The Last Vote? Obstacles to Renewing UN Cross-Border Assistance in Syria

by James Jeffrey, Basma Alloush, Carsten Wieland

June 15, 2021, starting at 10:00 a.m. (1400 GMT)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

James Jeffrey
Ambassador is a former U.S. special representative for Syria engagement and former U.S. ambassador to Turkey and Iraq; from 2013-2018 he was the Philip Solondz Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute. He currently chairs the Wilson Center’s Middle East Program.

Basma Alloush
Basma Alloush is the policy and advocacy advisor at the U.S. office of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC USA), where her responsibilities include engaging with government agencies to alleviate the impact of conflict on vulnerable populations.
On March 29, Secretary of State Antony Blinken appeared before the UN Security Council to demand the renewal of the cross-border mechanism in Syria and the reopening of two closed crossings. Since then, negotiators have sought to cement a plan for reaching Syrians in need via Turkey without approval from Damascus. These discussions are due to be finalized before the current assistance mechanism, UNSC Resolution 2533, expires on July 10.

What are the current dynamics on this issue inside the Security Council and the humanitarian community? What lessons have U.S. and allied officials learned from last year’s renewal talks, and how will they meet the people’s evolving needs in northwest and northeast Syria? To discuss these questions, The Washington Institute is pleased to announce a virtual Policy Forum with James Jeffrey, Basma Alloush, and Carsten Wieland, to be moderated by Charles Thepaut, a career French diplomat and currently an Institute visiting fellow.

Watch a live webcast of this event starting at 10:00 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT) on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

James Jeffrey served as U.S. special representative for Syria engagement and special envoy to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS until November 2020. Previously, he served as deputy national security advisor (2007-2008) and U.S. ambassador to Iraq and Turkey, among other posts. He currently chairs the Wilson Center’s Middle East Program.

Basma Alloush is the policy and advocacy advisor at the U.S. office of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC USA), where her responsibilities include engaging with government agencies to alleviate the impact of conflict on vulnerable populations. A Syrian citizen raised in six different Middle Eastern countries, she completed a master’s program at the Fletcher School focusing on transitional justice, human security, and conflict resolution.


The Policy Forum series is made possible through the generosity of the Florence and Robert Kaufman Family.
RECOMMENDED

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Hanging on in Idlib: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham's Expanding Tribal Engagement
Jun 11, 2021
Aaron Y. Zelin

BRIEF ANALYSIS

Russia Signals Biden with Attack on Syrian Jihadist Group
Jun 11, 2021
Aaron Y. Zelin
Designating Hezbollah as a Terrorist Organization Under Australia's Criminal Code

Jun 10, 2021

Matthew Levitt

TOPICS
Arab and Islamic Politics Military and Security

REGIONS & COUNTRIES
Syria

The Washington Institute seeks to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them.

The Institute is a 501(c)3 organization; all donations are tax-deductible.