

Media Update

17 March 2019

United Nations

STATEMENTS

Statement attributable to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General on the attack at two mosques in New Zealand

New York- 15 March 2019: The Secretary-General is shocked and appalled at the terrorist attack at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. He extends his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government and people of New Zealand.

The Secretary General recalls the sanctity of mosques and all places of worship. He calls upon all people on this holy day for Muslims to show signs of solidarity with the bereaved Islamic community.

The Secretary-General reiterates the urgency of working better together globally to counter Islamophobia and eliminate intolerance and violent extremism in all its forms.

Security Council Press Statement on Terrorist Attack in Christchurch, New Zealand

15 March 2019: The members of the Security Council condemned in the strongest terms the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack that took place at Al Noor Mosque and Linwood Mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 15 March 2019, which resulted in at least 49 killed and many wounded. The members of the Security Council expressed their deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims and to the Government of New Zealand and they wished a speedy and full recovery to those who were injured.



The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

The members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Government of the New Zealand and all other relevant authorities in this regard.

The members of the Security Council reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. They reaffirmed the need for all States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

PRESS BRIEFING BY MONICA GRAYLEY, SPOKESPERSON FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MARÍA FERNANDA ESPINOSA

New York- 15 March 2019
(As delivered)

PGA STRONGLY CONDEMNS ATTACKS IN NEW ZEALAND

The President of the General Assembly strongly condemns the attacks against two mosques, which took place in the city of Christchurch in New Zealand, today.

Ms. Espinosa conveys her deepest condolences to all bereaved families, the people and the Government of New Zealand.

The PGA says that this heinous act of extreme violence against a house of worship is an abhorrent crime. Ms. Espinosa stresses that more must be done to combat intolerance, hate speech and extremism for the sake of humanity.



She wishes all injured in the attacks a speedy recovery.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

REMARKS AT WREATH LAYING FOR VICTIMS OF ETHIOPIAN AIR CRASH

New York, 15 March 2019

[As delivered]

Dear Colleagues and dear Friends,

We come together in sadness and solidarity to pay tribute to our fellow UN family members who perished on Sunday.

In doing so, we also remember all the victims of the air crash that claimed so many lives – including civil society partners and humanitarian workers.

We send our deepest condolences and heartfelt wishes to their families and loved ones during this extremely difficult time.

With our condolences also to the people and the Government of Ethiopia.

But the very nature of a tragedy such as this, is something that we should be able to think about, our colleagues were in many ways a random group. They were from many agencies, with many areas of expertise, from the highest level in the hierarchy, to all kinds of functions within the UN and coming from all over the world.

Yet, together, they also were a mirror of the United Nations: they really represent what the United Nations is, and the best of the United Nations. Women and men; some in the beginning of their careers, others closing in on retirement but each on an individual mission, but at the same time together, representing our larger quest – doing their part, in solidarity



with all of us, to build a better world, brick by brick, deed by deed, day in and day out.

As we continue that mission, let us reflect on their lives, let us honour their service and let us be inspired by their extraordinary example.

I ask all of you please to join me in a minute of silence paying tribute to the colleagues that we shall never forget.
