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Secretary General's address during the ceremony in memory of the victims of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks

Every country in the world has an event or events that mark its people forever.

Every family also experiences tragedies or deaths that leave a permanent mark on the family.

But, in history, rarely have a series of events and tragedies of this magnitude been experienced by people from all over the world simultaneously and visually as they were occurring. Most of us will always remember where we were when we first heard about and then saw the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Both before and since that day, you have collectively been dedicating yourselves to reducing the likelihood that similar tragedies occur in the future. For this, on behalf of President Espigares-Mira, who has sent us a message of support, and myself, I thank you.

Today we are gathered not to commemorate one country's loss of human life, for so many countries' citizens were lost on that day. Our sorrow is thus extended to all of the families worldwide victimized by these crimes. We are also here to stand in solidarity with all of the countries' law enforcement officers and public servants who in order to save life run towards tragedies not away from them. In New York on September 11 just like in countries all over the world each and every day, brave men and women of law enforcement paid the ultimate price in order to try to save lives.

In the 5 or so minutes that follow, you will see a sequential unfolding of these tragic events followed by a rolling display of the names and flags of the [77 countries](#) whose citizens were murdered that day in New York, Washington DC, and Western Pennsylvania as a result of terrorism.

Please remain silent during the visual presentation that follows, and upon the conclusion of this ceremony we all should redouble our efforts to help keep the world safer.

Thank you!

Ronald K. Noble
Secretary General