



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Remarks by USG Voronkov

Opening of the Memories Campaign Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center

7 June 2023 - Vitoria, Spain

Good morning, Mr. Fernando Grande-Marlaska, Minister of Interior of Spain,

Mr. Gorka Urtaran, Mayor of Vitoria

Mr. Florencio Domínguez, Director of the Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center of Spain,

Ms. Montserrat Torija, Director General for the Support of Victims of Terrorism,

I am honored to be here today in Vitoria to pay tribute to victims of terrorism in such an emblematic location, the Spanish Victims of Terrorism Memorial Center.

I am immensely pleased that I can be here today to inaugurate the Memories Campaign and would like to thank Mr. Domínguez for hosting the exhibition in such a fitting venue and to Minister Grande-Marlaska for continuing to invest in and show leadership on support to victims of terrorism.

The Memorial Center's role in recognizing and remembering victims not only helps the victims themselves as well as their families – it also serves as a means to prevent other people from becoming victims of terrorism.

I am greatly honored to see victims and survivors and victim associations here today. I am humbled by your experiences and pay tribute to your resilience.

As you know all too well, many victims and survivors often face a range of difficulties, from physical injuries to mental health issues and financial instability.

The Memories Campaign is a response to this need. It shows what goes into being resilient, raises awareness of the needs of victims and survivors and, I hope, encourages people to take action to make a difference.

The Campaign seeks to support and amplify all our work – both at the international and national level – and to provide a platform for victim’s voices. We need to listen carefully to their needs and improve our responses. The Campaign is also a call to action for all of us – everyone has a role to play.

The past few years have generated great momentum in support of the victim’s agenda, including through various consensus resolutions of the General Assembly.

Last September’s Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism in New York helped Member States start to move from word to deed by ensuring the rights of victims are realized and their needs are supported, such as through the launch of model legislative provisions. We need to keep moving forward on this agenda and look to the international conference on victims which Spain has offered to host next year as a way to keep up the momentum.

I commend the Spanish system of protection for victims of terrorism, which sets an important standard in providing a holistic response to victims through its comprehensive and integral assistance approach.

We will continue to urge all Member States to develop national comprehensive assistance plans, as called in General Assembly resolution 73/305 (2019), and to strengthen their national legal frameworks to better support victims. My office will continue to support these national efforts.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am grateful that UNOCT has such a strong and steadfast partner in Spain on supporting victims of terrorism, and I was delighted to formally open our Programme Office in Madrid yesterday, one priority of which is the Global Victims of Terrorism Support Programme.

These opportunities will allow us to broaden our reach, increase support for victims, and engage Member States in a more focused and concerted dialogue.

Our collective efforts at the international level, including the Third Counter-Terrorism week and the eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy this year, forms the basis for our work at the national level.

The exhibition is a good starting point for this conversation to continue.

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We must not forget the crucial role of victims in our prevention efforts to end terrorism. Their stories of courage and resilience show us how to transform unimaginable pain and suffering into positive change. Their stories--their *memories*—are an example for us all.

The United Nations stands today and always in solidarity with victims of terrorism.

Thank you.