

Joint Statement on Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism

Madam President

I have the honor to present this statement on behalf of xx countries, full list of which will be made available in HRC Extranet.

We are concerned by the alarming increase in the number of victims caused by the escalating level of terrorist attacks throughout the globe, resulting in numerous casualties and destruction. We express our solidarity with the victims of terrorism and their families.

Those who fall victim to terrorism in its all forms and manifestations, are entitled to receive more than just our sympathy; they have a human right to an effective remedy, preservation of their memory, access to criminal justice and should be protected against intimidation and retaliation.

Madam President,

The effects of terrorism on victims and their close family members require at national level the establishment of systems of assistance that would address the needs of victims of terrorism and their families and promote and protect their rights. In this regard, we strongly encourage States to develop comprehensive assistance plans, consistent with domestic law, to address the short and long-term relief and rehabilitation needs of victims of terrorism and their families, and on a voluntary basis share with other states the best practices and lessons learned in this regard.

The United Nations has an important role in supporting Member States, particularly, States who do not have fully functioning structures in place in the development and implementation of programs of assistance and support for victims of terrorism. We call upon the OHCHR to continue to provide tangible capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States in building sustainable national systems to assist victims of terrorism, and in this regard, stress the need to contribute more resources for capacity-building projects.

Madam President,

There is increasingly a need for more practical and concrete measures to be taken, including strengthened international cooperation, especially with regard to compensation-related measures. In line with UNSC resolution 1566/2004, we encourage states and relevant UN institutions to seriously consider and accelerate, in

accordance with relevant international human rights standards, the establishment of an international voluntary fund to compensate victims of terrorist acts and their families. Such a fund would be a concrete step towards addressing the needs of victims and allow for their equal and non-discriminatory treatment.

We Recognizes the valuable role that civil society and the private sector play in supporting victims of terrorism, and encourage them to assist with the provision of medical, legal and psychosocial support services. Similarly we call on the media to counter the appeal of terrorism through highlighting the plight of victims, while respecting their privacy, and by avoiding the glorification of perpetrators.

Madam President,

It has been almost 10 years since the Council last held the only panel discussion to date on Victims rights. While the number of victims and the gravity of their sufferings have grown tremendously, the frequency of discussion within human rights mechanisms has only decreased over the last decade. Therefore, we ask for more visibility for rights of victims of terrorism in the work of Council and its relevant mechanisms.

Finally, Madam President,

We concur with the SRs (Martin Scheinin & Ben Emmerson) that “Addressing the rights of the victims of terrorism represents a best practice not just because it assists the victims of terrorism to rebuild their lives, but can also help to reduce tensions in society that might themselves result in conditions conducive to recruitment to terrorism.

Full version of this statement will be made available through HRC Extranet.

I thank you!