They were Belgians, and Americans, Dutch, and Swedish, Chinese, and English, French, and Italian, Peruvian, and German, and Indian, and Polish and Moroccan. For the sole reason of being at the wrong place at the wrong moment, they lost their lives on the 22nd of March 2016. They were random victims of terrorists with a crystal clear strategy: bring forth violence on the territory of those who stand firmly against ISIL in the Middle East.

Several members of the CECRI’s team escaped from the clutches of these dramatic events; security measures were reinforced everywhere, including at the university… All of this leads us to a singular phenomenon of confusion between our subject of study and our day-to-day lives. In the days following the attacks, Belgium became the center of attention in international news media. Although the CECRI has known peaks of attention from the media in the past – 11th of September 2001, American general elections, war in Iraq,… - it had never been solicited to this level: Canadian and Swiss press, French radio, Russian and Japanese televisions,… One question – asked in all possible ways and all languages – was unanimous: is Belgium a failed state? We answered the question as we could. Indeed, limits and risks of an immediate comment have already been evoked here.

Have a good read!
Michel Liégeois, Director


Struye de Swielande T., « Ce qui me désole c’est le manque de collaboration », 25 March.


Delcorde R., « ‘Nous restons debout’ dit l’ambassadeur belge », La Presse (Canada), 22 March.

Liégeois M., « La signature classique de la mouvance islamique », Le Soir, p.19, 22 March.

Call for papers within the framework of our symposium set on the 24th of next November: United Nations in the 21st Century: Perspectives and Prospects