



World Union for Peace Human Rights and the Rights of People

NGO associated to the Un Department of Public Information

NEWSLETTER

From Un to Citizen International News



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UNIPAX

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Newsletter Unipax

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THE GLOBAL REVOLUTION FOR A NEW HUMANISM PROJECT

Rome, 06 november 2015 - It was presented in Rome at the Italian office for the **European Parliament** the global project drawn by Unipax founder Orazio Parisotto, through the essay "**The Global Revolution for a New Humanism - The way out of the global emergencies**".

This social-cultural initiative draws attention to the problems and the emergencies of the humanity, also thanks to the young people, worried about their future, who ideally address their requests to the Head of Government of all world.

The main work of this project consists in an interactive book named "The Global Revolution for a New Humanism".

The book is also available in e-book size. Unipax backs the promotion of the book, through the collection of the adhesions, sharing and participations to the proposals and initiatives launched towards the Book. The aim of the book is to provide incentives in order that a peaceful revolution (Gandhi style) could be launched through a general project that prefigures a "New Democratic Institutional Architecture", a "New International Ethical Economy" and a "Worldwide Regulation for the Civil Cohabitation" at the international level, specifying the "Ways Out" from the global crisis.

The general project aims to involve about 100.000 NGO and other organisms committed in the safeguard of the human rights and of the peace at international level, (see World Directory www.unipax.org) the project will be presented to the Head of the Government with a maxi petition (developed in 10 points).

The aim of the maxi petition is to ask concrete answers to cope with the problems that trouble the humanity and in particular the problems connected with the environmental safeguard, the social justice, the crazy arms race, the dangers produced by the use of the new technologies, the promotion of the culture.

It's a multimedia global project which aims to provide to the citizens and specially to the young people, the "ways out" from the current difficulties and new hopes for a better future demanding also their direct cooperation.

The author, starting from the idea of the undergoing ongoing transition from the dying industrial society to the new but still undefined society, explains in the first part of the text the severe international crisis by highlighting the consequences of unregulated globalization. He then introduces the mechanisms of great speculation, the dominance of the "Finance-capitalism", the political responsibilities. He also emphasizes the need to create real democratic and functional supranational European and global bodies able to deal with the huge global emergencies which affect mankind: from the unfair distribution of wealth to the super power of the financial elites, from the expected ecosystem collapse to the "demographic bomb", from the absurd, dangerous and expensive arms race to the new technologies, up to the constant violations of fundamental rights. He therefore introduces the requests of the honest and outraged citizens, who are asked to mobilize themselves for a GLOBAL PEACEFUL GHANDIAN REVOLUTION in order to reach a more human and fair society. In the second part of the text, the author introduces a courageous project that includes a series of concrete initiatives for building the NEW HUMANISM, and invites everyone to take part in the SHOCKWAVE that will lead to the INTERNATIONAL RENAISSANCE. This target cannot be delayed anymore! The scientists' alarm cry is in fact unanimous: the planet is on the brink and we must act before the middle of this century to avoid its collapse. What can we do? Some possible "WAYS OUT TO THE EMERGENCIES" are proposed: but we must act, all and from now, together with the civil society, to build a new human-centric and bio-centric civilization based on a "New Democratic Institutional Architecture" and on a "New International Ethical Economy." Everyone is asked to join the "MANIFESTO OF GLOBAL PEACEFUL REVOLUTION FOR A NEW HUMANISM" by participating to the initiatives on the website <http://www.unipax.org/new/?q=en>

Unipax has worked in voluntary and social utility activities mainly in favour of peace, civil coexistence, fundamental Human and Peoples rights and their implementation.

UNIPAX, thanks to its social and cultural commitment, has always been active in European Union, globalization and peace education. We believe that the great mankind problems should be faced with continental and global democratic supranational institutions able to address them. The activities were carried out in constant support to the UN and in particular through active cooperation with the UN DPI and with its Regional Offices.

<http://www.unipax.org/new/?q=en>

Watch the video presentation of the project:

Click here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LU_aIw5obCg

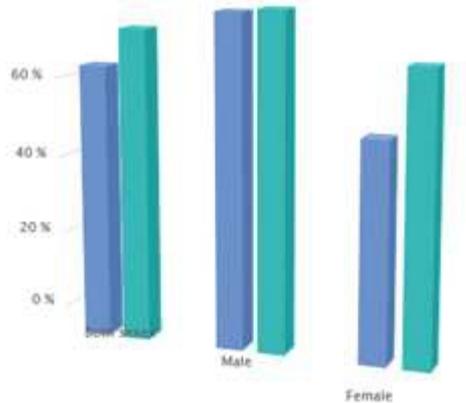
UN Observatory

New ILO figures show 150 million migrants in the global workforce

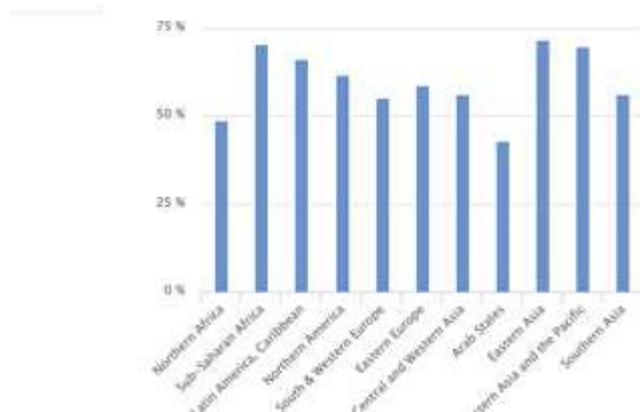
A new ILO statistical study provides estimates on labour migration, including regions and industries where international migrant workers are established and a special focus on migrants in domestic work.

Geneva 16 December 2015 – Migrant workers account for 150.3 million of the world's approximately 232 million international migrants, according to a new study by the International Labour Organization (ILO). The report, ILO Global Estimates on Migrant Workers, shows migrant workers account for 72.7 per cent of the 206.6 million working age migrant population (15 years and over). The majority – 83.7 million – are men, with 66.6 million women migrant workers. Commenting on the report, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder said: "This analysis represents a significant contribution by the ILO in supporting member States to deliver the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly in respect to targets within Goal 8 on protecting all workers, including migrant workers, and goal 10 on the implementation of well managed migration policies. Decision makers will now have real data on which to base their policies." Labour migration is a phenomenon that concerns all regions of the world, however almost half (48.5 per cent) of migrant workers are concentrated in two broad regions: Northern America, and Northern, Southern and Western Europe. The Arab States have the highest proportion of migrant workers as a share of all workers with 35.6 per cent. The study also examines the distribution of the migrant workforce in broad industry groupings. The vast majority of migrant workers are in the services sectors, with 106.8 million workers accounting for 71.1 per cent of the total, followed by industry, including manufacturing and construction, with 26.7 million (17.8 per cent) and agriculture with 16.7 million (11.1 per cent). Among all migrant workers, 7.7 per cent are domestic workers. "This estimate study shows that the vast majority of migrants migrate in search of better job opportunities. By applying a robust methodology we believe it will add significantly to our knowledge base on migration and provide a strong foundation for the development of effective migration policies," said Manuela Tomei, Director of the ILO's Conditions of Work and Equality Department (WORKQUALITY).

High migrant workers labour force participation rates



In general, migrants are more likely to be in the workforce than their national counterparts. These higher labour force participation rates are essentially associated with the higher proportion of migrant women in the workforce.



The data used to calculate estimates in the report refer to migrant workers in the country of destination and measure the migrant numbers in 2013. Data from 176 countries and territories representing 99.8 per cent of the world working age population (15 years old and over) have been included in the study.

A special focus on migrant domestic workers

The report also highlights the significant global numbers of migrant domestic workers and the marked gender disparities in this sector. Domestic work is one of the least regulated sectors of the economy and, as such, is of particular concern to the ILO. Due to the concentration of migrant women workers and relatively low visibility of the workforce in this sector multiple forms of discrimination often intersect. Of the estimated 67.1 million domestic workers in the world, 11.5 million, or 17.2 per cent are international migrants. About 73.4 per cent (or around 8.5 million) of all migrant domestic workers are women. South-Eastern Asia and the Pacific host the largest share, with 24.0 per cent of the global number of female migrant domestic workers, followed by Northern, Southern and Western Europe, with 22.1 per cent of the total, and the Arab States with 19.0. With the aging of societies and other demographic and socioeconomic changes, migrant domestic workers are likely to continue moving internationally in great numbers to fill in care and household services' needs.

"In many ways the migration issue is centre stage in the 2030 Development Agenda for Sustainable Development. Migrants need work but it's equally certain that in coming years many destination economies will need new workers. The world will need more and better data and indicators to track these flows and this report sets a new standard in the quest to have sound global figures to guide policy makers," concluded Rafael Diez de Medina, Director of the ILO Department of Statistics. The report comes as the ILO marks the 40th anniversary of Convention 143, the Convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the

Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers adopted by the International Labour Conference of 1975.

Call for a Comprehensive Approach Towards Preventing Violent Extremism

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon presented the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism for the consideration of the General Assembly at the United Nations Headquarters

New York 15 January - It urges each Member State to develop its own national plan of action and outlines seven key priority areas:

- dialogue and conflict prevention
- strengthening governance and human rights
- engaging communities
- empowering youth
- gender equality & enhancing the role of women
- education
- strategic communications (including the internet and social media)

While it recognizes the importance of ongoing, essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, the Plan proposes a comprehensive approach, including systematic preventive measures to address the drivers of violent extremism, therefore acknowledging robustness of the role of prevention across multiple levels in societies.

The announcement comes as the United Nations' Global Counter-terrorism strategy completes its first decade in operation. Adopted in September 2006, the resolution is a "unique global instrument that will enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism." This was the first time that all member states agreed to a common strategic approach to fight terrorism and sent a clear message that terrorism is unacceptable in all its forms.

The Plan presented notes the adoption of an "All-of-UN" approach to supporting national, regional and global efforts to prevent violent extremism. Developments at the end of 2015 indicated the progress of such an approach.

Last December, the Security Council adopted a resolution on youth, peace and security, which for the first time focused on the role of young men and women in peace building and countering violent extremism.

Soon after, the Secretary-General's issued a letter, laying out his Plan of Action for the Prevention of Violent Extremism for the first time, stating:

"The international community needs to adopt a comprehensive approach which encompasses not only ongoing essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, but also systematic preventive measures which directly address the drivers of violent extremism at the local, national, regional and global levels."

History has been made #SupportSyrians

New York 05 February - History was made in London at the #SupportSyrians conference when donors pledged over \$10 billion in a single day. Never has this much money been raised for a crisis on a single day.

Being the first international pledge of this size, the conference lit a light of hope for millions of people suffering as a result of the Syrian conflict.

The conference was described as a “truly historic” and delivered on meeting key objectives such as committing global leaders to commit to providing access to education for all refugee and host community children by the end of 2016-17 as well as allowing refugees access to neighbouring countries’ labour markets.

Began with a panel on education in which Justine Greening of the United Kingdom delivered a speech on the [#NoLostGeneration](#) campaign aiming to provide education for the millions of children.

“It is schools and education that will rebuild Syria” education activist Malala Yousafzai affirmed.

Anthony Lake of UNICEF also delivered some poignant comments: “We must fill their minds with learning and their hearts with healing”.

A young Syrian woman delivered an impassioned speech outlining the need to “uphold international humanitarian law, to end the conflict and hold those responsible accountable.”

“We mainly need schooling, even before that they ask for food,” she said. She asserted the need to involve women and civil society groups, and emphasized the need to continue involving Syrian teachers in the humanitarian efforts. “Speak to us please, don’t speak about us,” she added, highlighting the fact that she was one of only three Syrians at the conference.

In his closing remarks, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon thanked the governments of Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey for choosing “solidarity over fear”.

“There is no military solution” he said, “only political dialogue, inclusive political dialogue, will rescue the Syrian people from their intolerable suffering.”

Prime Minister David Cameron encouraged global leaders to contribute the maximum amount of donations they possibly could: “We are all leaders with difficult budgets to manage. But I hope we will think of our children and grandchildren when they ask: What did you do?”

UN agencies warn of escalating food crisis in South Sudan

Rise in hunger at harvest time; harsh and prolonged 2016 lean season approaching

8 February 2016, Juba - South Sudan is facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity, as 2.8 million people — nearly 25 percent of the country's population — remain in urgent need of food assistance, and at least 40,000 people are on the brink of catastrophe, three UN agencies warned today.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) stressed that these numbers are particularly worrisome because they show an increase in hunger during the post-harvest period — a time when the country is traditionally most food secure.

The number of food insecure people is expected to peak during the coming lean season — traditionally worst between April and July — when food availability is lowest. Humanitarian partners have released an update to the [Integrated Food Security Phase Classification \(IPC\)](#) analysis, which projects that the lean season will start early this year, and the hunger period will be longer than in previous years.

The three UN agencies noted that the dry season, which is now beginning, could bring additional hardship to people facing the most severe levels of hunger. People displaced in conflict-affected Unity State, who have been living on fish and water lilies to survive, are running out of their only remaining sources of food as the floods recede. Livestock raiding has robbed many people of essential animal products like milk, which were their main means of survival during last year's lean season. Unless humanitarian assistance can reliably reach them during the dry season, they face catastrophe in the coming months.

For this reason, the UN agencies are calling for a speedy implementation of the peace agreement signed last year, and for unrestricted access to conflict areas to deliver much needed supplies to the most affected areas.

“It is not only areas directly affected by conflict that are food insecure — some 200,000 people in Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Warrap states have also seen their access to food deteriorate, owing to factors such as price inflation and market disruptions that are tied to the conflict,”

said Serge Tissot, Acting FAO Representative in South Sudan. "Prompt implementation of the peace agreement is absolutely critical to improving the food situation."

"During the dry season, we must make a massive pre-positioning effort so that we can continue assisting people after roads become impassable once the rains come," said WFP Country Director Joyce Luma. "Rising insecurity in Greater Equatoria is hampering delivery of humanitarian assistance through major routes, setting back our efforts to prepare and respond to people who are most in need."

Today's IPC report also highlights the overall prevalence of emergency levels of malnutrition as an issue of grave concern. Malnutrition in South Sudan is attributed mostly to inadequate food consumption, along with other factors such as disease, dietary habits, as well as constrained health and nutrition service delivery.

"Families have been doing everything they can to survive but they are now running out of options," said Jonathan Veitch, UNICEF representative in South Sudan. "Many of the areas where the needs are greatest are out of reach because of the security situation. It's crucial that we are given unrestricted access now. If we can reach them, we can help them."

Working with a large number of international and local non-governmental organizations, FAO, UNICEF and WFP continue to deliver life- and livelihood-saving support under difficult circumstances.

FAO plans to assist 2.8 million people in producing food and protecting their livestock assets in 2016, compared to 2.4 million people reached last year. FAO emergency livelihood support includes crop kits, vegetable kits, fishing kits and livestock vaccinations of more than 5 million head of cattle.

UNICEF has set a target of treating more than 165,000 children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2016. Last year the number of children treated for SAM surpassed 144,000, which was a 53 percent increase over 2014.

WFP delivered food and nutrition assistance to some 3 million people across South Sudan in the last year, working with 87 NGO partners and using every tool at its disposal, including airdrops, river barges, cash-based transfers, local food purchases and specialized nutritious foods.

Zika: FAO Director-General says agency is ready to contribute to international efforts

Graziano da Silva stresses need to promote human safety and protect the food chain

9 February 2016, Rome - Under the lead of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations system is mobilizing a coordinated response to Zika aimed at minimizing the threat in affected countries and reducing the risk of further international spread. "FAO with its resources and expertise, is ready to do its part in addressing this emergency which continues to evolve," said the agency's Director-General, José Graziano da Silva in a statement issued today. "Zika virus is transmitted to humans primarily by *Aedes* mosquitoes and a critical measure to combat the spread of the disease is to intensify control of mosquito populations in affected and at-risk areas. As the leading UN agency on animal health and pest control, FAO can assist affected nations with targeted interventions while ensuring that people and the environment are not exposed to health and other risks stemming from the inappropriate use of potentially dangerous chemicals. It is likely that at least in the short term we will see a dramatic increase in the use of insecticides to spray mosquito populations or treat waters. A more immediate and relatively simple set of actions that can be taken to combat the spread of the Zika virus is to ensure the removal of stagnant water used by mosquitos to breed. Affected communities need to be encouraged and assisted to ensure that animal drinking water containers are emptied, cleaned and scrubbed weekly. Ponds and other areas where stagnant water collects should also be drained and removed. FAO strongly urges that if the intensive use of insecticides is indeed required, then it is essential that it be done with great

care to promote safety for humans and to protect the food chain from contamination. On this we are in a strong position to provide support to affected countries and regions combating the spread of Zika.

FAO, in a joint programme with WHO, has developed a set of [recommendations](#) on the sound management of insecticides. For example it is important that high quality pesticides are used and mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions, to promote both efficacy and safety. FAO's work on agriculture and health threats of animal origin due to climate change, agro-ecosystems and land use policies, early warning of possible disease events, such as what is done with partners on Rift Valley fever - a disease also transmitted by mosquitoes in Africa - can be useful to forecast and ensure countries have their preparedness plans in place in the Americas. Through its work in monitoring weather patterns, it is possible for FAO to analyze the movements and changing habitats of the *Aedes* mosquito vectors which can be important in mitigating or preventing the disease. FAO's proven record in animal disease control - as it has done with rinderpest, avian influenza or tsetse-borne trypanosomiasis - can be beneficial for countries in Latin America and Caribbean to address this problem together. But besides the use of insecticides, there are other ways to combat the spread of the Zika virus. One possible longer term solution is the Sterile Insect Technique that has been developed at the [FAO-IAEA Joint Programme on Nuclear Techniques in Food and Agriculture](#). This is a form of pest control that uses ionizing radiation to sterilize male insect pests that are mass-produced in special rearing facilities. It has been successfully used worldwide for over 50 years for various agricultural insect pests, such as fruit flies, tsetse flies, screw worms and moths. Its deployment against disease-transmitting mosquitoes, such as the carrier of the Zika, Chikungunya and Dengue viruses, is ongoing with some pilots already successfully completed and others showing promising results. FAO can contribute to these and other measures. For instance our vast network of workers at field level who for decades have worked with communities and families and have built trusting relationships can bring the right health and safety messages to the people who need them most. The human toll from this emergency is potentially devastating and we must work closely together to ensure it is brought under control".

World Humanitarian Summit Report Launch

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon presented the report for the World Humanitarian Summit in New York

New York 09 February –The report presents the Secretary General's vision for the Summit, which is the first of its kind and will convene in Istanbul, Turkey from 23-24 of May, 2016.

In the report, Ban Ki-moon presents his "Agenda for Humanity" and outlines five core responsibilities of world leaders: Global leadership to prevent and end conflict, Uphold norms that safeguard humanity (especially to protect civilians in conflict zones), Leave no one behind; empower all women, men, girls, boys to be agents of a positive transformation, Change people's lives - from delivering aid to ending need, Invest in humanity – invest in local capacities and close the global humanitarian funding gap. 80 % of humanitarian needs are driven by conflict 90% of people killed or injured by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas are civilians 0.4% of official development assistance was spent on disaster preparedness in 2014

Drawing on 2015's key achievements such as the [Global Climate Change deal](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), the Secretary General is convening the summit in order to "turn promises into action for this generation, and uphold people's safety, dignity and the right to thrive."

One Humanity. Shared Responsibility

The World Humanitarian Summit will address the challenges facing humanity (as highlighted in the numbers below) and will bring together representatives of Government, local communities, private sector, international organisations and aid providers to establish a unified sense of

purpose and commitment towards ending crises and suffering that continues to affect so many.

The elusiveness of peace and stability across the world coupled with a declining commitment to international humanitarian norms have proved the need for the summit, which is an essential opportunity to reaffirm global leaders' commitment to humanity and presents leaders a chance to build on the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Meeting the greatest challenges of our time

In 2015: 125 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 60 million people forced from their home 37 countries affected \$20 billion needed. The report's launch arrives a few days after a successful #SupportSyria London conference which raised over \$10 billion in a single day.

Reach out and support the World Humanitarian Summit on social media with #ShareHumanity

Syria: diplomats agree 'cessation of hostilities;' UN rights chief warns of dire situation in Aleppo

Munich 11 February 2016 – As the United Nations human rights chief warned today of "shocking" violence and abuses in and around the city of Aleppo and other parts of war-ravaged Syria, top-level diplomats meeting in Munich on ending the crisis agreed to work out the terms of nationwide "cessation of hostilities" in the coming week.

A note to correspondents issued this evening by a UN spokesperson set out the details of the agreement reached in Munich by the ISSG – the International Syria Support Group working since November to secure a broader ceasefire and Syrian political negotiations – comprising the Arab League, the European Union, the United Nations, and 17 countries including the United States and Russia.

The targeting of civilians, including thousands of children, is abhorrent and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

According to the ISSG statement, "to accelerate the urgent delivery of humanitarian aid, sustained delivery of assistance shall begin this week" in seven besieged areas inside Syria, including the town of Madaya, which drew worldwide attention recently after UN and Red Cross workers reported people starving to death or being killed trying to flee.

The statement explains that the cessation of hostilities will commence in one week, "after confirmation by the Syrian Government and opposition, following appropriate consultations in Syria." During that week, an ISSG task force will develop relevant modalities. The ISSG also agreed that a cessation of hostilities should apply to any party currently engaged in military or paramilitary hostilities "against any other parties other than Da'esh, Jabhat al-Nusra, or other groups designated as terrorist organizations" by the UN Security Council.

Meanwhile, earlier today, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, strongly condemned rapidly worsening human rights situation in and around the city of Aleppo and other parts of Syria, where he said "shocking violations and abuses are committed on a daily basis."

"The warring parties in Syria are constantly sinking to new depths, without apparently caring in the slightest about the death and destruction they are wreaking across the country. Women and children, the elderly, the wounded and sick, the people with disabilities are being used as bargaining chips and cannon fodder day after day, week after week, month after month. It is a grotesque situation," he warned.

Dire humanitarian conditions throughout Syria

The human rights chief also stressed that hundreds of thousands of civilians in other parts of Syria are also facing dire humanitarian conditions, particularly those under sieges imposed both by Government forces and affiliated armed groups, and by armed opposition groups, including ISIL.

"In Moaddamiyat al-Sham, Madaya, Deir ez-Zour, Fuah and Kafreya people are in an utterly desperate situation, with many deaths, including of young children, as a result of severe malnutrition and lack of access to medical care," he said.

In Moaddamiyat al-Sham, a town located a few kilometres from Damascus, since Government forces established a full siege in December, some 35,000 civilians have been enduring intense shelling and aerial attacks, and a dramatic deterioration of their living conditions, with food prices rising sharply and no infant-formula milk available.

While some food was delivered to the pro-Government eastern side of town, at least six civilians, including five children, died directly as a result of malnutrition in January, and more than 25 children under the age of two are said to be suffering from malnutrition and related health problems.

In Madaya, at least 26 people have died from malnutrition since the beginning of the year, despite the arrival of a large humanitarian convoy on 11 and 14 January, and at least 300 people – including women and children – are in need of immediate evacuation.

Some 200,000 people living under an ISIL-imposed siege in Deir ez-Zour are experiencing severe water shortages and a total lack of electricity. Reports indicate that several people accused of smuggling food into the city have been executed by ISIL fighters.

Despite the delivery of humanitarian aid to the villages of Fuah and Kafreya on 11 and 14 January, the High Commissioner's Office (OHCHR) reports that the situation remains grim, as approximately 20,000 civilians remain under siege by the armed opposition groups Ahrar al-Sham and al-Nusra Front, who issued threats that they would slaughter the villagers in retaliation for Government actions against areas under their control.

Violation of international humanitarian law

"The deliberate starvation of civilians as a method of warfare constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law," Mr. Zeid said. "The targeting of civilians, including thousands of children, is abhorrent and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity. Those responsible for such acts, including under command responsibility, must be brought to justice."

"I remind all parties of their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law to protect civilians at all times and to allow full access to humanitarian relief, to collect and care for the sick and wounded, and not to take actions which would deprive civilians of their right to food and health," the UN human rights chief added.

Mr. Zeid also stressed that all parties to a conflict have obligations under international humanitarian law not to place the civilian population in peril by taking shelter amongst them, or in protected structures such as schools and hospitals.

"The peace talks in Geneva must be resumed as early as possible," he insisted. "It is unconscionable that the various parties cannot even manage to sit around the table, when, because of their actions, more than a quarter of a million people have died, and the rest of the population is suffering to such a degree. A lasting peaceful resolution of this horrific war must be built on a solid foundation of human rights."

European Union

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

EU must maintain its aid to Libya, say MEPs

Economic disintegration and violence in Libya are worsening its fragility and enabling extremist organisations to flourish there, warned MEPs in Wednesday's debate with Dutch foreign minister Bert Koenders, representing the EU foreign policy chief. Spillovers from Libya's conflicts are also destabilising the Sahel region, they add. In a resolution voted on Thursday, MEPs urge the EU and international community to be ready to support Libyans' efforts to implement the Libyan Political Agreement.

In a resolution passed by 478 votes to 81, with 81 abstentions, the European Parliament welcomes the Libyan Political Agreement signed on 17 December 2015, and backs the newly-established single Government of National Accord and national institutions which are to guide Libya through its post-revolution transition and put it back on the path to building a democratic, peaceful, stable and prosperous country.

Impact in the Sahel region and in Europe

MEPs voice concerns about the security spillover of the Libyan conflict in Egypt and particularly Tunisia, but also in Algeria and its oilfields, and also stress the role of the Libyan conflict in exacerbating extremism in Tunisia. The growing presence of extremist organisations and movements in Libya is also deeply worrying, add MEPs, who believe these groups represent a major threat to the stability and security of the whole region, and also to the security of Europe.

The European Parliament calls for continued humanitarian, financial and political assistance from the EU and the international community to address the humanitarian situation in Libya, the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees and that of civilians facing disruptions in access to basic services.

MEPs call for urgent action to protect religious minorities against ISIS

MEPs urge the international community to take urgent action to counter the systematic mass murder of religious minorities by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or Daesh, in a resolution voted on Thursday. The text wraps up a 20 January debate with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, in which many MEPs called for measures to protect all religious and minority groups against ISIS attacks.

MEPs reiterate their strong condemnation of ISIS/Daesh and its egregious human rights abuses, deliberately targeting Christians, Yazidis, Turkmen, Shi'ites, Shabak, Sabeans, Kaka'e and Sunnis who do not agree with their interpretation of Islam. These violations amount to "war crimes", "crimes against humanity" and "genocide" according to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), they add.

The resolution, passed by show of hands, calls on the EU to establish a permanent Special Representative for Freedom of Religion and Belief and urges all countries in the international community to prevent war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide within their territory. All EU member states should update their legal and jurisdictional systems in order to prevent their nationals and citizens travelling to join ISIS/Daesh and other terrorist organisations and also ensure that, should they do so, they face criminal court proceedings as soon as possible, adds the text.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

TiSA must protect EU firms abroad and public services at home, say MEPs

The ongoing talks on a Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA), among countries representing 70% of world trade in services, should deliver a deal that eases EU firms' access to international markets but does not force EU, national and local authorities to open up public services to competition, or otherwise restrict their right to regulate in public interest, say MEPs in recommendations approved on Wednesday.

"Blue lines"

To protect the EU firms from unfair competition abroad, MEPs ask the EU negotiators for:

- * reciprocity in market opening, as services in the EU are already more open to foreign competition than those of its partners. In particular, opening should be sought in international public procurement, telecoms, transport, financial and digital services,
- * curbs on third countries' restrictive practices against EU firms, such as forced data localisation or foreign equity caps, and
- * less red tape for SMEs, which lack the financial and human resources needed to navigate international trade rules.

"Red lines"

MEPs also set out "no-go" areas to be excluded from the negotiations:

- * EU public services, such as education, health, social services, social security systems, and audiovisual services,
- * EU citizens' data protection must be up to current and future standards,
- * the EU should agree to accept only highly-skilled foreign workers, on contracts and for a strictly limited period of time,
- * the right of EU, national and local legislators to regulate in the public interest must be strongly protected, as should be their right to change their minds, if they wish to re-nationalize services which have previously been open to private competition, and

* the deal should include a revision clause that makes it possible for a party to leave the TISA or reverse commitments on liberalisation of a service if labour and social standards are infringed.

More rights for EU consumers abroad

MEPs want safeguards and more information for EU consumers travelling and using services abroad, e.g. on roaming fees, commission payments on credit cards and safeguards against spam and geoblocking.

Take China on board

MEPs support China's request to join the negotiations and seek to ensure future "multilateralisation" of the agreement.

More transparency

The EU Commission should provide fact sheets for the public, explaining each part of the agreement, and also publish factual round-by-round feedback reports on the Europa website.

ENVIRONMENT

Parliament decides not to veto car emissions test update

A move to veto a plan to temporarily raise NOx emission limits for diesel cars was rejected by MEPs on Wednesday, after the EU Commission promised a review clause and tabled a long-term legislative proposal to revamp the EU car approval regime.

According to the European Commission, the transitional relaxation of limits is justified by the need to take account of technical uncertainties to do with the use of the new Portable Emission Measurement Systems (PEMS) device, as well as "technical limits to improving the real world emission performance of currently produced diesel cars in the short-term".

Next steps

The draft motion for a resolution from the Environment Committee was rejected by 323 votes to 317, with 61 abstentions.

Today's vote clears the way for the European Commission to go ahead with the second RDE package. Two more are to be tabled in order to complete the process.

The Environment Committee will hold a public hearing on the RDE procedure on 23 February.

Background: second RDE package

The second RDE package, approved by the Technical Committee on Motor Vehicles (TCMV) – bringing together national experts – on 28 October 2015, seeks to establish quantitative RDE requirements to limit the tailpipe emissions of light passenger and commercial (Euro 6) vehicles.

The proposed requirements are to be introduced in two steps:

- as a first step, car manufacturers would have to bring down the discrepancy to a "conformity factor" of a maximum of 2.1 (110%) for new models by September 2017 (and for new vehicles by September 2019), and
- as a second step, this discrepancy would be brought down to a factor of 1.5 (50%), taking account of technical margins of error, by January 2020 for all new models (and by January 2021 for all new cars). A conformity factor for the number of particles (PN) remains to be determined

Unipax

Global revolution

Multimedia Project to set up a New Humanism

The Author of this project is Orazio Parisotto (Past President and Founder member of UNIPAX), thanks also to the essential contribute of the Master Silvio Amelio, weighty sculptor and humanist responsible of the "Artists for the Peace" Department of the Unipax and also its Ambassador at UN.

Orazio Parisotto and Silvio Amelio launch an important social-cultural and ethical initiative, with the cooperation of the UNIPAX, that involves more than 100.000 associations, institutions, famous bloggers and opinion leaders from all the Countries.

This social-cultural initiative draws attention to the problems and the emergencies of the humanity, also thanks to the young people, worried about them future, who ideally address their requests to the Head of Government of all world.

The main work of this project consists in a interactive book named "The Global Revolution for a New Humanism".

The book is also available in e-book size. Unipax backs the promotion of the book, trough the collection of the adhesions, sharing and participations to the proposals and initiatives launched towards the Book. The aim of the book is to provide incentives in order that a peaceful revolution (Gandhi style) could be launched trough a general project that prefigures a "New Democratic Institutional Architecture", a "New International Ethical Economy" and a "Worldwide Regulation for the Civil Cohabitation" at the international level, specifying the "Ways Out" from the global crisis.

The general project aims to involve about 100.000 NGO and other organisms committed in the safeguard of the human rights and of the peace at international level, the project will be presented to the Head of the Government with a maxi petition (developed in 10 points).

The aim of the maxi petition is to ask concrete answers to cope with the problems that trouble the humanity and in particular the problems connected with the environmental safeguard, the social justice, the crazy arms race, the dangers produced by the use of the new technologies, the promotion of the culture.

The achievement of the "Artistic Cultural Current of the New Humanism" is part integrant of this project. The artists, the men of culture and the leaders of the associations of the social utility (that with their commitment are already contributing, as peacemakers, for change) will arrange this Document. Together with the young people, they can define a "Artistic cultural Decalogue of the New Humanism" that if properly widespread may launch the creative imagination of the men of good will from all over the World and from every culture.

It's a multimedia global project which aims to provide to the citizens and specially to the young people, the "ways out" from the current difficulties and new hopes for a better future demanding also their direct cooperation.

The entire project will be promoted with a multimedia advertisement during 3 minutes and will be backed by a Documentary-movie during about 30 minutes.

All will be carried out in two languages (Italian and English).