

## Senseless Murders of Moslem Worshipers in Christchurch, New Zealand

As part of the Greater Jewish Community of Harrisburg, Temple Beth Shalom joins in expressing our deepest condolence to the Muslim communities around the world, throughout our nation, and our hearts break with the Muslims in our local communities. We share the sentiments expressed by the Jewish Federations of North America:

*We are devastated by the senseless hate-filled terror attack targeting two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. Our Jewish community mourns the tragic loss of 49 innocent lives. We know all too well the price of terrorism, racism, and hatred. No person should ever have to fear attending a sacred place of worship. The xenophobia that led to this unspeakable bloodshed must be condemned in no uncertain terms by leaders worldwide and the public-at-large. Hatred and vitriol must have no place to manifest. We cannot allow it to continue to violate the moral and ethical core of our society.*

We also share the expression of solidarity expressed by the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg:

*In Harrisburg, the Muslim community was a source of strength to us after the senseless killings of 11 innocent worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. We stand in solidarity with the Muslim community now.*

From our hearts to our Muslim neighbors we are devastated by the tragic circumstance at Christchurch, where one or more terrorists acted on ignorance and blind prejudice to murder so many innocents enjoined in prayer. We ask ourselves, we who feel such love and compassion for our friends and neighbors who represent the diversity of humankind, how such thinking continues to prevail. We ask ourselves after every tragic event. We experienced the kindness and sympathy and tears and prayers from our neighbors in the community in the wake of the attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue, we give the same to our Muslim neighbors now.

Michael Tickner, President  
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