

Media Update

21 August 2019

United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

22 August 2019

“Over the past few months, we have seen increasing numbers of attacks against individuals and groups targeted simply because of their religion or belief. Jews have been murdered in synagogues, their gravestones defaced with swastikas; Muslims gunned down in mosques, their religious sites vandalized; Christians killed at prayer, their churches torched.

Many assaults, like those in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United States, have specifically targeted places of worship. And in many conflicts around the world, from Syria to the Central African Republic, entire communities have been attacked on the grounds of their faith.

All major world religions espouse tolerance and peaceful coexistence in a spirit of shared humanity. We must resist and reject those who falsely and maliciously invoke religion to build misconceptions, fuel division and spread fear and hatred. There is richness and strength in diversity; it is never a threat.

Today we observe the first ever International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion and Belief. On this Day, we reaffirm our unwavering support for the victims of violence based on religion and belief. And we demonstrate that support by doing all in our power to prevent such attacks and demanding that those responsible are held accountable.

The United Nations is stepping up action through two new initiatives – a first-of-its-kind UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech and a Plan of



Action to safeguard religious sites. The best way to overcome the threat of violence based on religion and belief is by uniting our voices for good, countering messages of hate with messages of peace, embracing diversity and protecting human rights. The world must step up to stamp out anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim hatred, the persecution of Christians and other religious groups, and all forms of racism, xenophobia, discrimination and incitement to violence. As members of the human family, we must nurture mutual understanding. We all have a responsibility to look out for each other, to respect differences and to promote peaceful coexistence.”

اقوام متحدہ کے سیکرٹری جنرل کا پیغام

مذہب اور عقیدے کی بنیاد پر تشدد کا شکار ہونے والوں کے ساتھ یکجہتی کا عالمی دن

22 اگست 2019

پچھلے کچھ مہینوں میں مذہب اور عقیدے کی بنیاد پر انفرادی اور گروہی سطح پر لوگوں پر ہونے والے حملوں کے واقعات میں اضافہ دیکھنے میں آیا ہے۔ یہودیوں کو ان کی عبادت گاہوں میں قتل کیا گیا، ان کی قبروں کے نشانات کو بے دردی سے خراب کیا گیا، مسلمانوں کو مساجد میں شہید کیا گیا اور ان کے مذہبی مقامات کو مسمار کیا گیا اور عیسائیوں کو عبادت کے دوران مارا گیا اور ان کے چرچ نذر آتش کر دیئے گئے۔

ایسے کئی حملوں میں جیسا کہ نیوزی لینڈ، سری لنکا اور امریکہ میں بھی رونما ہوئے، ان میں خاص کر عبادت گاہوں کو نشانہ بنایا گیا۔ یہیں نہیں بلکہ شام سے لیکر جمہوریہ افریقہ تک دنیا کے اکثر تنازعات کے دوران تقریباً تمام طبقات پر ان کے عقیدے اور مذہب کی بنیاد پر حملے کیے گئے ہیں۔

دنیا کے اکثر مذاہب میں یہ قدر مشترک ہے کہ وہ سب انسانیت پر مبنی رواداری اور پُر امن بقائے باہمی کے جذبے پہ یقین رکھتے ہیں۔ ہمیں ساتھ ملکر ان لوگوں کے خلاف مزاحمت کرنی ہے اور انہیں مسترد کرنا ہے جو مذاہب اور عقیدوں سے متعلق جھوٹ اور بدنیتی پر مبنی غلط فہمیوں کو پھیلاتے ہیں اور خوف و ہراس اور نفرت جیسے منفی رویوں کو فروغ دیتے ہیں۔ جبکہ دیکھا جائے تو مختلف مذاہب اور عقیدوں کا تنوع انتہائی مضبوط اور خوبصورت ہے اور اس میں کسی کے لیے بھی کوئی خطرہ نہیں ہے۔

آج ہم مذہب اور عقیدے کی بنیاد پر ہونے والے تشدد سے متاثرہ لوگوں کا دن پہلی مرتبہ منا رہے ہیں۔ ہم ان لوگوں کے ساتھ اپنی غیر متزلزل حمایت کے عزم کا اعادہ کرتے ہیں اور اعلان کرتے ہیں کہ ان حملوں کو

روکنے کے لیے اپنے اپنے اختیارات بروئے کار لائیں گے اور ہم یہ مطالبہ بھی کرتے ہیں کہ ان حملوں کے ذمہ دار افراد کو قرار واقعی سزائیں دی جائیں۔

اقوام متحدہ نے اس معاملے کے حل کے لیے دو اہم اقدامات اٹھائے ہیں: ایک نفرت انگیز تقاریر کے خلاف، اپنی طرز کی پہلی حکمت عملی اور ایکشن پلان کا اعلان، اور دوسرا مذہبی مقامات کی حفاظت کا ایکشن پلان ہے۔ مذہب اور عقیدے کی بنیاد پر ہونے والے پُر تشدد واقعات کی روک تھام کے لیے ضروری ہے کہ اقوام عالم متحد ہو کر اسکے خلاف آواز بلند کریں، نفرت کے مقابلے میں امن کے پیغامات کو فروغ دیں، تنوع کو اپنائیں اور انسانی حقوق کا تحفظ کریں۔ دنیا کو یہودیوں، مسلمانوں عیسائیوں اور دیگر مذاہب سے تعلق رکھنے والے لوگوں کے لیے، مذہب اور عقیدے کی بنیاد پر نفرت اور پُر تشدد حملوں، نسل پرستی، امتیازی سلوک، اشتعال انگیزی اور دوسرے مذاہب کے لوگوں سے بیزاری جیسے منفی رویوں کو جڑ سے اکھاڑ پھینکنے کے لیے آگے بڑھنا ہو گا۔ ہمیں نوع انسانی کے ایک کنبے کی حیثیت سے ایک دوسرے کے لیے باہمی افہام و تفہیم سے کام لینا ہو گا۔ ہماری مشترکی ذمہ داری ہے کہ ایک دوسرے کا خیال کریں، اختلاف رائے کا احترام کریں اور بقائے باہمی کے جذبے کو فروغ دیں

About the Day:

Human Rights Related to Freedom of Religion or Belief

Freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. They are enshrined in articles 18, 19 and 20 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). Upholding these rights plays an important role in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief.

The open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence.

Furthermore, the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance.

Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief

There are continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, including against persons belonging to religious

communities and religious minorities around the world, and the number and intensity of such incidents, which are often of a criminal nature and may have international characteristics, are increasing.

That is why the General Assembly adopted the resolution [A/RES/73/296](#), titled “International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief” strongly condemning continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief.

The Member States reaffirmed their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, and reiterated that terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

The General Assembly decided to designate 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief.

The Day comes right after the [International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism](#), 21 August.

Background:

The General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/73/xx, designated 22 August as the International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief recognizing the importance of providing victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief and members of their families with appropriate support and assistance in accordance with applicable law.

It strongly deplored all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship, as well as all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines that are in violation of international law.

A previous resolution establishing the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism ([A/RES/72/165](#)) also recognized that

working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increasing interreligious, interfaith and intercultural efforts and expanding human rights education are important first steps in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief.

By proclaiming an International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief, the General Assembly recalled that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely.

For more information:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/victimsofreligiousviolenceday/>

United Nations

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

21 August 2019

“Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations remains a global challenge. It causes lasting damage to individuals, families and communities. These scars run deep, and while they may fade with time, they never disappear.

This International Day reminds us that no matter how long ago an attack happened, victims continue to struggle with its legacy. Victims and survivors all over the world need a chance to heal through justice and support. Thousands show great resilience, courage and spirit. They have forged global alliances, addressed and countered the false narratives spread by terrorists, and raised their voices against the threat of terrorism and the absence of justice.

We need to provide long-term, multi-faceted support to victims and survivors of terrorism, including through partnerships with governments and civil society, so that they can heal, recover, rebuild their lives and help others. Supporting victims of terrorism is one way in which we live up to our responsibility to defend their rights and our common humanity. By listening to them, we can also learn much about how best to unite our communities against terrorism.

The United Nations has helped to connect and raise the voices of victims of terrorism through the activities of the Office of Counter Terrorism. The General Assembly's recent adoption of a resolution on Victims, and the establishment of a Group of Friends of Victims of Terrorism are further steps to ensure that our support is enhanced and increased, addressing all aspects of victims' needs. The organization of the first-ever United Nations Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism next year will further strengthen our collective work.

On our second observance of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to Victims of Terrorism, I ask that we all reflect on the lives that have been changed forever as a result of terrorism. Let us commit to showing victims that they are not alone, and that the international community stands in solidarity with them, wherever they may be. In their call for healing and justice, they speak for all of us.”

António Guterres

Background

The General Assembly, in its [resolution 72/165 \(2017\)](#), established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism in order to honor and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Resolution 72/165 builds on existing efforts by the General Assembly, the Commission of Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism.

By proclaiming an International Day dedicated to victims, the General Assembly reaffirmed that the promotion and the protection of human rights and the rule of law at the national; and international levels are essential for preventing and combating terrorism.

The [Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#), adopted unanimously in its resolution 60/288, on 8 September 2006, notes that the dehumanization of victims counts among the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and the most effective way to counter terrorism is through measures that respect human dignity and uphold the rule of law.

For more information:

<https://www.un.org/en/events/victimsofterrorismday/index.shtml>
