

# Press kit

VIIITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM  
NICE – ACROPOLIS NOVEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> 2019

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## | Presentation

For the second time, France is welcoming the International Congress for Victims of Terrorism. It will be held in Nice from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2019 under the High Patronage of Mr. Emmanuel MACRON, President of the French Republic.

The French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT), member of the International Federation of Associations of Victims of Terrorism (FIAVT), has the honor to organize the VIII<sup>th</sup> edition in partnership with the City of Nice.

The debates will take place in the **Athena Room of the Palais des Congrès and Expositions Acropolis in Nice.**

**Victims of terrorism from more than 75 countries** will be welcomed in Nice to testify respecting political and religious neutrality. Representatives of the most concerned geographic areas by terrorism will debate with several international experts present in France for this occasion.

**Are also announced the following personalities:**

- **M. Christian ESTROSI**, Mayor of Nice, Metropolis president and Delegate president of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur
- **M. Jacques TOUBON**, Rights Defender
- **M. Raffi GREGORIAN**, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
- **M. Jean-Yves Le DRIAN**, Europe and Foreign Affairs Minister
- **Mme Nicole BELLOUBET**, Minister of Justice
- **Mme Elisabeth PELSEZ**, Inter-ministerial Delegate for Victim’s Assistance
- **Mme Sonia Ramos**, General Director of Support for Victims of Terrorism, Interior Ministry of Spain
- **Mme Joëlle MILQUET**, Special Advisor to the President of the European Commission
- **Mme Maite PAGAZAURTUNDUA**, European Deputy
- **Mme Laura DOLCI**, Former secretary of the UN Fund for Victims of Torture and widow of a victim of the UN headquarters Bombing in Baghdad on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

## The VIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism is also:

- Around **600** delegates from more than **75** countries
- **7** roundtables and **2** sessions of testimonies untitled « Words of victims »
- **2** official ceremonies with the attendance of State and Government Officials, several Ministers and Royal personalities
- **1 evening** in honor of victims of terrorism
- **1 concert** in honor of victims of terrorism and all the people who helped them
- Presentation of the actions of the International Federation of Associations of Victims of Terrorism (**FIAVT**)
- In parallel, a **cultural program** : themed exhibitions and documentary screening
- An opportunity for journalists to meet with **victims of terrorism from several countries**.

## | CONGRESS' GOALS : To make the voice of the victims heard

*The congress will be a moment where victims and experts from all around the world will meet and gather to make propositions and be in a positive attitude toward reconstruction.*

- **FIGHT** against radicalization, which can lead to terrorism, with testimonies and actions from victims of terrorism;
- **HELP** victims of terrorism around the world to make their voices heard and to express their opinions to civil society, public authorities, institutions and media;
- **GATHER** victims of Terrorism from different countries and cultures to share their experiences;
- **RAISE AWARENESS** of national, local and international public authorities to the cause and needs of victims of terrorism in the emergency and in the long term;
- **DEVELOP** local, national and international networks of victims of terrorism and enable them to share their experiences.

## | Provisional programme

*Press briefings will be organized during all the event.*

### Wednesday 20th of November 2019

*Maison de la Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur, 41-43 rue Saint Dominique, PARIS*

11.00 am **Press conference in attendance of M. Christian Estrosi, Mayor of Nice, Metropolis president and Delegate president of the region Provence-Alpes-Côte, M. Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc, Director of the French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT) and several victims of terrorism.**

### Thursday 21st of November 2019

*Acropolis, Gallieni room, 1 Esplanade John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 06000 Nice*

09.30 am **Meeting between the media and the victims of terrorism in the presence of M. Philippe Pradal, First deputy of the Mayor of Nice, delegate to finance, transportation and mobility, occupation of public area, Subdelegate to city police and human resources, Metropolitan**

counselor, President of the finance and human resources commission, M. Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc, Director of the French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT) and several victims of terrorism.

01.00 pm Reception of the Press at Acropolis

### ❖ Scientific programme

03.00 pm Words of Victims

03.30 pm Roundtable: *The Evolution of the terrorist threat*

05.00 pm Roundtable : *The role of victims in preventing radicalization*

#### Friday 22nd of November 2019

09.30 am Roundtable : *Dealing with victims of terrorism: the role of states*

11.30 am Roundtable : *Territorial declination of accompaniment for victims of terrorism*

02.30 pm Roundtable : *Specific accompaniment of child and teenager victims of terrorism*

04.30 pm Roundtable : *The specific case of carers and first responders*

#### Saturday 23rd of November 2019

09.30 am Words of Victims

10.00 am Roundtable : *Victim Recognition and Remembrance*

### ❖ Two official ceremonies

Acropolis, Athena room, 1 esplanade John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 06000 Nice

- Thursday 21st of November 2019 at 2 pm : **Opening Ceremony of the VIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism**
- Saturday 23rd of November 2019 at 11.30 am : **Public Solemn Ceremony in tribute for Victims of terrorism**

### ❖ Cultural programme

The VIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism wishes to sensitize and raise awareness among public of all ages, regarding the emergency of acting together with victims of terrorism. This is why, on the fringes of the debates, a cultural program is offered in order to translate victim's emotion in an artistic angle.

#### All along the Congress:

- United Nations' photographic exhibition in the corridor of Acropolis untitled "Victims and the power of resilience"
- Movies, testimonies and exhibition screening
- Presentation of the "Maquettes Intimes" created during the Congress by victims of terrorism with the artist Pablo Gershanik

Friday 22nd of November 2019 at 9 pm

Evening in honor of victims of terrorism and people who provided assistance and support

Manchester Survivors Choir

« Piaf ! » show



## | Congress organizers

### French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT)

After several years serving victims of terrorist attacks in diverse organizations (SOS Attentats, «Les familles de l'Attentat du DC10 d'UTA » collective) and in partnership with many institutions (French ministry, ONAC, European Commission, UNO), Guillaume Denoix de Saint Marc and his team created the **French Association for Victims of Terrorism ( AfVT) in order to respond to victims' needs, mobilize and prepare vulnerable individuals and enterprise, and be part of the national strategy of defense and prevention.**

The aim of the AfVT is to act **as close as possible to victims of terrorism** and support them in the steps of healing, recognition, grieving and remembrance in respect of human rights and dignity.

#### Missions and objectives of AfVT

- **SUPPORT AND ACCOMPAGNY**

AfVT supports, guides and accompanies victims of terrorism to alleviate their suffering and help them efficiently, establishing a trusting relation with a long term and essential relation.

- **ADVISE AND DEFENSE**

AfVT supports and advises victims during medical expertise, administrative proceedings in order to guarantee their right to compensation. It facilitates victims of terrorism 's access to judicial proceedings by applying as a civil party. It coordinates the actions alongside different public and private institutions, to promote victims' rights. The association wants to gather and federate all the interlocutors and is part of a European shared experience that will help the European Community to establish a common guideline in favor of victims of terrorism.

- **INFORM AND SENSIBILIZE**

With information campaigns and its website [www.afvt.org](http://www.afvt.org), the association sensitize public opinion against ignorance and prejudices on terrorism and its challenges. It works with actors from education environment on the risks and

threats weighing on society and the ways to face them in a preventive manner. The association realizes sensitizing actions in schools and universities. AfVT supports companies who had employees that could be targeted by terrorist acts and participates in the implementation victim's assistance proceedings. AfVT's educational mission is ensured by interventions of experts from the Scientific committee and victim's testimonies. Finally, the Association mobilizes media to offer the visibility victims deserve.

- **UNDERSTAND, RESEARCH AND CONVINCING**

AfVT gathers and analyzes information in order to document researchers and experts on terrorism. The Association enjoys a national and international expertise for the production and diffusion of documents useful for victims. It organizes and participates to conferences, events and international research work. AfVT informs on new tendencies and national and international judicial advancements.

- **COMBAT ABLIVION**

AfVT organizes and promotes public national and international events to honor the memory of the loved ones and maintain public opinion's vigilance regard terrorist threat. Those events show the unity and determination of victims of terrorism from different countries. In its purpose of leading long term actions and entrench durably the memory of the missing persons, the association initiates and manages the construction of remembrance monuments honoring victims of terrorism.

## City of Nice

Nice is a martyr city who suffered from one of the deadliest terrorist attacks on the French territory. However, this tragedy is not what gives the city its legitimacy to welcome the congress. It's the capacity it demonstrated, with all its population, all the actors, to respond, face and recover.

Co-organizing this event is another step toward resilience and complements the actions implemented, under the impulsion of Christian Estrosi, to recover this tragedy and accompany victims:

- Immediate implementation of measures to help victims and their families, in their procedures, psychological support,
- Nice will welcome the regional mechanism for global psychotrauma care
- Implementation of a comity on victim's remembrance, with victim's association and victim's help associations, including Promenade des Angès and Mémorial des Angès.
- Commemoration ceremonies on July 14th 2017 and 2018 were imagined by victim's families and associations.

## | Press in the Congress

### Accreditation

For safety reasons on the different event sites for the VIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism, press accreditations must be confirmed **before November 14th at midnight**. To do so, an online platform is available **for journalists** : [https://accreditations.nice.fr/fr/users/sign\\_up?pf=CVT](https://accreditations.nice.fr/fr/users/sign_up?pf=CVT)

The requests will then be validated by our team.

If you wish to be informed of the platform's opening or have any specific interview request, please write to :

**Mme Aurélia van Kote**, Congress coordinator for AfVT

Phone: 00336 57 72 51 73

E-mail: [aurelia.van-kote@afvt.org](mailto:aurelia.van-kote@afvt.org)

**M. Florian Vautrin**, Press officer for the City of Nice  
Phone : 0033 4-97-13-25-17 ; Mobile : 0033 6-43-03-89-27  
E-mail: florian.vautrin@nicedotedazur.org

## Press zone and technical equipment for the Media

A **press room** with internet access is available to accredited journalists.

« **Press briefing** » zone allows journalists to react and ask their questions after each event of the official congress program.

« **Interview** » zone is available to media representatives. Journalists in live have a priority and must register beforehand to the Congress press service.

## Press events

The ambitions and the challenges of the VIII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism will be presented during the press conference which will be held on **November 20<sup>st</sup> 2019 at 11.00 am at the Maison de la Métropole Nice Côte d'Azur in Paris.**

**Press briefings** are scheduled, depending on the requests of journalists, after the roundtables.

## | Background of the International Congress for Victims of Terrorism

**The International center for victims of terrorism of the University of San Pablo's foundation (CEU)** is the institution that created the international congress for victims of terrorism, created for two objectives : be a forum in which victims can be heard and help them get the recognition they deserve, by society and the authorities.

Those conferences were held seven times : in Madrid (2004), in Bogota (2005), in Valencia (2006), another time in Madrid (2008), in Medellin (2009), in Salamanca (2010) and in Paris (2011). More than 2 500 victims of terrorism participated to those conferences from several countries : Algeria, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Congo, France, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Russia, Rwanda, Spain, United Kingdom, United States of America and Uruguay.

### 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Madrid*)



In 2004, the Foundation of San Paolo University CEU and the Foundation for Victims of Terrorism (Spain) organized the first ever International Congress for Victims of Terrorism in Madrid. The main objective was to recognise the strength of victims of terrorism, which is often forgotten. In this way, they could feel the warm, respect and affection of the entire society.

This first edition was introduced by SAR Filipe de Bourbon, prince of Asturias. During this first congress, victims of terrorism from the United States of America, Israel, Ireland, Colombia, Algeria and Spain, had the chance to talk and share their experiences. Politicians, judges and journalists talked about the paramount importance of not forgetting victims of terrorism. The closure speech was pronounced by M. José Maria AZNAR, President of the Spanish government at the time.

## II<sup>nd</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Bogota*)



The second edition was held in February 2005 in Bogota (Colombia). At this occasion, the Sergio Arboleda University of Bogota organized the event. The opening speech was read by M. José Maria AZNAR. The closing speech was pronounced by M. Alvaro URIBE, President of the Republic of Colombia. Victims of terrorism from Colombia and other latin american countries, but also from Russia, Spain, Indonesia, Ireland, United States of America and Israel participated to the conferences.

## III<sup>rd</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Valencia*)



In February 2006, the Cardenal Herrera University in Valencia welcomed the III<sup>rd</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism. The conferences were held in the Congress center of the capital, in which, 700 persons were invited, among them victims of terrorism and other participants. Victims of terrorism came from Peru, Russia, United States of America, Ireland, United Kingdom, Colombia and Spain to take part in the Congress.

The Prince and the Princess of Asturias opened the III<sup>rd</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism. The closing speech was pronounced by M. José Antonio ALONSO, Spanish Interior Minister M. Francisco CAMPS, President of the autonomous Valencia Community and Ms. Rita Barbera, Mayor of Valencia, also intervned during the closing speech. During this edition, participants had the opportunity to see a photographic exhibition of the Miguel Angel Blanco foundation, showing the cruelty and consequences of terrorism.

## IV<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Madrid*)



The IV<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism was held at the University of San Pablo in Madrid in January 2008. More than 400 victims of terrorism from countries that suffered, and are still suffering, from terrorist attacks (such as USA, Ireland, Israel, Peru, Uruguay, France, Colombia, Argentina, Netherlands, Italy and Spain) participated to the event.

Among the participants of this 4th edition, were the Prince and Princess of the Asturias who opened the Congress, M. Fernando ARAUJO, Minister of Foreign affairs of Colombia ; Ms. Esperanza AGUIRRE, President of the Madrid community ; and M. Mariano RAJOY, leader of the main Spanish opposition political party. During this edition, the participants had the opportunity to see the Miguel Angel Blanco's foundation photographic exhibition.

## V<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Medellin*)



With the experience of the four previous editions, the V<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism took place in May 2009 in Medellin in Colombia. This congress was organized by the Colombian institutions which were : the Visible Victims Foundation and the University of Sergio Arboleda, in collaboration with the International center for victims of terrorism of the San Pablo Foundation.

The Prince and the Princess of Asturias were present at the opening ceremony and accompanied by M. Alvaro URIBE, President of the Republic of Colombia, and other members of Public authority. Around 1 000 victims from different countries such as Rwanda, USA, Northern Ireland, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, France, Spain and Colombia participated to the conference. The closing speech was pronounced by M. Felipe CALDERON, President of Mexico.

## VI<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Salamanca*)



**The VI<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism took place from 11 to 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 in Salamanca.** More than 400 victims from different countries who suffered or are still suffering from this plague, as Argentina, Congo, Colombia, USA, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, UK, Russia and Spain, took part to this congress. Another time, the Prince and the Princess of Asturias were present at the opening ceremony. Ms. Arantza QUIROGA, President of the Basque parliament, pronounced the opening speech.

In parallel to this event, a collective tribute untitled “Salamanca” was organized and included the inhabitants directly to the congress. They expressed their affection and solidarity toward victims of terrorism. Thousands of people showed their support on Salamanca’s main square.

## VII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism (*Paris*)



Finally, **The VII<sup>th</sup> International Congress for Victims of Terrorism took place from 15 to 17 September 2011 in Paris,** and for the first time in a non-Spanish speaking country. The French Association for Victims of Terrorism (AfVT) member of the International Federation for Association for Victims of Terrorism (FIAVT), in partnership with the Observatorio Internacional de Víctimas del Terrorismo (CEU) had the honor to organize this 7<sup>th</sup> edition in the Ecole Militaire in Paris. During this occasion, the Association wanted to show victims who came from the most impacted geographical zones.



## | Manifest of victims of terrorism

*Translated by: Marcela Ramírez and Paula Ramirez*

Terrorism is a global phenomenon affecting all societies. It is never justified. Terrorist organizations will find their own way to commit crimes. They will use various methods of action. They will act against different objectives. But, whatever the chosen course of action, terrorism will always be an unjustified and unfair, cruel, abominable crime as it seeks to undermine the most elemental human rights of people and communities.

But whatever the course that terrorists choose to manifest themselves, its victims are the same. Regardless of the country, the socio-political situation, the motivation or criteria by which its victims are selected, they are all created equal: innocent human beings, by no fault of their own, and owing to what some may call fatal destiny, become victims of assassination, kidnapping, torture, extortion, blackmail and threats. They are violently altered by terrorist action. And victims are the whole society, a society that feels the never-ending threat and the risk of terrorist action, and are ultimately altered by the reality of their possibility any day, any hour.

Victims are those who suffer directly from the effects of this violence, those who lose their lives, their physical integrity, because of terrorist actions.

Victims are the families, friends, and partners of those who suffer the effect of a terrorist offense and share the pain and lose of dear ones. Victims are villages, cities; communities whose sense of sharing has been abruptly and violently altered by terrorist action. And Victims are the whole society that feels the never ending threat and the risk of terrorist action, and are ultimately altered by the reality of their possibility any day, any hour.

These are the reasons we who have suffered terrorism directly and intimately consider it necessary and legitimate to let our voices be heard: To claim peace, liberty, tolerance, and pluralism as personal values for each and every victim of world terrorism; to demand that terrorist organizations stop violent crimes which will ultimately prevent them from reaching their objectives; to ask for solidarity, assistance, aid, and the collective recall from Governments and societies with the objective of keeping the long list of names of those who have been victims of the terrorism madness at an ebb.

That is why today, we are all, as victims of different origin, united; to make our voices heard louder than the sounds of bullets and bombs, with the unbeatable strength of word and reason.

That is why:

- **First:** We request of all Governments an active and constant commitment in fight of terrorism, regardless of ideology, and an equally active and constant commitment to favoring victims of terrorism by promoting laws that are necessary to give victims an aid regimen, protection, and assistance, and also the social recognition of their status as victims of terrorism.

- **Second:** We ask the international community establish, and consequently commit to, measures that promote harmonization of internal legislations specifically regarding indemnification of terrorism victims. We request the cooperation and harmonization of prevention and repression policies to deplete terrorism finances. It is necessary to end the extradition procedures on terrorism and the immediate surrender of terrorists to their state where they have committed their crimes.

- **Third:** We request from international organizations, especially United Nations and the European Union; the creation of specific committees made-up of terrorism victims where they can make themselves heard, have a permanent voice and offer their own criteria an proposals to fight terrorism; and also that international organizations create and maintain monetary budgets destined to assist terrorism victims on their state.

- **Fourth:** We ask all international agreements about terrorism to be signed and ratified by the International Community. We request that Government leaders who have been declared authors, inductors, financiers, or accomplice terrorism acts be immediately deprived of any semblance of immunity.

- **Fifth:** We ask terrorist crimes to be considered as human rights violations by the International Community and included in the jurisdiction of the International Penal Court.

- **Sixth:** We ask NGO's and any other civil organizations defenders of human rights to commit themselves to terrorist victims' defense and identify terrorism, regardless of the cause, without establishing equidistance or any confusion between victims and actors.

- **Seventh:** We request from the media a permanent commitment in the fight against terrorism; we ask that they avoid statements of false neutrality and that they respect their obligation of being objective at all costs, showing the reality of crimes that can never be justified, ignored, misrepresented or distorted, hiding cruelty through word games.

- **Eighth:** We ask civil society to maintain and strengthen its compromise and solidarity with terrorism victims and make their voice be heard on the streets before any terrorist actions with decision and courage showing criminals the rejection and showing all victims affection and comprehension.

We terrorism victims do not want revenge. We terrorism victims only want to prevent future generations to live through what we sadly experienced directly or indirectly - so many converted suddenly, violently and unexpectedly into victims by the cruelty of criminals.

We are convinced that by joining our efforts, Government leaders and anonymous citizens, we can work with our effort to avoid perpetuating pain and give life to hope for a better world.

## | Partners

### Organizers





## Main partners



UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)



DÉPARTEMENT  
DES ALPES-MARITIMES

## Other partners



## Associative partners



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