

EDSG  
Algiers Bombing

Note to the Secretary-General

through Vijay Nambiar

Update on Algiers

1. Status of casualties

Of the 10 dead reported yesterday the names of nine were announced today at the noon briefing. The tenth name will only be released once confirmation of the next of kin having been informed. Five more national staff were confirmed dead today and the process of informing their kin is underway.

2. Update to staff thru iseek

A second notice from the Secretary-General to the staff will be posted on I-Seek tonight as follows:

**"SG updates staff on Algiers toll**

Bali, 13 December 2007

Dear colleagues,  
Dear friends,

As the death toll in the Algiers bombings rises, I am profoundly saddened to confirm that at least nine United Nations staff members are among those who perished. They are Mr. Babacar Ndiaye of UN Department of Safety and Security, Senegal; Mr. Hanniche Abel-Rahim of ILO, Algeria; Mr. Nabil Slimani of UNHCR, Algeria; Mr. Adnane Souilah of UNFPA, Algeria; Mr. Kamel Sait of UNFPA, Algeria; Mr. Hind Boukroufa of UNDP, Algeria; Mr. Djamel Rezzoug of UNDP, Algeria; Mr. Steven Olejas of UNDP, Denmark; Ms. Gina Luna of WFP, Philippines. They will never be forgotten.

There are several more injured and missing; information is still coming in. Rescue workers have helped to remove several UN staff alive from the rubble, and they are now receiving medical treatment. We send all of them our prayers.

The senior UN team I have dispatched to Algiers will be visiting the injured, as well as the families of those national staff who were lost. I have asked them to assess the overall situation as thoroughly as possible, and report back to me.

Let me assure all UN staff around the world: I will spare no effort in ensuring we provide adequate security for you, wherever you serve. I will work decisively with all parts of the system and with Member States to ensure that this is so. I will find out what failed us this time, where we should have done more, and how we must and will do better in the future.

My thoughts are with all of you.

Ban Ki-moon"

3. Commemoration/condolences

A condolence book will be opened to our staff and member states globally. At HQ arrangements we are looking to follow the arrangements which were followed for the Canal hotel bombing victims.

Tomorrow a message will go out to staff globally calling upon them to observe a moment of silence on Monday, 17 December (Friday is a holiday in many of our duty stations). It was also agreed that a memorial service would be held 30 to 40 days after the attacks, maybe sometime in mid January, in Geneva to synchronize with the Secretary-General's visit to Europe. Note: under Muslim practice commemoration is observed after 40 days; further it is anticipated processing of US visa applications for families of national staff would likely be protracted. The families of victims and the majority of the affected UN agencies are closer to Geneva. So the consensus view was to hold it in Geneva instead of New York.

4. Survivor and bereaved families welfare

UNDP has advanced cash to ensure those affected (injured or bereaved) are not in financial distress. Established practice is to advance three months salary. Claims under the malicious insurance policy are being prepared.

5. High level visit

Messrs Dervis and Veness are working with the Government of Algeria to ensure adequate security arrangements are in place for the UNCIEF premises. The host government has proposed a phased approach with a possibility of relocating agency offices to a hotel which previously served this purpose. Veness is planning to come back to New York on Saturday and Dervis will decide it later.

6. Security in other duty stations

The posting of Al\_Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claiming responsibility for the attack, has generated supportive reactions on extremist websites, some drawing comparison to the 2003 bombing of the Canal Hotel in Iraq. DSS has taken the precaution of instructing all Designated Officials, Security Advisers and Security Focal points to undertake a review of security policies and procedures and provide an updated or amended security risk assessment and plans, by 7 January.



Won-soo Kim

12 December 2007