

**United Nations Development Programme**  
*Nordic Representation Office*



## **INVITATION**

### **REPORT LAUNCH: JOURNEY TO EXTREMISM IN AFRICA INCENTIVES, DRIVERS AND THE TIPPING POINT FOR RECRUITMENT**

**AND**

### **PHOTO EXHIBITION: SURVIVORS STORIES OF SURVIVORS OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN AFRICA**

**Wednesday 13 September 2017, 9:00 – 12:00**

*Christiansborg, room Pro-D, Copenhagen*

The growth of violent extremism has set in motion a reversal of development gains on the African continent and threatens to stunt prospects of development for decades to come. United Nations Development Programme UNDP estimates that more than 33,300 Africans have lost their lives to violent extremism from 2011 to 2016, and millions have seen their livelihoods affected through displacement or loss of a breadwinner.

Under the umbrella of its programme to prevent violent extremism, UNDP has reached out to former members of violent extremist groups such as Boko Haram, Al Shabaab and IS, creating the largest database of its kind. **Based on hundreds of interviews with extremists, this first-of-its-kind study pinpoints key factors triggering decisions to join violent extremist groups in Africa.**

The **photo exhibition 'Survivors'** will be on display outside of Christiansborg in Rigsdagsgaarden. It seeks to shed light on, and amplify the voices of those who often suffer in silence. The survivors' diverse religious, ethnic and national backgrounds highlight that violent extremism is a shared burden, and one that humanity as a whole must respond to. 'Survivors' is a collaboration between UNDP and the Swedish-Eritrean photographer Malin Fezehai.

Key note speakers: **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**, UNDP Africa Regional Bureau Director, and **Lisbet Zilmer-Johns**, Centre Director for Global Politics and Security, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

For participation please register on Eventbrite [here](#)

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## **PROGRAMME**

- 08:30      Arrival and networking (coffee/tea and croissants)
- 09:00      Welcome by moderator Kristoffer Nilaus Tarp
- 09:05      Opening remarks by **Lisbet Zilmer-Johns**, Centre Director for Global Politics and Security, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 09:15      Challenges to development in Africa by **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**, UNDP Africa Regional Bureau Director
- 09:30      Presentation of ‘Journey to Extremism in Africa’ by **Mohamed Yahya**, UNDP Africa Regional Programme Coordinator
- 10:00      Danish reflections - 5 min each:
- **Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde**, Danish Institute for International Studies
  - **Mette Gjerskov**, MP & Development Spokesperson, Social Democratic Party
  - **Peter Ellehøj**, Africa Dept, MFA (tbc)
  - Representative from civil society (tbc)
- 10:15      Debate with Q&A
- 10:45      Official launch of photo exhibition ‘Survivor’
- Presentation of initiative by **Abdoulaye Mar Dieye**, UNDP Africa Regional Bureau Director
  - Presentation of exhibition by photographer **Malin Fezehai**
  - Speech by **MP** (tbc)
- 11:15      Reception with tour of exhibition outside in Rigsdagsgaarden (drinks & snack will be served)
- 12:00      Closing