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TRANSCRIPT

World Humanitarian Day Commemoration - 19 August 2025

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00:00:01:04 - 00:00:13:07
Thank you, Director General, dear survivors, families, especially the families, excellencies and colleagues.

00:00:15:11 - 00:00:20:55
We are here to grieve and to honour those we have lost.

00:00:21:67 - 00:00:23:71
They are the best of us.

00:00:26:03 - 00:00:28:87
Humanitarians carry hope where there is despair.

00:00:30:32 - 00:00:33:32
They are selfless in a selfish world.

00:00:34:84 - 00:00:38:60
They seek to mend what others seek to break.

00:00:39:79 - 00:00:43:43
They bring humanity where there is inhumanity.

00:00:45:32 - 00:00:52:48
Yet from that day in Baghdad till now, the best of us are under attack.

00:00:54:39 - 00:01:03:71
Last year, more than 380 humanitarians were killed, Not dead, killed, the highest ever recorded.

00:01:05:48 - 00:01:12:32
[Other language spoken]

00:01:13:28 - 00:01:27:79
520 aid workers, mostly unrestaff killed since October 2023, The deadliest place for humanitarians for the second year running.

00:01:30:20 - 00:01:35:96
This number doesn't even touch the hundreds of staff who've lost family members.

00:01:36:71 - 00:01:43:40
My colleague Syed, whose wife Ola was killed in our guesthouse in Sudan.

00:01:44:35 - 00:01:49:64
60 colleagues lost their lives, over double the year before.

00:01:51:20 - 00:01:58:76
These include my colleague Sadiq, killed in Al Fascia in November already this year.

00:01:59:48 - 00:02:07:48
Hundreds more names, each with a family, each with a story.

00:02:09:75 - 00:02:19:19
And this is more than a statistical spike, it is a stain, the normalisation of violence against this community.

00:02:20:71 - 00:02:29:59
Each attack on a colleague is an attack on all of us, and we do not accept it enough.

00:02:32:12 - 00:02:39:12
0 Accountability, an indictment of international inaction and apathy.

00:02:40:75 - 00:02:45:12
The Member States must not accept it enough.

00:02:47:19 - 00:02:57:83
As a humanitarian movement, we demand the protection of civilians and aid workers, and we demand that perpetrators are held to account.

00:02:59:96 - 00:03:03:48
Humanitarians will not retreat despite these dangers.

00:03:04:84 - 00:03:10:03
Last year, despite the risks, we reached more than 116 million people.

00:03:10:80 - 00:03:16:80
Families fed, children in school, sick people cured, communities protected.

00:03:18:43 - 00:03:21:00
[Other language spoken]

00:03:22:12 - 00:03:28:12
It is our way of honouring those who died in 2003 and who have been killed since.

00:03:30:19 - 00:03:35:00
But you, the international community, must also not let us down.

00:03:37:68 - 00:03:42:80
So we grieve again those we lost and those we continue to lose.

00:03:44:19 - 00:03:47:71
We honour those who defy the dangers.

00:03:48:91 - 00:03:59:31
We demand their protection and an end to impunity, and we commit afresh to this mission, whatever the risks.

00:04:00:08 - 00:04:00:44
[Other language spoken]