

**ANCHOR:** - bring you special coverage on the Norway attacks. Yesterday, we spoke to the foreign minister, Jonas Støre, and today, we speak to Terje Rod-Larsen, a leading global mediator and a former deputy prime minister of Norway. Mr. Rod-Larsen, thanks very much for joining us here on this program. Norway has, you know, very well known as the home of peace, global home of peace. You, yourself, of course, are peace envoy, and Oslo is home of the Oslo accords. How shocking is this to you, as a Norwegian, that your government and your finest young people have come so directly and so cruelly under attack?

**TERJE ROD-LARSEN:** I think, thank you very much for being on the program, James. I think this is a frontal attack of the national ethos of Norway, which is built on a foundation, on the belief that peaceful dialogue and not violence shall be the instruments when there are political disputes, which is built on a solid foundation of tolerance politically and religiously. So this is a frontal attack on everything the Norwegian ethos is standing for, and this is why it's so shocking to all Norwegians. In addition, this manifesto, which was prepared yesterday, the author tells us that what he's trying to produce is not only to detonate a bomb in the government headquarters and assassinate children, but also that he has detonated or is trying to detonate an ideological bomb, which is basically calling for, what he would say, an armed resistance against Islam across Europe. So this is despicable, and it's very, very hard to understand for any Norwegian, and it is very dangerous, not only with all the casualties that we have already seen, but also the ideology he's now trying to promote and trying to be inspirational for other fanatics across the continent of Europe.

**ANCHOR:** Mr. Rod-Larsen, also, you've worked extensively as one of the world's leading peace mediators in areas including Gaza. This, of course, is a different kind of conflict and violence, but undoubtedly, violence has touched Norway now. How do you connect to the people in a time like this, drawing on your own skill set, and how do you help them get past this trauma?

**TERJE ROD-LARSEN:** Yeah, it's, I mean, every Norwegian is talking to every other Norwegian about this topic. There is only one topic in the country now, and I see it as my role to precisely say what I told you now, namely that we have to protect the national ethos, we have to stand by it, we have to stand together, we have to continue to build on a consensus that we have in this country, and this should not scare us away from these basic values of our society.

**ANCHOR:** Yesterday, when I spoke to the foreign minister, I asked him how better international community can help in this time of crisis. He says that he wants messages of solidarity that Norway needs. There's been plenty of that from the world's leaders, including from the Chinese premier yesterday. Tell me, how does it help support the spirit of Norway, and also the democratic institutions that it's obviously so proud of?

**TERJE ROD-LARSEN:** I think it's tremendously important that Norway and Norwegians receive these voices of solidarity and understanding and compassion in these very difficult days for the country, and for the people here. I'm receiving, nearly minute by minute, international emails and telephone calls from people across the world who are expressing their solidarity with

**CROSSOVER FORMER NORWEGIAN DEPUTY PM TERJE ROD-LARSEN**  
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Norway and with Norwegians and expressing how despicable they find these acts of violence and terrorism.

**ANCHOR:** Across the world right now mourns with the 93 people who died, and also the many hundreds who are injured, of course, the many families and communities that are directly impacted, but once it gets past this point, because Norway will get past this point one day, is there an opportunity, in fact, for Norway to come out even stronger, to promote its ideals, to promote its platforms and foundations in a bigger way than it ever has been able to do before?

**TERJE ROD-LARSEN:** Yeah, I think, actually, that the acts of this terrorists will bring the Norwegian people much tighter together around its national ethos, and in a way, in this country, he has achieved the opposite of what he wants. I think Norway's resolve to stand by its values has been tremendously strengthened, and I think it would move the people and the country forward much more stronger working for peace and reconciliation and tolerance, not only within our own country, but also internationally.

**ANCHOR:** Terje-Rod Larsen, the former deputy prime minister of Norway, head of the International Peace Institute over in New York, speaking to us live over there in Oslo. Thank you very much for joining us here.