequate food and the right to the highest attainable standard of health.”
- Report also finds that sarin gas used in attack causing mass civilian casualties last August likely came from government stockpiles.
- Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session25/Documents/A-HRC-25-65_en.doc

Syria to miss major deadline to destroy 12 chemical weapons sites

- Under a deal with the United States and Russia, Syria has until March 15, 2014 to destroy 12 production facilities it declared to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- A source from the OPCW says the Syrian Government is not taking the deadlines seriously, noting that the “process is in volatile waters.”
- A Syrian request to convert facilities for peaceful purposes was rejected due to fears that the facilities would be re-converted for military use.
- Source: Reuters
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/06/us-syria-crisis-chemical-idUSBREA2526G20140306>

Syrian government forces continue to make incremental strategic gains

- Syrian government forces, aided by the Shi'ite militant group Hezbollah and local paramilitary forces, attacked areas around strategically located Yabroud, the last major town held by Sunni Muslim rebels.
- Thousands of civilians have fled the town ahead of its anticipated capture by Syrian forces.
- Source: Reuters

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/04/us-syria-crisis-assault-idUSBREA2312H20140304>