

## Press statement

### UNAIDS mourns loss of life in Algeria bombings

**Geneva, 17 December 2007** - The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) expresses its deep sadness and regret at the tragic loss of life during last Tuesday's bomb attacks in Algeria's capital, Algiers.

The Executive Director of UNAIDS, Dr Peter Piot said, "UNAIDS condemns in the strongest possible terms this intolerable act. We mourn the deaths and injuries among United Nations staff and the local community. Our sympathies go out to them and to their families."

UNAIDS was among one of several United Nations organisations to lose a valued staff member and friend during the targeted attacks on the United Nations. Forty-five year-old Hakim Si Larbi was killed when the bomb explosion hit the UNAIDS offices in the district of Hydra in Algiers. Mr Si Larbi had worked for UNAIDS since 2005 when UNAIDS first opened its office in Algeria, prior to which he had worked for nine years with the United Nations Development Programme.

Speaking of her colleague and friend, Samia Belacel-Lounnas, UNAIDS Country Officer said, "Hakim was an exceptional person. He was totally committed to our cause, a hard worker known by all the people we work with - nationals and others. We will all miss him so much. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this terrible time."

UNAIDS staff members around the world held a minute's silence and remembrance for Mr Si Larbi and others killed in the blast.

UNAIDS joins the rest of the UN family in presenting our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed or injured in the attacks.

#### Contact

Sophie Barton-Knott | UNAIDS Geneva | +41 22 791 1697 | [bartonknotts@unaids.org](mailto:bartonknotts@unaids.org)

UNAIDS is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations, bringing together the efforts and resources of the UNAIDS Secretariat and ten UN system organizations in the AIDS response. The Secretariat headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland—with staff on the ground in more than 80 countries. Coherent action on AIDS by the UN system is coordinated in countries through UN theme groups, and joint programmes on AIDS. UNAIDS' Cosponsors include UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, ILO, UNESCO, WHO and the World Bank. Visit the UNAIDS Web site at [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org)