

**UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND
EMERGENCY RELIEF COORDINATOR, STEPHEN O'BRIEN**

PRESS REMARKS
SECURITY COUNCIL BRIEFING ON SYRIA
NEW YORK, 9 AUGUST 2016

Checked against delivery

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have just briefed the Security Council on the horrific humanitarian situation in Aleppo, Syria's second city, where fighting rages and two million people are living in fear of besiegement.

I told the Council that we must all be gravely concerned for the safety, health and protection of those terrified civilians. They are counting on us to deliver assistance and end their suffering.

The targeting of hospitals and clinics has continued unabated, seriously jeopardizing the health and welfare of all citizens.

I told them that attacks this week have also severely damaged the city's electric and water infrastructure, leaving over two million residents without electricity or access to the public water network.

The water supply that is available through wells and tanks is not nearly enough to sustain the needs of the population. The networks must be immediately repaired.

Children in particular are at risk of waterborne diseases, especially during the soaring summer temperatures.

Food and medicine stocks are running dangerously low.

I reminded the Security Council that the United Nations agencies and our partners remain ready to assist the civilian population across Aleppo.

We have supplies ready to roll: food rations, hospital supplies, ambulances, fuel for generators, water supplies and more.

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We will continue to use all available routes and mechanisms to do this, including cross-line and cross-border operations from Turkey.

We can deliver these within 24-48 hours if we have safe access.

As we have said repeatedly, I noted that we require a fully-fledged ceasefire or weekly 48-hour humanitarian pauses – as a minimum - to reach millions of people in need: safely, unimpeded and without further delay.

I asked the members once again to do everything they can to help facilitate access for us.

Fighting must stop everywhere: people, are suffering across the country, in Menbij, eastern Ghouta, Dara'a, to name but a few.

Politics must be put aside. We must do our duty as fellow human beings, through the privilege we have of serving people under the United Nations flag, to help all those who are now in dire straits.

Thank you.