

Update on the Secretary-General's Appeal for a Global Ceasefire

02 APRIL 2020



I. IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

1. The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest test the world has faced since the formation of the United Nations. It is a global health crisis that is killing people and spreading human suffering. It has and will have profound social, economic and political consequences, including relating to international peace and security.
2. As detailed in my report of 31 March on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19, the crisis brought on by the pandemic “risks reversing HIG EHIW SJ TVSKVIWW MR -XLI ¼KLX EKEMRWX TSZ erty and exacerbating already high levels of inequality within and between countries”.¹ The postponement of elections or limitations on the ability to vote, sustained restrictions on movement and access to food and other resources, as well as spiraling unemployment and discontent over the capacity of public institutions to

respond, may all increase political tensions. - R GSR ½ MGX WIXXMRKW XLI YRGIVXEM the spread of the pandemic may create incentives for some actors to press their advantage, potentially leading to an increase of violence. Terrorist groups in particular may see opportunities to strike as the attention of governments and the international community is absorbed by the health crisis. COVID-19 also risks diverting international attention and resources away

¹ United Nations: Shared Responsibility; Global Solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 (31 March 2020; p1).

ability to prevent the spread of the pandemic

ERH TVSZMHI WY¼GMIRX LIEPXL GEVI XS MRJIGXIH

people as well as to sustain health services.²

Women and children in fragile settings are particularly likely to face obstacles accessing health care, livelihoods/education and other critical support. Meanwhile, their needs for pro-

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Mediation, also expressed his support. Across the world, we have seen communities of faith

JVSQ EPP FEGOKVSYRHW KEPZERM^I XS NSMR XLI
¼KLX EKEMRWX E ZMVYW XLEX ORS[W RS REXMSREPMX]

boundaries, ethnicity or faith.

9. In the context of the African Union's commit -

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to silence the guns and wars in Africa by 2020, on 27 March, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, appealed to "the moral and humanitarian obligation for all warring parties to immediately

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taken by Member States and other actors to combat and defeat the corona virus pandemic".

Mr. Josep Borrell, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security

Policy, also publicly expressed support for my

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SJ XLI 3VKERM^EXMSR JSV 7IGYVMX] ERH 'SSTIVEXMSR

in Europe (OSCE), Secretary-General Thomas

Greminger and the Heads of OSCE institutions

NSMRIH Q] GEPP JSV E KPSFEP GIEWI¼VI MR E PIXXIV

addressed to the OSCE community.

10. Among other expressions of support, and given the importance of understanding and incorporating the gendered dimensions of the

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and for the protection of civilians, I particularly welcome the endorsement of my appeal on

this would allow humanitarian access through -
out the crisis-torn country and head off the
potential threat of COVID-19. Despite this posi-
tive development, respect for the humanitarian
pause was short-lived, with clashes between
GNA and LNA forces escalating drastically on
all frontlines in the next days. Exchanges of
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as well as in the Abu Grein area (west of Sirte),
Zuwara (west of Tripoli) and Gharyan (south
of Tripoli). This military escalation obstructed
efforts by civilian authorities and the population
to effectively respond to COVID-19. Given the

unity during the election period. Humanitarian actors, including the United Nations and partners, require greater access to people in need

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Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan states, as well as the South East region. Especially in many of these peripheral areas, there is a shared interest in effectively addressing COVID-19. The Government of Myanmar has stated that it will step up efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and to grant enhanced access to international partners in Rakhine State. Additionally,
WIZIVEP IXLRMG EVQIH SVKERM^EXMSRW LEZI GEPPIH
JSV E LEPX MR ¼KLXMRK ERH JSV QIHMGEPEWWWXERGI x
On 1 April, the 'Brotherhood Alliance' extended
XLIMV YRMPEXIVEP GIEWI¼VI YRXMP %TVMP x

- 22. On 16 March, President Rodrigo Duterte of the

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effective from 19 March through 15 April to facilitate the COVID-19 response, with the Communist Party of the Philippines, including its armed wing, the New People's Army, and political wing, the National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF). On 24 March, Jose Maria Sison, the leader of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) announced that the CPP had
HIGPEVIH E GIEWI¼VI MR VIWTSRWI XS Q] ETTIEP
An array of mediation actors including Norway,

have already been reported in Syria which could herald a disaster for a country wracked by ten years of war, particularly for internally displaced persons. The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) released a statement on the same day express-

V. A CALL TO ACTION: TOWARDS LASTING PEACE

of my global call. During this time, the tools that we have developed over the years

33. In this time of crisis, it is essential and urgent that we build on positive developments, even if the steps are tentative and the gains fragile and easily reversible. I welcome indications that in a number of countries adversaries are exploring collaboration to address the pandemic. My Special Representatives and Special Envoys, as well as, where appropriate, Resident Coordinators will strive to bring parties to the reality. We are not there yet and we shall not get there without the active engagement of all our partners. I reiterate my call for a global and civil society across the globe to help us achieve it.

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GIEWI 1/4 VI ERH YVKI EPP 1IQFIV 7XEXIW EW
[IPP EW SYV TEVXRIVW MR VIKMSREP SVKERM^EXMSRW

34. The United Nations will continue its efforts to context of our broader work towards sustain - ing peace and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so, we will strive to strengthen partnerships across the board , [MXL 1IQFIV 7XEXIW VIKMSREP SVKERM^EXMSRW ERH RSR KSZIVRQIRXEP SVKERM^EXMSRW EW [IPP as other civil society actors, including religious PIEHIVW ERH [SQIR...W ERH]SYXL SVKERM^EXMSRW Together with my Special Representatives,)RZS]W WIRMSV S 3/4 GMEPW EX ,IEHUYEVXIVW EW well as the members of my High-Level Advisory Board on Mediation, I shall continue to closely examine the possibilities for diplomatic engage - ment in each instance, as well as continuing to IRGSYVEKI 1IQFIV 7XEXIW -VIKMSREP SVKERM^E tions and civil society partners with access and

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