

# Media Update

24 March 2019

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## United Nations

MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

### International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

25 March 2019

**Please download video message here:**

CLEAN VERSION

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/downloads2.unmultimedia.org/public/video/ondemand/SG%20Slave%20Trade%20Remembrance%20EN.mp4>

ENGLISH SUBTITLES

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/downloads2.unmultimedia.org/public/video/ondemand/SG%20Slave%20Trade%20Remembrance%20EN.mp4>

“The transatlantic slave trade was one of history’s most appalling manifestations of human barbarity.

We must never forget the crimes and impacts, in Africa and beyond, across the centuries.

The United Nations Remember Slavery Programme helps to ensure that the lessons are learned and heeded today.

Enslaved people struggled against a legal system they knew was wrong.

On many occasions, they sacrificed their lives in the hope of freedom.

We need to tell the stories of those who stood up against their oppressors, and recognize their righteous resistance.



On this International Day of Remembrance, we pay homage to the millions of African men, women and children who were denied their humanity and forced to endure such abominable cruelty.

We honour them by standing up against ongoing forms of slavery, by raising awareness of the dangers of racism in our time, and by ensuring justice and equal opportunities for all people of African descent today.  
Thank you.”

## Background

### Transatlantic slave trade

The transatlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in history, and undeniably one of the most inhumane. The extensive exodus of Africans spread to many areas of the world over a 400-year period and was unprecedented in the annals of recorded human history.

As a direct result of the transatlantic slave trade, the greatest movement of Africans was to the Americas — with 96 per cent of the captives from the African coasts arriving on cramped slave ships at ports in South America and the Caribbean Islands.

From 1501 to 1830, four Africans crossed the Atlantic for every one European, making the demographics of the Americas in that era more of an extension of the African diaspora than a European one. The legacy of this migration is still evident today, with large populations of people of African descent living throughout the Americas.

### Commemorating the memory of the victims

In commemoration of the memory of the victims, the General Assembly, in its [resolution 62/122](#) of 17 December 2007, declared 25 March the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, to be observed annually.

The resolution also called for the establishment of an outreach programme to mobilize educational institutions, civil society and other organizations to inculcate in future generations the "causes, consequences and lessons of the transatlantic slave trade, and to communicate the dangers of racism and prejudice."



گزشتہ 400 سالوں سے 15 ملین سے زائد مرد، خواتین اور بچے غلاموں کی روایتی تجارت کے شکار ہو رہے ہیں اور یہ انسانی تاریخ کا تاریک ترین باب ہے۔ غلامی کا شکار افراد اور غلاموں کی تجارت کی یاد میں عالمی دن ایک ایسا موقع ہوتا ہے جب ہم ان لوگوں کو یاد کرتے ہیں جنہوں نے غلامی کے ہاتھوں تکالیف اٹھائیں اور وفات پا گئے۔ یہ دن ہمیں نسل پرستی اور تعصب کے خطرات سے آگاہی فراہم کرتا ہے۔ اس دن کو تعلیمی مواقع کے ذریعے منایا جاتا ہے اور غلامی کی تجارت کے شکار لوگوں کے ساتھ ساتھ ان مردوں اور خواتین کو بھی خراج تحسین پیش کیا جاتا ہے جنہوں نے غلامی کے غیر انسانی رویوں کے خلاف آواز اٹھائی۔ جنرل اسمبلی نے 2008 میں اپنی قرارداد A/RES/62/122 کے ذریعے اس دن پر عمل درآمد کرایا۔

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=g1Sju0ggIFl>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/slaveryremembranceday>

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## MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

# International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

25 March 2019

“Day in and day out, deed by deed, United Nations personnel work unwaveringly to help the most vulnerable, protect the planet and build a better future for all.

Sadly, fulfilling this vital mission often entails great perils.

In 2018, 16 UN staff members were kidnapped or abducted, and one thus far in 2019. Thankfully, all have been released. As of today, there are 21 UN staff members under arrest or in detention -- five of whom are being held without any known charges. We will continue to do everything within our means to secure our colleagues' release.

On this International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members, I call on all countries to support the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel as well as its 2005 Optional Protocol. To date, only 95 countries are party to the Convention and only 33 to the Optional Protocol.



Whether in their home countries or abroad, United Nations staff members have an admirable commitment to service. Their safety must be our priority. On this International Day of Solidarity, I call on the Member States and the international community to strengthen resolve to give them the protection they need to continue their work for peace and prosperity for all. “

## Background

Since the founding of the United Nations in 1945, hundreds of brave men and women have lost their lives in its service. During the 1990s, the growing number and scale of UN peacekeeping missions put many more at risk. More lives were lost during the 1990s than in the previous four decades combined. At that time, an awareness began to develop among Member States and staff, that the more active the UN became in the future, the more it was going to be targeted.

The first [resolution](#) on staff security was adopted by the UN Security Council in September 1993.

Complex negotiations subsequently took place in the [Sixth \(Legal\) Committee](#) of the General Assembly on an international legal convention to protect UN personnel.

The result of those negotiations was the [Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel](#), which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1994.

A key player in the development of the Convention was Ambassador Colin Keating of New Zealand. In an interview in the *UN Secretariat News*, he explained the reasoning behind the Convention. He said "the Security Council has to be willing to stand up for the people in the field. It's got to be willing to condemn attacks on personnel regardless of who does it."

He also said "management has to provide proper resources for people in the field to minimize their risk. That means training, and security equipment, not just for the military personnel, but civilians, as well."

“محجوس اور لاپتہ عملے سے يکجهتی کا عالمی دن“ “25 مارچ“



اقوام متحدہ جو کہ خطرات سے دوچار افراد کے لیے امید، تحفظ اور ایک بہتر زندگی کی علامت ہے کو بھی کچھ مقامات پر نشانہ بنایا گیا ہے۔ ہر سال محبوس اور لاپتہ عملے سے یکجہتی کے عالمی دن کو ایلیک کولٹ کے اغوا کے دن کی یاد کے طور پر منایا جاتا ہے، جو کہ ایک صحافی تھا اور لبنان میں اقوام متحدہ کے ساتھ کام کر رہا تھا، جسے 1985ء میں کچھ مسلح افراد نے اغواء کر لیا۔ یہ دن اقوام متحدہ کے ان تمام اسٹاف ممبران کی یاد کو اعزاز بخشنے کا دن ہے جو لاپتہ ہو گئے یا انہیں محبوس کر لیا گیا یا ادارے میں اپنی خدمات انجام دینے کے دوران قتل کر دیا گیا۔ یہ دن انصاف حاصل کرنے کے عمل اور ہماری طرف سے اپنے اسٹاف اور امن قائم کرنے والوں، غیر سرکاری گروہوں اور پریس کے تحفظ کا دن ہے۔

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=g1Sju0ggIFl>

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