



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 May 2019

Excellency,

Following my letter of 26 April inviting you to a commemorative event for the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka on 3 May at 10:00 am, I have the honour to attach herewith the concept note and programme for the event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. F. Espinosa Garcés'.

María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Commemorative Event for the Victims of the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka

co-organized by the President of the General Assembly and the
Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka

Friday, May 3rd, 2019, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
General Assembly Hall

From Christchurch to Colombo, the number of terror attacks continues to rise, threatening to tear apart our societies and posing a threat to international peace and security. The attacks on churches and hotels in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday 21st of April have claimed the lives not only of many Sri Lankans, but also of nationals of many other countries.

The changing nature of terrorism and violent extremism presents many challenges, which we can best address by enhancing international cooperation to prevent and combat these phenomena. We must redouble our efforts to stop financing of terrorism, to counter the scourge of foreign terrorist fighters, to secure our borders and to address the abuse of new technologies for terrorist purposes. We must also ensure that human rights and the rule of law are observed in our global efforts to combat terrorism. The international community cannot abandon its common humanity, which unites us in solidarity and purpose and gives us strength in the fight against terrorism.

This event is being organized jointly by the President of the General Assembly and the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka and presents an opportunity for the international community not only to extend condolences, but also renew its commitment to our joint efforts to combat violent extremism and terrorism and offer reflections on strengthening our cooperation and resolve to counter these evolving threats.

Programme:

10:00 am: Opening

Remarks by the President of the General Assembly

Remarks by the Deputy Secretary-General

Remarks by the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka

Remarks by the Chairs of Regional Groups (5 minutes each)

11:00 am

Presentation of an Elegy especially in memory of those who died on Easter Sunday specially composed by one of Sri Lanka's leading composers and conductors *Dr. Lalanath de Silva*.

followed by

Tribute Performance by the UN Chamber Music Society of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council: *Brenda Vongova (Artistic Director & Piano); Hana Mundiya (Violin); Drake Driscoll (Cello); David Yardley (Countertenor); Mahalya Gogerly-Moragoda (Guest Soprano)*.

11:15 am: Interventions by UN Member States, Observers, UN entities from the floor

Delegations will have the opportunity to make remarks from the floor, and may indicate their interest to speak by pressing the button at their seats. There will be no speakers list. Given high interest in the event, delegations are kindly requested to keep remarks as brief as possible.

12:00 pm: End of the event

For further information please contact Ms. Sonali Samarasinghe, Minister, Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka (212-986-7040, sonali@slmission.com) or Ms. Nadia Kalb in the Office of the President of the General Assembly (917-367- 9493, nadia.kalb@un.org).