



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
Remembrance of and Tribute
to the Victims of Terrorism



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**HIGH LEVEL EVENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE OF
AND TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

21 August 2022

Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today we mark the fifth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism. Terrorism has surrounded us for many decades, but it is only since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 72/165 in 2017 that the international community was called to stand in solidarity with and honour the victims and survivors of terrorism.

Hearing from victims such as Ahmed, Nanda, Soad and Viljar today reminds us that the effects of terrorism do not go away, but that many important and positive changes have happened because of the resiliency of victims and survivors.

They have shared their memories with us on how their physical objects give them strength to cope, and to achieve incredible feats, such as working towards preventing acts of terrorism, and supporting those affected by terrorism.

We all have memories, of times that challenged us, of moments that spurred us on to make a difference; and we can use the memories of people we love and difficult moments we experienced as an inspiration to live and do better.

Listening to victims talk and the power of memories inspires us to work harder and increase our efforts to uphold the rights and support the needs of victims. I thank all the victims who participated in today's event.

Since my Office was established in 2017, I have met many victims of terrorism and heard their experiences. I understand the importance of recognising their humanity, and the tragic impact that terrorism has had on their lives.

Terrorism touches people at the individual, national and international level; we must increase our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism in all its manifestations. We must also ensure that victims are fully supported through national comprehensive assistance plans for victims, and by strengthened domestic legislation.

Dear Colleagues,

The fifth International Day occurs two weeks before the first United National Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, organised by my Office, which will be held at the United Nations Headquarters on 8 and 9 September 2022.

The Congress aims to encourage genuine interaction between victims of terrorism, associations of victims and Member States on key issues such as protection, remembrance and recognition, access to justice and support and assistance.

An important objective for the Congress is to place issues faced by victims of terrorism high on the international community's agenda, by providing information, good practices and inspiration, with the goal of enshrining the rights of victims of terrorism in domestic frameworks. I hope you will be able to join the Congress, participating in person, or online.

Secretary-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We stand together today to remember and honour those who have been lost to terrorism and those who continue to experience its effects.

We must continue to support, honour and respect victims of terrorism, helping them to receive all they need and to exercise their rights.

We have heard today about how we are all connected, through our memories and how we can strengthen our resolve to continue and achieve more.

Let us be fully committed to ensuring victims are placed front and centre in our efforts to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism; and let us build upon the momentum that will be created by the Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism next month. Let us go beyond just standing in solidarity, and actually make a commitment to concrete actions, to assist and protect victims of terrorism, now and in the future.

And I thank you.