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Remembrance and Prevention: United Nations to mark 9 December, International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime

New York, 6 December 2024 – The Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide is organizing a high-level event at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 9 December 2024, marking the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime, and 76 years of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

This year's event takes place in between two landmark commemorations. In April 2024, Rwanda marked 30 years since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. In July 2025, Bosnia and Herzegovina will mark 30 years since the 1995 Srebrenica genocide. Focusing on the experiences of Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the event will reflect on the role of commemoration and memorialization efforts not only to honor the victims and survivors of genocide, but also as effective mechanisms for the prevention of future genocides.

Starting with a minute of silence to honor victims of genocide, the event will highlight some of the achievements and challenges in the fields of prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, based on the lessons from Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and through four dedicated panel discussions.

The event will be open with messages from the Secretary- General António Guterres, H.E. Mr. Philemon Yang, President of the 79th session of the General Assembly, and Virginia Gamba, Acting Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide.

“The need to prioritize genocide prevention, as envisaged by the Genocide Convention 76 years ago, remains as relevant as ever. With this must the determination in ensuring that memorialization and commemoration efforts are supported and that the lessons learned from Rwanda and Bosnia and Herzegovina are truly learned. Only in such a way can risk factors for genocide be recognized, identified and mitigated early”, said acting Special Adviser Ms. Gamba in reference to this event.

Starting at 11 p.m. EST, the event will be held at the United Nations Trusteeship Chamber and will be streamed live on UN Web TV.

For media queries please contact:
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