



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Statement of Mr. Voronkov for the Commemoration of
the 25th Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on the
AMIA**

24 June 2019, Trusteeship Council, 12:00 p.m.

H.E Jorge Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship
of Argentina

H.E. María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the General
Assembly

Mr. Ariel Eichbaum, President of the Asociación Mutual
Israelita Argentina

Mr. Ronald S. Lauder, President of the World Jewish
Congress

Distinguished Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, I am honoured to be present today at this commemorative event in remembrance of the victims of Argentina's worst terrorist attack, and of victims of terrorism around the world.

25 years ago, on 18 July 1994, the bombing against the AMIA, left 85 people dead and hundreds injured.

The repercussions of this horrific attack continue to have a ripple effect, as families and friends of the Jewish community live with its tragic memory and legacy.

The United Nations stands in solidarity with the victims and their families, whose lives and futures were changed forever on that day.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Secretary-General has stressed the importance of empowering and involving victims. Without their participation and recognition, we can't win in our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism.

The United Nations works very hard to ensure that the rights and needs of victims remain a priority for all of us and continue to be central to our efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism.

Our UN Counter-Terrorism Centre Victims Support Programme has adopted a multi-dimensional approach to the issue. Through our work, we have sought to bring victims voices to the forefront.

For example, our Victims of Terrorism Documentary series provides victims a voice and a platform to share their dramatic experiences. Our development of good practices

handbooks helps victims' associations in better supporting victims.

And our advocacy and outreach work with Member States contributes to ensuring that their rights and needs are being recognised, upheld and supported.

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism also hosts the United Nations Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, a resource mechanism that provides relevant information for and to victims, including information and links to relevant national authorities.

But all this is still not enough. This is why, under the auspices of the Secretary-General, my Office will also convene the first ever Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism next year. It will be a key component of the Counter-Terrorism Week, and part of our contribution to next year's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.

This Global Congress will bring together victims, Member States, experts, and civil society organizations to discuss issues of importance to victims and come out with a set of concrete recommendations that will lay the ground for our future work.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I applaud the international community for stepping up and for making victims a central plank of their efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism.

The International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is symbolic of these efforts.

I look forward to two major milestones that will take place soon in the United Nations.

First, the forthcoming resolution on victims of terrorism, soon to be adopted in the General Assembly, is an important step in recognizing the rights and needs of victims.

Second, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, co-chaired by Afghanistan and Spain, and comprising of a significant number of Member States, will be launched tomorrow in the presence of the Secretary-General.

The Group of Friends signals Member States' solidarity and commitment towards victims. I am pleased that Argentina is a member of this Group.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's commemorative event reminds us that no matter how long ago an attack occurred, victims continue to live and cope with its legacy.

We cannot falter in our efforts to support victims of terrorism. An investment in upholding victims' rights is an investment in building a strong, vibrant and inclusive society, where people can live with dignity and hope for the future.

Thank you.