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Photos Plead: Have You Seen This Person?

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LONDON, July 9 - As work crews battle rats and crumbling walls to reach the bombed-out train and remaining bodies at the King's Cross Underground station, passers-by, just above them, linger before the images of the men and women who are still nowhere to be found.

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Michel De Groot/World Picture News, for The New York Times

A bus stop is now a gallery of the missing. The police revised their estimate of the bombings' timing.

Their faces are plastered on walls, fences, bus stops, newspapers and Web sites, displaying loving looks and sultry glances, ear-to-ear grins and impish smirks.

They represent the missing at the best of times, the only times really when people bother to take photographs: Ojara Ikeagwu dons a graduation cap; Phil Beer wears a tuxedo; John Steadman unwraps presents; Christian Small smiles at the camera; Karolina Gluck, with her spiky blond hair, grins mischievously.

The heartache is revealed only below the pictures, where friends and families have scribbled urgent pleas. "Karolina is still missing," says one, eerily reminiscent

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Michel de Groot/World Picture News, for The New York Times

David Webb holds a picture of his sister, Laura, who has been missing since Thursday's attacks.

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Michel de Groot/World Picture News, for The New York Times

A bus stop is now one of many galleries of the missing in London.

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Michel de Groot/World Picture News, for The New York Times

"Karolina is still missing," says one sign posted around the city. Two

of the posters that blanketed New York City in the days after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Two days after London was rocked by four explosions leaving at least 49 dead, 20 to 50 people remain unaccounted for by hospitals, coroners, friends and relatives.

It is feared that some of them may have died at the King's Cross station, which took the hardest hit, or on the double-decker bus that blew up nearby. Crews are still trying to reach the wreckage of the subway car at King's Cross, but the police have said many bodies are trapped in the rubble below. They can see them, but they cannot get to them.

Reflecting London's diversity, many of the missing traveled long and far to arrive here. They are Polish and Turkish and American. They come from Mauritius, Germany and Australia. A few are Muslim, and they are almost all young. Ms. Gluck, for example, is a 29-year-old Polish immigrant.

"I've cried a lot," said Richard Deer, who is Ms. Gluck's boyfriend. "It's so up and down. But she would stand out. Her hair would stand out. She was honestly very special. I keep calling

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the police. I called them three times, and they said they had nothing new. I told them I would continue to call until I was blue in the face."

The family and friends of the missing are persisting in their search, even as hope begins to ebb, if only slightly.

They have scoured hospitals, handed out pictures to passers-by, contacted reporters and called the police. They double back and double check. Now, there is little to do but wait, and in some cases, talk.

Karolina Gluck left her North London apartment on Thursday morning, visions of Paris swirling in her head.

After eight months together, she and Mr. Deer were planning a cozy weekend trip to Paris. "A romantic holiday," Mr. Deer called it, just him and "Sunshine," as he calls Ms. Gluck.

Ms. Gluck arrived in London from Chorzow, in the south of Poland, nearly four years ago. She was determined to master English and get a good job, Mr. Deer said. She accomplished both, starting as a receptionist at a student residence and working her way up to deputy head of receptionists.

"See you later," Ms. Gluck called out to him. Then, he recalled, she walked away, dressed head to toe in black, her blond, spiky hair bobbing up and down as she headed for the Finsbury Park subway. Her final stop was supposed to be Russell Square, near the spot where bombs blew up a subway train and a bus.

He tried to call her later that morning at work, at Goodenough College, but got bounced to her voice mail. He tried her cellphone, but got bounced to voice mail again. He resorted to e-mail, but never heard back.

They do not know where she is. They do not know if she is injured, dead or simply missing.

"She was like a star," said Magda Gluck, Ms. Gluck's twin sister, slipping into the past tense.

John Hyman, whose 32-year-old daughter, Miriam, is missing, knows a few things for certain: she was uninjured when she left the Underground.

She was not on the bus because the bus exploded at about the time he was on the phone with her. Soon after, she called her workplace, and was told not to bother to come in. That was at 10 a.m., after the attacks, he said.

"I don't see how she could have got into the bus that exploded," he said. "And the route makes no sense, whether she's going to work or home."

Her cellphone goes unanswered. Ms. Hyman's friends have papered the town with her image and raced to hospitals.

"I haven't got a plausible explanation," her father said. "She is the kind of person that if she was not going to get home in the evening, she would have told us and phoned home."

Ms. Hyman, a freelance photographer, moved back in with her parents a few years ago, daunted by London's sky-high property prices.

Her parents never even saw her that morning. "She left the house before we got out of bed," Mr. Hyman said.

Monika Suchocka, 23, called her friend Tracy Purdon Thursday morning to tell her about the mess at King's Cross: trains diverted, signal failures, lines closed down. She would take the bus to work instead, she said. Now Ms. Suchocka is one of the missing.

She arrived in London from Poland only two months ago. Like so many others in this expensive city, she shared an apartment, in her case, with two other Poles. She found a job right away in administration at London First, a work placement program.

She joined a choir here and, when she could, she played the piano. "This was her first time in London and she was really enjoying the excitement of it all," Ms. Purdon said.

Her parents are at a loss. They are in Poland and speak no English. But in grief, their reaction is universal. "They are devastated," Ms. Purdon said.

Rachelle Chung For Yuen came to London from Mauritius five years ago to study and work.

Falling in love with a man also from Mauritius was an unexpected bonus. The two married last year on their native island, which also seemed the perfect place to honeymoon.

In her time off, Ms. Yuen played backgammon. She loved movies but had no qualms about spending a quiet evening at home.

She left her North London apartment for work at 7:30 a.m., heading for the subway, the Piccadilly Line, as she always did. Then she vanished.

"We've done everything we could," said her brother-in-law, Jeffray Chung. "We don't know what to do any more apart from waiting for a phone call."

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