2

that succumbed to t he dehumanization i nflicted by terrorism, or – worse – to

the subsequent indifference of national and international institutions.

In my years of victim-focused work, I also came to realize that the literature

on terrorism victimization is quite limited. And this is why in 2017 I undertook

a research project, s ponsored by the UN Sabbatical Program me , to unpack

the specific victimological features of terrorism and, through an open source

book1, bring evidence on how the experience of victims of terrorism differs in

degree from that of vi ctims of other crimes.

Terrorism is not an ordinary crime. Its intent transcends the direct victims,

who are often caught in cross -border mass attacks, suffer from severe

multiple sequelae and often have no access to justice and information.

Today’s landmark UN Global Congress should give us all much-needed

impetus to ensure that victims of terrorism are no longer just an afterthought

- but included systematically in counter-terrorism strategies and programs,