It is an honor to be with you today, to pay respect and homage to martyrs. It is hard to capture in words the sacrifices made by them and whoever speaks and stands in the way of oppression and injustice. They are the liberators and their struggles had a potent voice to hold the country together when it is threatened to break apart. Their sacrifices erect in itself an order to preserve freedom for future generations.Thesemartyrs are not bust made of marble; they are equally like us; men of flesh and blood, a son and a husband, a father or a friend. In the arc of their life, they have earned their place in history through struggle, persistence and faith. Andtrue courage has many faces. It demands not just sheer willpower and strength but an utter belief in cause and total disregard for self.Perhaps the only way we can deal with the loss of one of our own, our brothers and sisters or loved one is to believe that it was for a cause. And no cause can be greater than giving up one’s life as a martyr.These people stood up for their country, its sovereignty, integrity and accepted the consequences of their actions, knowing that standing up carries a price.The price of which has given theman honor that we all seek, but few ever achieve.These people were not deserters, they slept on the cold ground, where the wintry winds blow and the snow drives fiercely, they bore wounds and sores that come in encounters with the roughness of the world. They guarded oursleep, they were true to their duty and protected us from danger and our enemies. And when the last scene of all comes, and death takes them in embrace and their body is laid away in the cold ground, theirheart faithful and true even in death.

After the martyrsare laid to rest and we rejoin our daily routines, let us search for the strength their deaths have given to our lives. In order of their sacrifices we should stand united and the lives of martyrs remembered and counted. Let us pay homage to the martyrs and remind us that their sacrifice was not for nothing.

**Engr. Sheriyar**, General secretary PSAJ , Saitama University