

UN chief Ban Ki-moon condemns despicable terrorist attacks in Paris

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United Nations: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday condemned "the despicable terrorist attacks carried out in various locations in and around Paris," and demanded "the immediate release of the numerous individuals reportedly being held hostage in the Bataclan theatre."

"The secretary-general trusts that the French authorities will do all in their power to bring the perpetrators to justice quickly," Xinhua quoted a statement as saying.

"The secretary-general extends his deepest condolences to the families of the victims and wishes a speedy recovery to those injured. He stands with the government and people of France," the statement added.

At least 140 people are reportedly killed in a series of what appears to be coordinated attacks across Paris late Friday. A hostage situation is unfolding at a concert hall in the French capital.

- IANS