



**United Nations
Counter-Terrorism Centre**

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office



REPORT of the
UN CONFERENCE
on **HUMAN RIGHTS**
of **VICTIMS** of **TERRORISM**

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#SupportVictimsOfTerrorism

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Preface



“Any balanced and comprehensive strategy for combating terrorism must recognise that victims of terrorism are entitled to our support. Far too often, victims are left to suffer in silence as the world around them moves on even as their own lives have been upended. This only exacerbates their trauma. We must do more to protect the rights of victims of terrorism and provide the services they need.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Launch of UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal, 2014

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (the Strategy) was adopted by Member States on 8 September 2006. The Strategy, in the form of a resolution (A/RES/60/288) and an annexed Plan of Action, is a unique global instrument that enhances national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism under four Pillars. Pillar I (that details the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism) and Pillar IV (on the need to respect human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of any counter terrorism effort) underscore the importance attached to victims of terrorism by Member States and recognises that without the participation of victims, terrorism cannot be comprehensively defeated.

Yet Member States have often failed to include victims in their efforts to combat terrorism, notwithstanding the emphasis placed on victims by the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As international attention has increasingly focused on the repercussions of terrorist acts, including those on victims, Member States have recently turned their attention to the ‘softer’ aspects of preventing terrorism. The last two review outcome resolutions of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in 2012 (A/RES/66/282) and 2014 (A/RES/68/276), highlighted the important role that victims play in the counter narrative context as well as the need to support victims and strengthen the efforts of Member States. Nonetheless, the lack of strong and sustainable support by Member States and the international community has meant that victims and those supporting them continue to struggle to find a place within the counter-terrorism debate.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office, under the rubric of its Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism, cooperates with other United Nations system actors to advance the implementation of the Strategy on victims of terrorism issues. Activities undertaken by these entities of the Working Group have contributed to advance the promotion of the rights of, and support to, victims of terrorism.

The Conference on The Promotion and Protection of the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism permitted a greater understanding of the human rights of victims of terrorism at the international, regional and national level, contributing to policy and legal development in this area, as envisaged in the Strategy. It also provided strategic direction on victims of terrorism as the Strategy marks its tenth year anniversary in 2016.

In particular, the Conference sought to elaborate on national measures to address the needs of victims of terrorism, as envisaged under Pillar I of the Strategy, and to promote the rights of victims of terrorism under Pillar IV, by encouraging respect for the rule of law in the criminal justice response to acts of terrorism and evaluating the impact such acts have on victims and their families. The Conference also gave effect to Pillar II of the Strategy, by encouraging States to fully comply with their human rights obligations by coordinating and cooperating in their criminal investigation activities on, and prosecution of, persons suspected and/or accused of terrorism.

Hosted by the CTITF Office and the UNCCT, and in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism, the Conference was guided by the Special Rapporteur's report on the Framework Principles for securing the human rights of victims of terrorism (A/HRC/20/14). The Special Rapporteur's report recommended the establishment of a legally binding and internationally recognised international instrument to enshrine the human rights of victims of terrorism. However, in the absence of such an instrument, it encourages Member States to uphold their corresponding international obligations so as to secure those rights, which are laid out in a set of 14 Framework Principles.

This report provides a snapshot of the key ideas shared by participants during the Conference. It also seeks to offer policymakers, practitioners and the public views and insights on how the human rights of victims of terrorism can be upheld by Member States through their international human rights obligations. Additionally, it draws twelve key recommendations at the global, regional and national levels to advance progress in promoting and protecting these rights.

Welcoming Remarks and Opening Session



A minute of silence is observed during the Conference on Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism. From left to right: Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director of CTITF/UNCCT; Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, USG for Political Affairs, Chairman of CTITF and Executive Director of UNCCT; Mr. Javier García-Larrache Olalquiaga, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN; H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, formally opened the Conference. He highlighted that the United Nations had lost staff to terrorist attacks; and as a result the Organisation felt solidarity with victims worldwide. He highlighted that the UN has three responsibilities in this important field: 1) to make the voices of victims heard; 2) to ensure that their human rights are fully respected; and 3) to recognise that victims of terrorism are the strongest, most sincere and most convincing allies in preventing fellow citizens from joining terrorist groups and violent extremists.

After calling for a minute of silence to honour all victims, he recounted the story of a victim from the Paris attacks, emphasising the brutality of terrorist actions and the suffering victims endure, both in the moment and long after. He asked that the needs of victims – particularly the young and the vulnerable – not be forgotten. The UN has ensured that victims remain a priority and has tried to realise the Secretary-General's commitment to victims of terrorism through the launch of the UN Victims of Terrorism Support Portal by the Secretary-General in 2014, and the continued work of the CTITF Inter-Agency Working Group on Victims of Terrorism and the UNCCT Five-Year Programme of Work.

As terrorist groups flout international human rights and humanitarian law and commit abuses that may well constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity, the human rights of victims must be fully respected. The report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism provides a solid basis

to strengthen the support for the rights of victims whilst acknowledging that more needs to be done to recognise victims' rights, especially by strengthening existing legal frameworks, providing appropriate medical, psychological and legal services as well as access to reparations, and better addressing victims' needs in criminal justice processes.

Mr. Feltman noted that by integrating victims' perspectives into counter-terrorism efforts, the international community can ensure a multi-dimensional, inclusive and integrated approach to preventing the spread of violent extremism. This is reflected in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, which emphasises protecting and supporting victims of terrorism, especially through the establishment of national plans of action to prevent violent extremism that must take into account, and strengthen, the rights of victims. The international community has already shown its solidarity and support to victims through the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). As the Strategy will soon commemorate its tenth anniversary, it remains critical that victims have a central role in all counter-terrorism strategies.

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations noted that the violence perpetrated by Da'esh against all sections of the population has resulted in instability, the loss of national unity, and the dissemination of violent and extremist ideas. Civilians, facilities, and infrastructure have all been directly targeted. Violent extremists have used unarmed civilians as human shields, have kidnapped, enslaved and sexually abused thousands of children, girls and women, and have brutally targeted religious minority groups.

Against this background, together with the corresponding serious criminal and security challenges facing the country, the Government of Iraq has worked to protect civilians from military harm and to avoid damage to property. The Ambassador stressed that protection of civilians in counter-terrorism operations was a priority for the Government. It has opened up shelters for the displaced, but he said that protection was a shared international responsibility that required urgent action. There is a need for Member States to strengthen international cooperation and to implement their obligations under numerous Security Council resolutions.

The Ambassador noted that the Iraqi Government provides for victims of terrorism and their families through Law No. 20 (2009) as amended. Under this law, a central committee was formed to compensate those affected by terrorism, through providing material compensation for physical or psychological harm, a pension, an apartment or land to the family or a financial grant to build a house. At the international level, victims of violent extremism from Iraq have made their case, most recently at the Security Council meeting to highlight the inhuman treatment suffered by scores of victims. He underlined that the Government regularly calls upon the international community to assist in efforts to reintegrate and rehabilitate victims of terrorism.



“Iraq considers reintegration and rehabilitation efforts of its damaged communities as a high priority and calls upon [...] all world experts to assist in the efforts of reintegration and rehabilitation of Iraqi victims of terrorism and excessive violence through consultations and training programmes to enable them to overcome the devastating effects of physical and psychological suffering with emphasis on young girls, women and children who require specific treatments and to help them once again to live in peace in their communities.”

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

On behalf of H.E. Mr. Román Oyarzun Marchesi of Spain, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, Mr. Javier García-Larrache Olalquiaga, noted the Government of Spain’s strong commitment to victims of terrorism. Further, he emphasised Spain’s commitment in supporting the UN to show solidarity with victims of terrorism, particularly through on-line platforms, such as the UN Support Portal. Mr. García-Larrache Olalquiaga, noted that victims are the most effective defenders against violent extremism and their experiences can be brought to bear against terrorist doctrine. Through victims’ testimonies, and the messages they transmit, we are able to see the principles of tolerance and dignity. Victims put a human face to the horror of a terrorist attack and contribute to stopping the circle of hatred. This is why the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reflects solidarity with victims of terrorism and encourages Member States to give them the necessary support and assistance to ensure that their memory, dignity, justice and truth are properly maintained. This is why it is important that victims continue to remain central to any efforts by States to counter terrorism during the review of the Strategy in June. The fight against terrorism must be done in accordance with respect for international human rights and humanitarian law. As Mr. García-Larrache Olalquiaga noted, respect for human rights is part of life and the very essence of society. To give that up would hand terrorists their first victory.

Speaking on the importance of upholding human rights and the rule of law, Mr. Ben Emmerson, the Special Rapporteur for the Protection and Promotion of Fundamental Freedoms and Human Rights while Countering Terrorism identified 14 Framework Principles that set out to guarantee the human rights of victims of terrorism and elaborated on the international obligations of States to protect those rights. The Special Rapporteur put forward the recommendation that States should take steps to enshrine those rights into a specific international legal instrument. However, falling short of this, the Framework Principles were intended to stand as a statement of the law as it is and in some areas as the law as it should be. Giving international recognition of victims as individual human beings whose fundamental human rights have been violated, and the incorporation of that core principle into a specific international agreement on the rights

of victims, would greatly strengthen international efforts towards an effective Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Emmerson gave a broad overview of the substantive obligations set out in the Framework Principles, noting that it is a central tenet of international human rights law to keep pace with a changing world. In this respect he urged Member States, and the international community, to recognise that “the deliberate infliction of lethal or potentially lethal violence by non-State actors in the course of an act of terrorism that results in death or serious physical or psychological injury amounts to a grave violation of human rights irrespective of the question of direct or indirect state responsibility.” In today’s world, some of the gravest violations are being committed by non-State actors.

In further detailing the Framework Principles, the Special Rapporteur noted that these obligations looked at the legal obligations of the State to protect the right to life; in investigation and prosecution, including the issue of participation of victims of terrorism in the criminal justice system; the role of civil society organisations in actively pursuing the agenda of victims; and the right to reparation.

SESSION I

The obligation of national authorities to prevent and respond to terrorist acts

States have different approaches to countering and preventing the spread of terrorism, however, underpinning all actions is the need to uphold the right to life of their people. Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights explicitly articulates States' obligations to protect the right of life of individuals under its territory, and it is this obligation that must remain central to the actions of Member States when responding and preventing acts of terrorism. Prevention is important because it includes an operational duty for the State, consistent with its human rights obligations, to take all reasonable measures to prevent an immediate risk to life from occurring. Appropriate actions can be taken by States to safeguard the lives of individuals in its territory based on recognised international, regional, and national legal standards. Participants in this session explored how this can be done.



“The international community should encourage nations like ours to take it off their mind the apparent belief that a purely militaristic approach is going to work against [the insurgents] ... [T]hat unless there is an effort to understand ... the abuses suffered by civilians in the name of counter-terrorism ... there will be no change and no progress.”

Ms. Hamsatu Alhaji Nashe Allamin
Founder, Voices of the Voiceless People

Under paragraph 67 of the Framework Principles report, the Special Rapporteur delineates two sub-recommendations¹ as to how States should take steps to fulfil their obligations to safeguard the right of individuals in their territories. One participant sought to show how this recommendation could be put into practical action in two ways: firstly, through the Arms Trade Treaty, as some of its provisions specifically address the prevention of terrorism. Under Article 7 of the Treaty, the exporting State is obliged to prevent exporting of arms that could be used to commit or facilitate an act of terrorism. This also means that even if there is a possibility of a terrorist act as a result of exporting arms, then the exporting State party should not provide arms. As the participant noted, “many terrorist attacks are committed through arms, ammunitions and explosives, and that material comes from somewhere - it is worth reaffirming

¹ The State's obligation to protect and secure the right to life includes the duty to take appropriate steps to safeguard the lives of individuals within its jurisdiction. Consequently, (i) the State has a duty under international law to put in place effective criminal law provisions to deter the incitement, preparation and commission of terrorist offences, supported by law enforcement machinery for the prevention, suppression and sanctioning of breaches and (ii) relevant public officials come under a positive operational duty to take preventive action where they know, or ought to know, of the existence, at the relevant time, of a real and immediate risk to the life an identified individual or group of individuals, and yet fail to take measures, within the scope of their legal powers and available resources, and in conformity with the State's international obligations, which judged reasonably, might be expected to avoid that risk.

or even developing this legal obligation on States both inside and outside the Arms Trade Treaty.”

With respect to the second sub-recommendation in the Special Rapporteur’s report, under paragraph 67, many participants noted that how a State responds to a terrorist act is critical in its ability to protect and safeguard the lives of its citizens. One participant further elaborated on this by detailing how badly planned counter-terrorism operations by States can result in direct and indirect victims as a result of State action. In all these cases, “there is an international human rights obligation on the State to exercise its positive operational duty in a way that excludes unnecessary loss of life of victims.” This ensures that States are held accountable in situations where they have not planned carefully enough and have not taken the necessary precautions to avoid civilian deaths. Therefore, national authorities must plan in advance of an event so as to be better prepared to respond, to collaborate better amongst government agencies and even to strengthen cooperation between States.

This notion of “positive operational duty” was further taken up by participants in their descriptions of their national government’s ability to counter terrorist attacks and the ability of the security forces to minimise the unnecessary loss of life of victims. In one example, a participant noted that the response of the authorities to the rise of an extremist group took on different forms during the time of successive governments, including through the use of militia groups in the role of police, which led to abuses and State failure to protect and safeguard the lives of citizens. This, coupled with the government’s inability to adequately tackle poverty, high unemployment, and violent extremist ideology, amongst other factors, ultimately weakened the government’s response resulting in a military campaign that incurred a large number of civilian casualties and numerous human rights violations throughout the years.

Even though the military campaign against such groups has become more sophisticated, with States’ interventions more targeted and focused, civilians continue to be killed or injured, especially when these groups “spill over” borders resulting in a regional response. Coordinating a regional response to stemming the flow of violent extremists from crossing borders and inflicting mass casualties needs to take into account States’ duties to uphold their human rights responsibilities to both local and bordering communities.

SESSION II

The rights of victims of terrorism within the criminal justice process

Victims are not a homogenous group; they have different needs, expectations and priorities, for “some want truth, others want punishment, [and] others compensation,” and therefore the State response requires a multi-dimensional and integrated approach that takes into account their rights within the criminal justice system. Across the different sessions, participants noted the different legal frameworks that cover victims of terrorism, although many acknowledged that there were few legal frameworks that covered victims of terrorism per se. Often, legal frameworks ensured that victims of terrorism, and most frequently victims of violent crime, under which victims of terrorism often fell, could participate in the criminal justice process. However, as many participants noted, and put forward in the Framework Principles Report of the Special Rapporteur, victims of terrorism should be treated differently to other victims due to their special needs and requirements stemming from their unusual circumstances. For victims, being part of the criminal justice process was a form of healing, where victims could see, first hand, accountability mechanisms at work and suspected terrorists receiving due punishment if found guilty. As a participant noted, the very fact that in one case of a particularly egregious terrorist attack, victims’ families were not able to attend trials and therefore not have their day in court, was found to be “reprehensible.”



“The Law no. 15/2003 on Combating Terrorist Acts is the first law which recognises the rights of terrorism victims: first, if the victim is a witness, [then] they can get onto the witness protection programme and second, victims have the right to get compensation, restitution and rehabilitation.”

Mr. Abdul Haris Semendawai

Head - Witness and Victim Protection Agency, Indonesia

Under some national laws, the State has provided a legal definition of witnesses and victims, as well as corresponding levels of protection in all stages of the criminal justice process from investigation to punishment. There are a number of national laws that set good precedents for the involvement of victims in the criminal justice system. These laws specifically take into account the rights of victims during a trial and after, including the principle of compensation, rehabilitation and restitution, and ensure that trials are often victim focused. One participant highlighted the role of his agency in interacting with other arms of the judicial and law enforcement system and how that fostered greater cooperation and therefore better State action for victims.

Participants noted good practices, such as national legislation to establish an agency responsible for protecting and securing witnesses and victims during all stages of court proceedings in criminal cases; for witness and victim protection, as well as on compensation, restitution and assistance to witnesses and victims. In one national case, an agency dedicated to victims was established which “decides the kind of support or protection to be afforded to victims and/or witnesses, and whether [they] are entitled to certain rights.”

Testifying in a terrorism trial, as many participants noted, can be particularly stressful for victims and many States have tried to enshrine the principle of ‘minimum harm.’ Application of this principle can lead to secondary victimisation leading to re-traumatisation. Many States have understood this and have implemented effective measures, such as not having victims appear before the court during trial proceedings. Others have put in place mechanisms by courts to protect and uphold the dignity, privacy, and security of victims.

In one Member State, witnesses and victims are entitled to a number of protections, including personal safety and the safety of family, property, confidentiality of identity, and a new residence. Participants noted that in many cases, victims were able to receive legal advice and be informed on a regular basis of the development of the case and any judicial decision taken. Protection, can, therefore, be provided at all stages of the proceedings.

One participant also noted the important role that victims associations can play in this respect, by supporting victims through the criminal justice process through accompaniment schemes, providing solidarity, and speaking on their behalf.

However, challenges remain. Many States have not put in place laws and institutional frameworks that place victims at the centre of the criminal justice process. Victims of terrorism continue to be perceived within the traditional role as witnesses in criminal proceedings rather than as a unique set of individuals with their own rights and needs. As one participant noted, there is the “need to move away from this and promote a shift or cultural change.” Not many changes or reforms need substantial financial resources and often it only requires changes in institutional practices and political will.

SESSION III

Reparation to victims of terrorism for acts of terrorism

Reparations remain a sensitive and complicated topic, with a wide divergence of practice. Yet, the principles of memory, dignity, justice, and truth for victims must be the cornerstone of every action for victims, especially on reparations. All participants agreed that there was a need for concerted and sustained effort by Member States to develop effective reparation remedies. In the Framework Principles report, the Special Rapporteur set out five different categories of reparations as stated in The United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, including 1) Restitution; 2) Compensation; 3) Rehabilitation; 4) Satisfaction; and 5) Guarantees of Non-Repetition. In some form or other, Member States were undertaking reparation mechanisms. Many participants, however, noted that financial reparations, in particular, was commonly the most difficult to establish as many Member States often lacked the resources and mechanisms to establish monetary compensation.



Medical attention and support from governments is often limited to physical injuries, and many victims continue to suffer in isolation and silence. [They] have heavy medical requirements. So far [we do] not have proper rehabilitation programmes in place and part of what we are doing is to try and formulate policies to share with legislative arms of government so that they can put in place proper rehabilitation programmes.”

Mr. Eliud Mulama

Acting Director - Victims of Terrorism Organization, Kenya (VOTK)

Different national perspectives were given by participants to highlight the diverse approaches taken by Member States and the difficulties encountered in developing sustainable remedial mechanisms. These national perspectives included a number of good practices, such as how reparations can form an integral part of a peace negotiation; laws for victims of terrorism that included reparations; and an example of a Member State’s approach to “individualise” the needs of victims so as to treat each victim separately. One State provided reparations based on a set of criteria that involved a number of ministries, including the ministry of social governance, and the ministry of public health and interior. A number of participants underlined the importance of the activities of civil society groups on reparations, for example, many organisations provide moral and financial support, especially those how are headed by widowed women, provide support on training, and in finding employment. All the participants agreed that the involvement of civil society was key to successfully ensuring that victims’ needs were met in a holistic manner and encouraged better interaction between government ministries and victims groups.

All participants agreed that victims must remain at the heart of the process, and that it was important for victims to be involved at the local, national, regional and international levels.

However, it is also dependent on the policies of the government to take into account the specific needs of victims, and as many participants noted there needed to be concerted effort to help improve the rights and needs of girls and women. The failure by the State to adequately provide for victims has led some civil society organisations to undertake research to better prepare the government to formulate proper policies on and for victims of terrorism. Public policy cannot look at the short term, and although there is the need for short term emergency care, nothing can be accomplished if treatments are not extended over a longer time frame where psychological damage is also supported. This is particularly relevant as victims' needs and suffering are unique to themselves and therefore will have an impact on the type of reparation required in order to have a significant and transformative impact on the lives of victims. Although it is recognised that victims' needs are different and unique, it is also true that many needs are broadly similar in their categories, for example the need to have employment, housing, education, and psychosocial support. Participants agreed that basic needs must be met, including medical and compensatory support.

It is usual practice for governments to give victims of terrorism short-term support, usually in the form of psychosocial support. However, once the physical injuries have healed, many victims are left without support and suffer in isolation and silence. Dependent on the nature of the injuries, victims often have heavy medical requirements and the lack of an established medical support scheme often means that they are left untreated in the long term. In illustration, one Member State has developed an effective system for mental health preparedness that is provided free of charge to victims. Victims can access rehabilitation centres based in mental health centres and hospitals. Further, after initial treatment, they can also have follow up treatment at home. Participants agreed that the process of reparation can be on two levels: the individual and the collective, thereby addressing the harm caused by the conflict to communities, social and political groups. Most notably, all agreed that all forms of support should also be extended to secondary victims, including family members.

The issue of compensatory funds was much discussed as it continues to prove to be a controversial issue for many States. Many families that are affected by terrorism run into very serious financial problems as they bear the burden of financing follow up treatments, often including psychological support, for those family members who have been affected by a terrorist attack. One Member State illustrated how it supported victims of terrorism through economic and compensatory needs of families of victims of terrorism and that compensation is broken down into different categories, including physical damage, damage to property, material damage, combined with social and employment programmes.

In order to get some form of compensation, victims often have to wait for compensation after the completion of civil proceedings or as a party to the criminal proceedings, and very often States do not have the resources to pay. As one participant noted in order to receive compensation, the only recourse was through the courts, which was a long and complicated process that rarely succeeded due to the lack of willingness by the justice system to hear compensation claim cases. Although, in some cases, mechanisms had been passed by law to support victims, such as a compensation fund, very often the lack of resources meant that the fund could not be operational. Legislation by one Member State, that covers victims both nationally and abroad, established a framework that recognises victims' rights, including for establishing a framework for compensation systems, access to services, reparation, and fostering civil society involvement to promote the rights of victims.

SESSION IV

The role of victims in preventing violent extremism

The role of victims of terrorism in preventing violent extremism (PVE) was interwoven through many of the previous sessions, as many participants spoke out strongly for the needs and rights of victims to be paramount and supported, especially if victims were to play a more prominent role in putting forward alternate narratives to those of violent extremists. A note of caution was sounded by one participant, highlighting that in recognising that the PVE space has the need for many voices, it should not be assumed that victims will be “instrumentalised” to push the counter-narrative agenda. This was echoed by many participants who only spoke about those victims who wanted to be advocates for change.

Different categories of victims, similar to those put forward by the Special Rapporteur in his Framework Principles report, were discussed, along with their role in preventing violent extremism. In all cases, victims, whether direct, secondary or indirect, have credible voices to add to the counter-narrative debate, from policy formulation to prevention, intervention, after a terrorist attack has occurred, and, as one participant noted, in supporting the “re-entry” of former terrorist fighters who leave prison and need to be deradicalised. The unique viewpoint of victims “[c]an be used to undermine the ideological appeal of extremists, so as to highlight the contradictions and expose how the interests do not align and can raise doubts about the use of violence as a justified alternative.” This led to many participants agreeing that victims be accorded special status, as this status would enhance their messages and consolidate victims’ participation in countering the spread of violent extremism.

Victims can play a variety of roles as credible messengers. One participant viewed victims as “ambassadors of peace” where they can play an important role in preserving the peace and unity of a nation and “restore [our] values for tolerance, and the principle of social cohesion to transcend the divisions that threaten the unity of [our] country. To instil in the country a culture of peace and living together.” Victims can also play other roles, such as educators, persuaders, and models and mentors.

As many victims and victims associations speak out, share messages, and lend their voices to the counter-narrative debate, it is essential that lessons learned and good practices are shared so that experiences can be cross-cutting, support to victims and victims associations can be



“[Our] main mission is to mobilise victims of terrorism families and to share their grief and sorrow ... and to defend the memories of victims. [W]e have been able to speak for victims of terrorism and ensure that this segment of society is neither marginalised or scorned.”

Ms. Fatima-Zohra Touil

President - The National Organization of Victims of Terrorism, Algeria

strengthened, and good practices can be moulded to other national experiences and contexts. One participant noted that several activities undertaken by victims in his country, for example in prisons, through social media networks, through religious and cultural centres, and schools have created networks of activists; people who are capable of publicly talking about their experiences in impassioned manner. The testimonies of victims, which enable people to tell their own stories (either live or on video) can stimulate discussion.

These preventative activities, such as victims' testimonies, are important, as they show that terrorism affects different people and religions and that the messages of victims have a global resonance. Victims' stories are emotive and studies show that using emotion in story-telling activates different parts of the brain, giving such stories greater resonance and impact.

Video interventions, where victims were able to tell their story, were particularly effective, and could be used in a variety of ways, for example through social media networks. This approach is particularly useful as it is not always possible for a victim to be in a classroom or face detainees. Although the importance of these testimonies cannot be underestimated, face-to-face interaction is still the most effective.

One representative of a Member State underscored that one of the most important ways for prevention to occur is through memorials, which commemorate and uphold the dignity of victims – for memorials tell their own story of what can occur when innocent individuals are caught up in terrorist attacks. Memorials are a visible reminder of the tragedy that had befallen many people and are in themselves a symbol to remind those who were on the path to radicalisation and violent extremism the consequences of their actions.

Yet how can victims properly heal while being an integral part of States' counter-terrorism activities? Speaking out and sharing their stories, providing the human aspect of the consequences of terrorist attacks, these activities could postpone closure indefinitely. When victims enter the PVE space, it brings new challenges, including privacy and safety issues. Retelling the story for some is reliving the trauma as victims have to live and deal with their grief on a daily basis and this cannot be underestimated. As one participant noted their sense of identity cannot be defined by the trauma they have gone through in one moment, and they should be able to leave the counter-terrorism 'scene' freely at any time in order to resume a normal life.

The question of how to avoid "using" victims as a symbol and to avoid re-victimising victims resonated throughout the conference. As one participant noted the crucial aspect is how victims can offer something to society whilst respecting their own rights and needs. Some participants noted that being personally involved and active helped the healing process. One participant put forward a three step process that many victims go through, with the final step leading to advocacy work and counter messaging dependent on the person: (i) victims need to be human again. They need to find their humanity, for as innocent people caught up in attacks, and as they were used as a strike against humanity, this has dehumanised them; (ii) the need to be citizens again, with all the rights that that entails; and (iii) for those who want it, to become activists "which is to find [our] dignity again and ... use the traumas and experience [we] have gone

through in a positive way to benefit society.” This can also help victims to heal and to continue to live with dignity and pride and not feel the mantle of victimisation that can cloak many victims.

Victims associations were often established to raise awareness on the plight of victims and to provide full individual support, both psychosocial and material, over the short, medium and long term. However, many of these associations play a crucial role in being able to speak out on behalf of victims, to share their sorrow and grief on a wider platform and in so doing defend their rights and their memories. They are critical platforms for victims voices to be heard, “to use the strong words of people who are rebuilding themselves,” and which have allowed victims to create the necessary space to discuss the challenges they face on an equal level from their own perspectives in order to challenge terrorism and violent extremism. This is why it remains important to strengthen these associations – to give victims solidarity and support and to be a conduit for their voices.

Closing Remarks

Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights formally closed the Conference by highlighting that the human cost of terrorism continues to be felt around the globe and that victims of terrorism, including family members, continue to experience severe trauma. He noted that the United Nations family has also suffered the devastating consequences of these acts of violence, and thus stood in sympathy in understanding the impact of these terrible acts, including the long-term suffering involved for the survivors and their families.

Mr. Šimonović welcomed the nature of the conference, especially for continuing to raise awareness on the rights of victims, who are often ignored and sidelined. Although victims rights are increasingly receiving focus, there are many legal gaps that need to be filled and more needs to be done to alleviate the needs of victims. The international community must offer victims legal, psychological, physical and financial support, and there was a need for a culture of respect and dignity.



“In light of the Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism that can lead to terrorism - a plan that stresses the importance of addressing the drivers of this kind of violence in an “all-of-society” approach – it is imperative that government institutions at all levels reach out to all victims and provide them not only with a platform from which they can share their experiences, but also to listen closely to these experiences and take them into account when developing policies and measures to prevent further violence.”

Mr. Ivan Šimonović

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

It is important to recognise the impact on victims of both the the initial terrorist act, and the subsequent counter-terrorism measures taken. This can be done by a range of measures, including by simply acknowledging that a person and his family have been victimised, and more importantly by ensuring their access to justice and an effective remedy, as well as to a full range of support services. Good practices in all of these areas should be shared and those countries most affected by terrorism should be supported by the international community.

Victims must be given the opportunity to effectively participate and express their views in judicial proceedings and other accountability mechanisms. Those who do choose to participate must be protected against intimidation, retaliation, and arbitrary interference, as well as have their rights to privacy upheld. Giving voice to victims of terrorism is an important aspect of preventive strategies. With their consent, the voices of a wider variety of people who have suffered as a result of terrorism at large should also be heard. These voices are a powerful

testament to the gravest and most emblematic phenomenon of our time, and they deserve to be heard, respected and protected. They are also the ones who have the highest moral appeal to call for protection of human rights while countering terrorism, helping to break the vicious cycle of violence and victimisation.

In turning his attention to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, Mr. Šimonović stressed that only by upholding their international legal obligations can States do justice to victims with their rights and interests at the heart of every action.

In sum, Mr. Šimonović put forward four main points: (i) to build a society free from terror, effective counter-terrorism measures must be holistic and comprehensive, addressing the full spectrum of conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism; (ii) States must continue to uphold their national and international human rights obligations in countering terrorism; (iii) Victims voices must be heard and respected; and (iv) to end terrorism and violent extremism, States should adopt comprehensive and rights-based approaches to all counter-terrorism efforts. He concluded that the best way we can serve the victims of terrorism is by ending the current cycle of violence that perpetuates terrorism and by effectively preventing terrorism in the first place.

As the Secretary General's Plan of Action underscores, it is only by adopting a comprehensive and human rights-compliant approach to all counter terrorism efforts, that we will be able to move towards effective prevention. The moral authority of victims of terrorism should lead us along this path.

Conclusion

The UN Conference on the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism provided a unique opportunity to address the rights of victims of terrorism on a global platform, bringing together victims associations, experts, academics, Member States and civil society to share their experiences and good practices. The discussions focused on the need to have a multidisciplinary and multidimensional approach to strengthen the rights of victims. Although this will require great change at the operational level, it is recognised that there also needs to be a cultural and attitudinal shift by Member States to see any effective implementation.

The UN Conference on the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism continues the Secretary-General's commitment to victims of terrorism and provided an opportunity to further the dialogue in support of victims of terrorism.

Three main objectives were achieved through the conference. First, the Conference was able to highlight the need to ensure that Member States' efforts to counter terrorism and prevent the spread of violent extremism are victim-centric, and that these efforts continue to protect the dignity and integrity of victims, thereby showing the international community's solidarity with victims.

Second, awareness was raised, and formed the basis of discussion, on the necessity to ensure that victims right to life, their rights in the criminal justice system and on reparations are upheld and protected. Through these discussions, national, regional and international efforts can be actioned on a long-term basis to support victims of terrorism.

Third, the Conference reflects the ever increasing attention given to victims of terrorism by Member States and urges Member States to continue to highlight the important role of victims in all counter-terrorism strategies, and to take this into account especially when deliberating the forthcoming fifth review resolution of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Conference also served to highlight the important role of victims of terrorism in the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and that supporting, listening, and showing solidarity with victims is key in the global commitment to combat terrorism and prevent the spread of violent extremism.

Recommendations

Global

- Accord victims of terrorism special status, preferably through an international instrument, that recognises their needs and rights.
- Support associations of victims of terrorism, including through supporting women victims associations, to ensure their full participation in international, regional and national efforts to prevent the spread of violent extremism and to ensure their rights and voices are respected.
- Develop good practices in supporting victims of terrorism in the criminal justice process and share them with States, regional, and international organisations.
- Establish mechanisms for compensation and restitution to help victims of terrorism in the short, medium and long term, including access to basic social needs, employment, etc.
- Support should be provided to States who do not have fully functioning structures in place to establish appropriate reparation systems, including the establishment of proper, fully functioning, well-resourced rehabilitation programmes.

Regional

- Develop guidelines to support victims of terrorism who wish to be part of the counter-narrative to ensure that their safety and recovery are not undermined.
- Develop and strengthen, through training and capacity building assistance, the counter-narrative messaging skills of victims and to develop effective long-term communication strategies in this area.
- Undertake research involving victims of terrorism, civil society groups, and NGOs that support victims of terrorism, to compile data on specific victims' needs, especially taking into account the needs of women and girls, and in particular victims of sexual violence by terrorist groups, in order to develop and establish restitution mechanisms and formulate proper policy recommendations that are relevant to their needs over the short, medium and long term.

National

- Recognise and mainstream victims' rights into States' counter-terrorism measures and ensure that all efforts and approaches of Member States to this effect remain centred on victims.
- Develop and establish resource kits for communities impacted by terrorism and violent extremism that include information on how to deal with terrorist attacks as well as provide

guidance on good practices to communities on establishing resilient measures after a terrorist attack.

- Provide all forms of protection, including physical and psychological, by Member States to victims of terrorism and witnesses when testifying during trial proceedings.
- Ensure that there are independent, prompt, impartial and effective investigations by States into all acts of terrorism with the full participation of victims of terrorism in all stages of the criminal justice process.

ANNEX 1 - Programme

Morning Session	
10:00 – 11:00	<p>Welcoming Remarks and Opening Session</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Feltman, Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs, DPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Ali Alhakim, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations • Mr. Ben Emmerson, Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism
11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session I: The obligation on public authorities to use reasonable care in preventing and responding to acts of terrorism</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Sue O’ Sullivan, Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andrew Clapham, Professor of Public International Law, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies • Ms. Hamsatu Alhaji Nashe Allamin, Voices of the Voiceless People • Ms. Mary Fetchet, Founder, Voices of September 11th
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session II: The rights of victims of terrorism within the criminal justice process</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Letschert, Director, International Victimology Institute, Tilburg University Mr. Abdul Haris Semendawai, Head, Witness and Victim Protection Agency, Indonesia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Javier Argomaniz, Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence • Mr. Philip Divett, Programme Officer, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
13:00 – 15:00 Lunch	
Afternoon Session	
15:00 – 16:00	<p>Session III: Reparation to victims of terrorism for acts of terrorism</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Sonia Ramos, Director-General of Support for Victims of Terrorism, Spain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Paula Gaviria, Director, Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims, Colombia • Mr. Eliud A. Mulama, Director, Victims of Terrorism Organization, Kenya • Ms. Pechdau Tohmeena, Director of 12th Mental Health Centre (Southern Branch), Department of Mental Health, Thailand
16:00 – 17:00	<p>Session IV: The role of victims in preventing violent extremism</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Jehangir Khan, Director, UNCTITF/UNCCT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fatma-Zohra Flici, President, Organizations Nationale Des Victims Du Terrorism, Algeria • Mr. Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc, President, Association Française des Victims du Terrorism • Ms. Humera Khan, Executive Director, Muflehun
17:00 – 17:45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Mr. Ivan Šimonović, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights</p>

ANNEX 2 - Speakers Biographies

Opening Session and Welcoming Remarks



Mr. Jeffrey Feltman

Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Jeffrey Feltman of the United States assumed the post of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on 2 July 2012. He was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. As Under-Secretary-General and head of the Department of Political Affairs, Mr. Feltman advises the Secretary-General on peace and security issues globally, while overseeing “good offices” initiatives and field-based political missions carrying out peacemaking, preventive diplomacy and peace-building activities in Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. He also oversees the United Nations electoral assistance provided to dozens of its member states each year. Before joining the United Nations, Mr. Feltman served for nearly thirty years in the United States Foreign Service, focused especially on the Middle East and North Africa. His last position was as Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, from which he retired at the rank of Career Minister. Mr. Feltman served previously as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Lebanon, and held earlier diplomatic postings in Baghdad, Erbil, Jerusalem, Tunis, Tel Aviv, Budapest, and Port-au-Prince, as well as with responsibility for coordinating US assistance to countries of Eastern and Central Europe. Mr. Feltman speaks Arabic, French and Hungarian. He received his Bachelor’s degree in history and fine arts from Ball State University and his Master’s degree in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.



H.E. Román Oyarzun Marchesi

Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi is Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations since 2013. Previously, he has held Ambassadorial positions in Argentina (2012-2013) and as Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN from 2008-2012. In 2006, Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi was Deputy General Director for Protocol at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in Madrid and previously held a number of positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for International Cooperation and Latin America (1996) and Deputy General Director for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (1994). Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi’s diplomatic postings have also covered New York (2001), Argentina (1998), Belgium (1991), Uruguay (1987), and Syria (1985). He has a Law Degree from Deusto University and a Masters in International Relations from the Diplomatic School. Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi is highly decorated receiving amongst others, the Award of the Decoration of the Civil Merit, and the Award of the Decoration of the Order of Isabella the Catholic.



H.E. Mohamed Ali Alhakim

Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

Since 2013, Ambassador Mohamed Ali Alhakim has been the UN Permanent Representative and Ambassador for Iraq. He has served in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2006 at Ambassadorial level working on the Gulf and European regions and with the Arab League Organization. From 2010 to 2013, Ambassador Alhakim was Ambassador of Iraq to the UN in Geneva. Previously, in 2005, he was elected to the first Iraqi National Assembly and was a member of the Foreign Relations committee and constitution sub-committee. In June 2004, the Ambassador was Minister of Communications, and acting Minister of Finance. Between 2004 and 2005, he chaired the Arab Ministers of Communication and Information forum. The Ambassador was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Iraq Governing Council in July 2003 where he was also nominated as assistant to the Secretary-General of the Arab League. Ambassador Alhakim holds a BA in Economics and Statistics, an MS in Science and a Doctorate in Management.



Mr. Ben Emmerson

Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism

The Special Rapporteur, took up his functions on 1 August 2011. As a practicing barrister in London, he has more than 25 years of experience in domestic and international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international criminal law. Mr. Emmerson has litigated extensively in domestic courts, the European Court of Human Rights, the International Court of Justice, and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, including on domestic and international terrorism cases. He was Special Adviser to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and Special Adviser to the Appeals Chamber of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (the Khmer Rouge tribunal). Ben Emmerson has published and lectured widely on international law, particularly international human rights and humanitarian law, and is the editor and co-author of a number of practitioners' manuals on criminal and human rights law.

Session I: The legal obligation on public authorities to use reasonable care in preventing and responding to acts of terrorism



Ms. Susan (Sue) O'Sullivan [chair]

Federal Ombudsman, Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Canada

Throughout her career, Sue O'Sullivan has been an advocate for safe and healthy communities and for increased services to victims. Ms. O'Sullivan began her distinguished career in policing in 1981, holding numerous leadership positions throughout her 30 years of service until retiring as Deputy Chief of Police (Ottawa). Continuing forward with her work, and drawing on her background and interest in assisting those affected by crime, Ms. O'Sullivan began an appointed term as Canada's Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime on August 16, 2010. She was renewed for a second three-year mandate in July 2013.

During her time as Ombudsman, Ms. O’Sullivan has continually placed a strong emphasis on ensuring that victims’ voices are heard at the federal level and has pushed for positive change for victims of crime in Canada, including making recommendations to the Government of Canada on legislative and policy amendments. Sue has a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Sociology with a subtitle in Criminology and Corrections (Carleton University) and is a graduate of the Police Leadership Program (OACP and the University of Toronto) and the Leadership in Counter Terrorism Program.



Mr. Andrew Brian Clapham

Professor of International Law - Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Andrew Clapham is a Professor of International Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies and served as the first Director of the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights from 2006-2014. He is a Commissioner of the International Commission of Jurists. He worked as the academic advisor on international humanitarian law to the late Sergio Vieira de Mello, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Iraq in 2003, and he was the special advisor on business and human rights to UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson. He is an Associate of Matrix Chambers in London. His publications include *Brierly’s Law of Nations: An Introduction to the Role of International Law in International Relations (7th edn)* (2012), *The Oxford Handbook on International Law in Armed Conflict*, co-edited with Paola Gaeta, *Human Rights: A Very Short Introduction 2nd edn* (2015), and most recently he co-edited with Paola Gaeta and Marco Sassòli, a *Commentary to the 1949 Geneva Conventions* (2015).



Ms. Hamsatu Alhaji Nashe Allamin

Founder, Voices of the Voiceless People

Mrs. Hamsatu Allamin is an educator by profession, with 32 years’ experience in teaching, public and educational administration, as well as in project management. She is a pioneer gender activist, advocate and human rights defender, who has provided leadership to African women and youth. Mrs. Allamin initiated the creation of the Network of CSOs for Peace and the Women Peace and Security (WPS) Network in Borno and Yobe states (two North Eastern States that are the epicenter of the JAS insurgency), as Voices of the Voiceless people. She is highly respected in Nigeria. A few of her recent functions include: Country Representative (Nigeria), Network of Women Activists Against Violent Extremism, a regional ICAN initiative; Regional Coordinator, Consultant and Conflict Analyst to DFID/British Council program on peace building initiatives in North East Nigeria (a position she still holds); and Lead Resource person/ Adviser of the WPS Network. Mrs. Allamin speaks and teaches internationally, presenting scores of well researched papers on conflict and gender issues in national and international events and consults for a number of international civil society organizations working in Africa. Ms. Allamin is also the Zonal Coordinator of the Federation of Muslim Women in Nigeria and the NGO Working Group on Joint Humanitarian Actions on Protection in the North East. She has initiated and participated in several dialogue initiatives and is an advocate of alternative approaches to the Boko Haram insurgency.



Ms. Mary Fetchet

Founding Director, Voices of September 11th

Mary Fetchet co-founded Voices of September 11th in 2001 following the death of her 24 year old son Brad at the World Trade Center. Ms. Fetchet's 20 years of experience as a clinical social worker has influenced VOICES' innovative approach to creating a new paradigm in providing long-term support services. Using social work practices, she guided the development of programs that provide continuity of care and promote resiliency in the lives of victims' families, responders and survivors. Under her leadership, VOICES launched the 9/11 Living Memorial Project, an extensive digital archive of over 70,000 photographs and personal mementos documenting the nearly 3,000 lives lost. The collection is located on VOICES website and is a key component of the *In Memoriam* exhibit at the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. Ms. Fetchet is also helping communities heal after other traumatic events through VOICES Center of Excellence for Community Resilience, launched in 2014. The VOICES Center of Excellence is establishing public-private partnerships, educational initiatives, training and research projects to document best practices and help communities effectively plan for the long-term needs of those impacted. A strong advocate for victims' families and survivors and public policy reforms to make the country safer, Ms. Fetchet testified before the 9/11 Commission and US Congress on five occasions. Her work has received national recognition, including the 'Connecticut Hero' award by Senator Joseph Lieberman, ABC News Person of the Year, and NBC News Making a Difference. Ms. Fetchet was also inducted into the Hall of Fame at Columbia University School of Social Work.

Session II: The rights of victims of terrorism within the criminal justice process



Ms. Rianne Monique Letschert [chair]

Professor International Law and Victimology, Director INTERVICT

Dr. Rianne Letschert is professor in international law and victimology at Tilburg Law School and Director of the International Victimology Institute. Furthermore, she works as an Expert Consultant for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon advising the Legal Representative for Victims Unit. Dr. Letschert co-edited the book 'Assistance to Victims of Terrorism; Towards a European Standard'. She is currently working on a large scale research project assessing the impact of the right to reparation for victims of international crimes and gross human rights violations with case studies in Congo, Suriname, Cambodia and Cyprus.



Mr. Abdul Haris Semendawai

Head - Witness and Victim Protection Agency, Indonesia

Mr. Semendawai finished his studies at the Faculty of Law from the Indonesia Islamic University (UII) Yogyakarta (1991) and his Master of Law in Northwestern University School of Law (20014), Chicago, United States of America. After finishing his studies at UII, Mr. Semendawai joined the Research Institute of People Rights (Lekhat) in Yogyakarta from 1991 – 1993. From 1994 – 1998 he worked as a practicing lawyer in Yogyakarta. In 1998 he moved to Jakarta and joined the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM) as a lawyer subsequently becoming deputy director in one of their field offices. Mr. Semendawai was also a coordinator of the Capacity Building Division of TAPAL Jakarta from 2000 – 2003. From 2008-2014 he was the coordinator of the Observatory Body of Sawit Watch Bogor. From 2006 – 2008 he was the Head of the National Committee for revision advocacy of KUHP, and was part of a team formed by General Director at the Ministry of Law and Human Rights that helped draft legislation. Since 2008, Mr. Semendawai has been selected as one of the members of the Indonesian Witness and Victim Protection Agency and was subsequently appointed as its Head, a position he continues to hold.



Mr. Javier Argomaniz

Lecturer - Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (University of St Andrews), United Kingdom

Javier Argomaniz is a lecturer at the University of Saint Andrews Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (HCSTPV), where he has published widely on the subject of state, non-state and civilian responses to political violence. His work has been published in *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, *Cooperation and Conflict*, *Intelligence and National Security* and a number of other peer-reviewed journals. He has co-directed two separate international and multi-disciplinary projects funded by the EU on the needs of victims of terrorism and the role of victims in the prevention of conflict. Mr. Argomaniz is the author of *Post-9/11 European Union counter-terrorism: Politics, Polity and Policies* (Routledge, 2011), co-editor and contributor to *Victims of Terrorism: A comparative and Interdisciplinary Study* (Routledge, 2015) and *International Perspectives on Terrorism Victimisation: An Interdisciplinary Approach* (Palgrave, 2015).



Mr. Philip Divett

Program Officer - United Nations Office on Drug and Crime

Mr. Divett is a Programme Officer with the Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC/HQ Vienna, where his responsibilities include the delivery of technical assistance and the development of specialized resources to assist Member States better support victims of terrorism within the criminal justice framework. Prior to joining UNODC, Mr Divett practiced extensively in New Zealand as a criminal trial and appellate advocate, and held management positions with New Zealand's Ministry of Justice (Manager, Criminal and International law) and New Zealand Police (National Policy Manager) with the responsibility for leading the provision of advice to Ministers, Cabinet Parliamentary Committees on a wide range of criminal justice issues, including counter terrorism, terrorist financing, anti-money laundering, extradition and mutual legal assistance, anti-corruption and trans-national organized crime.

Session III: Reparation for acts of terrorism



Ms. Sonia Ramos [Chair]

Director, Support for Victims of Terrorism, Ministry of Interior, Spain

Ms. Sonia Ramos is the Director of Support for Victims of Terrorism since January 2012. This includes establishing programmes with victims and their families as well as with victims organisations in order to implement measures to ensure the rights of victims and their families. These programmes includes providing advice and promoting employment for victims in the Public Administration, providing psychological programmes by developing a network to improve the psychological health for victims and their families, legal measures to provide free legal advice, using the testimony of victims to raise awareness in public ceremonies and schools in order to prevent violent radicalization from occurring, fostering social programmes with victims associations through subsidies and technical support, and developing a letter of rights to victims of terrorism in the EU. From 2004 to 2011, Ms. Ramos was Assistant Director of Aid for Victims of Terrorism, overseeing the support and compensation for victims and their families of 11 March attack and coordinating public policies for victims associations. Prior to that Ms. Ramos was Assistant Director of Local Administration from 2000 to 2004 and has been a senior civil servant in the Spanish Government since 1997. Ms. Ramos holds a degree in Law from the Universidad Pontificia Comillas.



Ms. Paula Gaviria

Director - Unit for Attention and Reparation of Victims, Colombia

Ms. Gaviria has coordinated, since 2012, the implementation of the Colombian public policy for victims under the Victims and Land Restitution Law. Ms. Gaviria also worked at the Fundación Social as Director of the Asesoría de Derechos Humanos y Paz (Advisory Office for Human Rights and Peace), was the communication chief at the Constitutional Court, and was also responsible for the National Direction for the Promotion and Outreach of Human Rights in the Ombudsperson's Office. She is a lawyer and has graduate studies in communications.



Mr. Eliud Mulama

Acting Director - Victims of Terrorism Organization, Kenya (VOTK)

VTOK is a Non-Governmental Organization that brings together victims of terrorism from numerous terrorist attacks across Kenya. Mr. Mulama is responsible for the design, direction and co-ordination of all the projects and activities of VTOK. His mandate includes liaising with the Government, regional, international and other institutions and organizations for terror disaster intervention and assistance, working together in the promotion of dignity in the lives of the Survivors of the terror acts. He is currently overseeing the process of compilation of a database of all the terrorism victims and survivors for the proper designing of comprehensive assistance intervention that includes formulation of policy for rehabilitation and reparations. He has represented the Organization on international platforms and is the immediate former Chairman – Board of Governors Friends Secondary School Dandora. At the time of the 1998 American Embassy Bombing in Nairobi, of which he survived, he was the Coordinator of AFC Leopards Sports Club one of East Africa's popular clubs, enabling it to become national champions, a feat they are yet to repeat.



Ms. Pechdau Tohmeena

Director of 12th Mental Health Centre (Southern Branch)
Department of Mental Health, Thailand

Dr. Pechdau Tohmeena is the Director of the Regional 12th Mental Health Center in the Southern Provinces Branch, Department of Mental Health, Ministry of Public Health in Thailand. She has been an advisor and guest lecturer at the medical faculty of the Princess Narathiwat Rachanakarin University, Narathiwat Province; an advisor at the Education Faculty, Department of Psychology and Guidance, Pattani Campus, Prince of Songkla University; and an Advisor to the Civil Society Council of Southernmost Thailand. She previously served on the Committee of the National Reconciliation Council and the Committee on Remedy and Reparation for Victims in Southern Conflict in the Prime Minister's Office from 2005 – 2012. Dr. Tohmeena was also Deputy Secretary of the Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Studying and Following up of Operations of Problem-Solving and Restoring Development Following Cultural Folkways of Southern Border Provinces from 2012 – 2013. She was Project Manager for UNICEF's project on Psychological Support and Network Strengthening for Children Affected by the Unrest Situation in the Southernmost Provinces. Dr. Tohmeena received her MD from University Kebangsaan, Malaysia and her Master's degree in Political Science from Thammasart University, Bangkok. She also has an Advance Certificate in the Promotion of Peaceful Society from King Prajadhipok's Institute and participated in the Peace Mediation Course 2013 by Swiss Peace, Switzerland. Dr. Tohmeena recently became an Expert on Psychological Counselling and Rehabilitation of Victims for the UNCCT in 2015.

Session IV: The role of victims on preventing violent extremism



Mr. Jehangir Khan [Chair]

Director - United Nations Counter-Terrorism Task Force and the
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Dr. Jehangir Khan is the Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) in the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) in the UN Secretariat.

He has served in different capacities at the UN for over 30 years, both as a UN delegate (for 9 years) and as a UN Secretariat official (for over 21 years). Previously he served as Acting Director and Deputy Director of DPA's Middle East and West Asia Division (MEWAD) and, before that, of the Asia and the Pacific Division (APD). Dr. Khan also served as Head of DPA's Iraq Team and Chairman of the UN Iraq Operations Group (IOG) for five years, starting with the 2003 war, and has supported the work of six successive SRSGs and the United Nations Assistance Mission (UNAMI) in Iraq. Prior to this, he served as Deputy Head of Policy Planning in the Department of Political Affairs. Before joining the UN Secretariat in 1992, Dr. Khan served as Chef de Cabinet to the President of the UN General Assembly and previous to that he worked as Political Advisor to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations. Dr. Khan is a national of Pakistan. He is a graduate of London University and holds a Doctorate in International Law from the Fletcher School of Diplomacy/Harvard Law School.



Ms. Fatima-Zohra Touil

President - The National Organization of Victims of Terrorism, Algeria

President of the NOVT since 1995, Ms. Flici's husband, Dr. Flici, an Algerian writer and doctor was a victim of terrorism in 1993. Since then, Ms. Flici has become an expert and activist at the national and international level in the defense of the rights of victims of terrorism. Her humanism and her convictions are her strength and aid in her fight against terrorism. One of her main objectives is to obtain special status for victims of terrorism. She also works to protect the memory and the rights of victims of terrorism, and has called for the establishment of a World Day for Victims of Terrorism. The National Organization of Victims of Terrorism represents, and supports, victims of terrorism in Algeria. Ms. Flici continues to highlight and raise awareness in national and international fora on the protection and promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law that serve to protect and boost the rights of victims of terrorism.



Mr. Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc

Founder & Executive Director - Association française des Victimes du Terrorisme, France

Mr. Denoix became involved in the support of victims and the fight against violent extremism following the death of his father in a terrorist attack. On the 19th of September 1989, the UTA flight 772 exploded over the Sahara Desert in southern Niger killing all 170 people on board. Following this event, he created "Les Familles de L'Attentat du DC-10 d'UTA", an association of the victims of the attack. He is still the president and spokesman of this association. His work, over a period of six years, was fundamental in obtaining compensation and distributing it to the 1.625 beneficiaries of those who had died in the crash. In 2007, Mr. Denoix de Saint Marc led the creation of a memorial to the UTA flight 772 bombing at the crash site. This memorial is fully visible from the sky and a documentary has been made about its construction. In 2009, Mr. Denoix de Saint Marc created the "Association Française des Victimes du Terrorisme – AfVT.org" and currently serves as its Executive Director. Today, AfVT.org supports more than 2000 victims of terrorism from different terrorist attacks in France and abroad. He also co-leads one of the European Commission's Radicalisation Awareness Network (RAN) Working Groups called "RAN – Communication & Narratives".



Ms. Humera Khan

Executive Director – Muflehun

Humera Khan is the Executive Director of Muflehun, a think tank specializing in preventing radicalization and countering violent extremism (CVE). Ms Khan designs and implements CVE-specific and CVE-relevant programs for prevention, intervention, interdiction and rehabilitation of violent extremism, with a focus on countering the ideology. She contributes in an advisory capacity to governments, multi-laterals and law enforcement agencies in several countries. Ms Khan is the chair of the GCERF IRP & has received the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award for her work. Ms Khan's 16 years of experience in security strategy and knowledge of theology provide unique

expertise for the design of counter-narratives. She runs CVE-specific trainings and training-of-trainers for youth, women, communities and religious leaders. Her work includes the design and launch of the Viral Peace program for the US Department of State to train youth leaders on the strategies of using social media to build communities and counter extremism.

Ms Khan holds four degrees from MIT: MS Technology & Policy, MS Nuclear Engineering, BS Art & Design and BS Nuclear Engineering. She also has an MA in Islamic Studies from the School of Islamic and Social Sciences, an affiliate seminary of the Washington Theological Consortium.

Closing Remarks



Mr. Ivan Šimonović

Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

Ivan Šimonović assumed his functions as Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights on 17 July 2010, to head the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

He held the position of Minister of Justice from 2008 before joining the United Nations. Mr. Šimonović had previously served as Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and was Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, where he served as Senior Vice-President and President of the Economic and Social Council from 2001 to 2003.

A Croatian national, Mr. Šimonović worked as a professor at the Faculty of Law at the University of Zagreb, where he held several positions, including Head of the Legal Theory Department, Vice-Dean and Vice-Rector for International Cooperation. He has extensive experience and is widely published in the fields of international relations, law, human rights, and development of national institutions. In an expert capacity, Mr. Šimonović served as a member of the Council of Europe's Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission), at the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), and was the Agent of the Republic of Croatia before the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ). Among other NGO activities, he served as the President of the United Nations Association for Croatia. Mr. Šimonović obtained a graduate degree in law, a Masters degree in public administration and politics and a Ph.D from the University of Zagreb and was a visiting scholar at the Universities of Graz and Yale. Mr. Šimonović was born in 1959 in Zagreb, Croatia. He is married with two children.



United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office

The Conference on the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism took place on 11 February 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Conference was organised by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) under the auspices of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Supporting and Highlighting Victims of Terrorism.

The objectives of the conference were to raise awareness on the rights of victims of terrorism and to examine how States can strengthen their national legislation, procedures and practices to better protect and support victims, their communities and their families. In addition, the conference looked into the role that victims can play in preventing the spread of terrorism. It brought together government representatives and experts from academia, civil society, international and regional organizations as well as victims associations.

The conference took place within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which recognizes the importance of protecting, supporting and showing solidarity with victims of terrorism.

Much of the discussions reflected the report on the “Framework Principles for Securing the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism” (A/HRC/20/14) by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The report puts forward a set of 14 recommendations for Member States consideration to uphold their international obligations in this regard.

The CTITF was established in the Department of Political Affairs to support Member States’ implementation of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy. It organizes its work through eleven working groups in order to foster coordination and coherence. The UNCCT was established within CTITF in 2011 in order to provide capacity building for Member States and regional organizations to support the implementation of all four Pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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