**Concept Note**

**Third commemoration of the**

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

**21 August 2020**

**“Not Forgotten: Stories of Remembrance from Victims of Terrorism”**

Background

The General Assembly, in its resolution [A/RES/72/165](https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/165), proclaimed August 21 as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism (hereinafter referred to as “International Day”). The resolution further invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, as well as other international organizations, and civil society entities, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day in an appropriate manner. The main focus of the resolution is to honour, remember and pay tribute to the victims of terrorism by standing in solidarity and promoting and protecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Objective

The third commemoration of the International Day occurs during trying times for the international community, with the ongoing consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic felt by citizens around the world, which has triggered new trauma in victims. With the world focused on the response to the pandemic, it is even more important to remember and honour victims. However, many memorials and commemorations have been cancelled or taken on-line, denying many victims the opportunity of communal support and solidarity that in-person commemoration normally provides.

Therefore, the theme for this year’s International Day is on remembrance, and whilst the Day cannot be held in person, it is an opportunity for victims to speak about remembrance on their own terms, reminding the audience that remembrance is not only about bereavement, but also about acknowledging the experience of survivors.

Activities of the International Day

To observe the International Day, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)/the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the Global Compact Working Group on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism and the Support to Victims of Terrorism will conduct three major activities:

1. **Social media campaign**
* Social media products of the 11 victims shown in the film on Remembrance will be released every hour for 11 hours across the different time zones where the victims live, on various social media platforms, starting in Australia and ending in New York on 21 August in time to start the high-level event. The high-level event will be publicized at the end of each product.
1. **High-level event to launch the Film on Remembrance**

The high-level event, convened by the Secretary-General (tbc), and in collaboration with the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism will focus on:

* The launch of a short montage-style film, “Not Forgotten: Stories of Remembrance from victims and survivors of terrorism”, which focuses on the interviews of 11 victims who take the audience through their experience—of remembrance during normal times, of their experience during lockdown, and of trying to continue with remembrance practices during the pandemic.
* A global minute of silence to commemorate the International Day
* Opening statement from Under-Secretary-General Voronkov
* Keynote speech from the Secretary-General (tbc)
* Statements from two victims
* Brief remarks from the President of the General Assembly (tbc), the co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism (Afghanistan and Spain) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (tbc).
1. **Webinar on Remembrance**
* The webinar will be live-streamed on the WebEx platform and will seek to discuss the importance of remembrance, particularly in the midst of a pandemic with a number of victims, victims’ associations, experts and Member States. The webinar will be moderated by a well-known commentator/journalist, and will include panelists from across the world, taking into account gender, age and geographical balance. The format of the webinar will be based on an interactive discussion where the moderator will pose questions from victims and civil society organisations to the panelists. The webinar will also be webcast live on UN WebTV.

Other activities that will be developed for the International Day, include:

1. **Multimedia products on Remembrance**
2. A video of a short performance by the UN Chamber Music Society to be played between the film screening and start of the panel discussion
3. Video message by the Secretary-General (if the Secretary-General is unable to deliver an in-person statement)
4. **Websites**

Specific webpages will be developed for the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and the dedicated International Day page on the main UN website. These pages will include information about the establishment of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, an outline of the theme of Remembrance, links to the social media campaign, film and webinar, the Secretary-General’s message, and the UNCCT Virtual Expo stories on victims of terrorism and will be translated into the six official languages of the UN.

**Partnerships**

UNCCT Victims of Terrorism team will take the lead in organizing and implementing the activities, with the collaboration of the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism, and in partnership with the Global Compact Working Group on human rights and victims of terrorism, and other UN entities, including UNICs.

UNOCT will coordinate closely with EOSG, due to the Secretary-General’s presence, including on the victims participating in the films.

**Communication Strategy**

UNOCT/UNCCT will develop a communications strategy with the Comms Team in OUSG for the International Day. This will also include key partnerships with the Department of Global Communications to ensure publication of the video products and accompanying messages on the UN’s main Instagram account (@unitednations), the use of the Facebook account of the Secretary General (@unitednations), and UNOCT’s Twitter account (@UN\_OCT). A shorter version of the main film will be created and be posted on the main UN homepage, linked to the dedicated UNOCT webpages, and the content used to create the 11 teasers will also be used to create new guest interviews which can be uploaded to the UNCCT Expo map. The social media posts will also be embedded into the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal and can also be featured on the UNOCT/UNCCT website. Individual post will be shared by all affiliated UN (UNICs) and victims’ associations’ accounts and pages around the world, by use of a Trello Board.

Networks, including victims’ associations, the Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism and Member States of participating victims can be alerted to the time that their post will be publicized so that they can also share it on their affiliated networks. Hashtags will be developed for us, including the hashtag, #SurvivingTerrorism, which is still relevant, and could be repurposed for this event to tie the posts and reactions together.

**Logistics and timeline**

A timeline has been developed, that includes finalization of production of the film, videos (including the musical interlude), and social media products.

A logistical note will be produced, particularly for the webinar will be held on-line via Teams Live, with technical support provided by OICT.

A draft timeline, below, provides an overall perspective, with more detailed timelines developed for each ‘product’ to be produced for the International Day.

**Draft Timeline**

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