



International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

Surviving Terrorism: The Power of Connections" High-level Event

20 August 2021, 9.00 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. (EDT)

Statement by Mr. Nigeel Namai

Kenya

Secretary-General,
Under-Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
my fellow victims,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My name is Nigeel Andiika NAMAI, I am from Kenya, but I am currently furthering my studies in Australia, and this is my story.

On the 7th of August 1998, my father was killed in an Al Qaeda terrorist attack. On this day, the US Embassy in Nairobi was bombed and approximately 213 people in and outside of the Embassy building lost their lives.

As we mark the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, please allow me to share the significance of this day

This day is important because, not only do I get to connect with fellow victims, but I also get to convey the message of the essence of the mental health of victims of terrorism.

Being the introspective person that I am, I realised that I had been going through a long-term mental trauma and did not realise how heavily it had impacted my life in general.

www.un.org/victimsofterrorism/en/international-day-2021

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Additionally, this day is significant to me because it also provides me with a platform and a public voice to raise awareness to Member States, lawmakers, healthcare administrators and other people of greater influence or in positions of power, on how they can support victims of terrorism to improve their mental health long term.

As you heard me mention connection earlier on, in simple terms it reminds me of a common bond that we all share with family, friends and other victims nationally and internationally which in this case, is being a victim of a terrorist attack.

Connection is important to me because it creates a chance and a platform for emotional support amongst victims of terrorism. For families and friends, it is memorial days and times of fellowship with one another. Internationally, it is about sharing your story with other victims and listening to theirs. This creates a platform for moral support.

Unfortunately for the past 18 months due to COVID-19, physical connections have been hindered. That proved to be challenging, first because no one anticipated such a drastic change, and it forced people to adjust to the use of technology.

But as months passed by, people's viewpoints changed and they used it to their benefit instead and this way, we are still able to connect. Even though it's not as good as physical connection, we all understand 'half a loaf is better than none' so the least we can do is to exploit this platform to the fullest.

Secretary-General,
Under-Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
my fellow victims,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

My message to all the attending and the viewing audience including the Secretary-General, the UN, Member States, victims' associations, policy makers and the wider public is that improving long term mental health for victims of terrorism is important, should be acknowledged and taken into consideration because it matters. The impact of terrorist attacks is with us for the rest of our lives.

I call upon you all to work closely with the victims in order to improve any systems of help that are already in place and to set up systems where they do not exist.

Thank you.