

King Charles III Leads 20th Anniversary Tribute to 7/7 Bombing Victims

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King Charles III on Monday led the solemn national commemoration marking 20 years since the July 7, 2005, London bombings, one of the darkest days in modern British history.

On that summer morning, four British men detonated bombs on three underground trains and a double-decker bus, killing 52 people and

injuring more than 700. The attacks, carried out during the rush hour, were the first suicide bombings on European soil and remain the deadliest terrorist act in London since World War II.

The coordinated explosions shocked the nation and left an indelible mark on the city's consciousness. Victims were ordinary commuters, men and women of various ages, backgrounds, and nationalities, going about their daily routines.

Commemorative events on Monday included a ceremony at the 7/7 memorial in Hyde Park and a special service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Survivors, families of the victims, emergency responders, and members of the public gathered to reflect on the tragedy, honour the lives lost, and show support for those still affected.

In a heartfelt message, King Charles III expressed solidarity with the victims and survivors, offering "heartfelt thoughts and special prayers" to those whose lives were forever changed. He praised the heroism shown in the immediate aftermath of the bombings, highlighting "the countless stories of extraordinary courage and compassion that emerged from the darkness of that day."

The king also paid tribute to emergency responders, whose quick actions saved lives and helped bring calm amid chaos. Their bravery, he said, continues to serve as a source of national pride.

Two weeks after the 7/7 attacks, four other men attempted to repeat the atrocity, but their bombs failed to detonate. Though no one was harmed in the second attempt, the city remained on high alert, with the events of

that month triggering widespread changes in Britain's counterterrorism strategy and public security systems.

The Hyde Park memorial, with its 52 stainless steel pillars, each representing a victim, is a lasting symbol of remembrance. On this anniversary, flowers were laid, moments of silence observed, and personal stories shared, underscoring both the pain of loss and the resilience of the community.

As Londoners look back, the tragedy remains a poignant reminder of the fragility of life, the threat of extremism, and the strength found in unity.