

'Tonight, we are all Norwegians'



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A crowd of more than 500 people gather at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard on Tuesday night for a vigil honoring victims of last week's terror attacks in Norway. People from as far as Oregon and British Columbia attended the ceremony.

HUNDREDS GATHER IN BALLARD AT VIGIL FOR TERROR VICTIMS

**Prayers, music, reflections
about 'horrific act' in peaceful land**

BY JEFF HODSON
Seattle Times staff reporter

Tuesday night, they were all Norwegians. More than 500 people gathered at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard to remember victims of last week's terror attacks in Norway. The crowd was so large that many had to sit or stand outside. Some clutched small Norwegian flags, candles or red or yellow roses.

People from as far away as Oregon and British Columbia joined the ceremony, which featured prayers, music and reflections.

"The attack hit Norway in its gut, just like it did here after the Oklahoma bombing and September 11th," Kim Nesselquist, honorary consul for Norway, told the crowd. But the two countries have another thing in common, he said — "great resilience and an absolute belief in our democratic values."

Some of the older Norwegians — like museum docent Mari-Ann Kind Jackson — said the attacks reminded them of World War II.

But just as Norway rebuilt itself into a great country after five years of Nazi occupation, Nesselquist predicted, "the same determination will help us again."

Dr. Loren Anderson, president of Pacific Lutheran University, told the mourners, "Like you, we've seen the heart of our democracy tested."

He added, "Tonight, we are all Norwegians."

Near the end of the ceremony, "Amazing Grace" was played, and the crowd, row by row, one by one, joined in, humming and singing until there was a swell of sound. Afterward, many laid down their roses to create an outdoor memorial.

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Synove Salmi, of Sammamish, holds a Norwegian flag and a candle at the vigil. Salmi, who has been in the U.S. for 46 years, had a personal connection with one victim.

< Norway

FROM B1

BALLARD VIGIL FOR TERROR VICTIMS

Signed messages to be sent overseas

"It was very emotional," said Gustav Raaum, of Mercer Island, as he left. "The feeling in the room was filled with passion and love."

Raaum moved to Seattle from Norway in 1947 at the age of 21.

"It's just one nut," Raaum said of the man who confessed to bombing a government building and methodically gunning down scores of children at an island summer camp.

His wife, Claire, said, "We were shocked that it came from within the country."

Solvi Lindseth Barber moved to Seattle from Bergen, Norway, three years ago. "It's heartbreaking," she said. "It's really, really unbelievable."

Barber works for a documentary film company with offices right behind the gov-

ernment building in Oslo that was targeted. No one in her company was hurt, but they heard the explosion and the shattering of glass that sent out shards like bullets.

Two friends of her best friend's daughter were killed at the camp.

"We can all feel it as parents," she said. "To lose something."

People at the vigil were encouraged to sign messages of support, which will be sent to the Norwegian government.

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