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United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide welcomes the adoption of the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.

(New York, 14 September 2015) The United Nations Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, Adama Dieng, welcomed the adoption last Friday by consensus of the General Assembly resolution establishing 9 December as the *International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime*.

The resolution approved, with 84 co-sponsors, was a direct response to a recommendation by the Human Rights Council in resolution 28/34, adopted on 7 April 2015. This international day is intended to commemorate and honour the victims of the crime of genocide around the world and to raise awareness of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and its role in protecting populations from future genocides.

“Genocide represents the very worst of humanity. No human being should experience such a terrible crime,” the Special Adviser said. “Unfortunately, both the past and present are haunted by many instances in which people – individuals and communities - have been persecuted simply because of their identity, because of who they are.”

“Remembering the events of the past and paying tribute to those who perished should strengthen our resolve to prevent such events from ever happening again. We have a collective responsibility to prevent genocide – and by commemorating the victims of the crime of genocide, we can dignify them and show that we are not indifferent, that we care about what happened to them and will never forget them,” concluded the Special Adviser.

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