



Media Announcement

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The JCRC mourns the loss of teens murdered at Tel Aviv LGBT center

San Francisco, CA. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties condemns the attack on Saturday, August 1, 2009 at the Aguda: The Israeli Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Association in Tel Aviv, Israel, during a teen support group meeting. The attacker wounded 15 and killed 2 members of the center: 16 year old Liz Trubeshi, and 26 year old Nir Katz, a support group leader.

JCRC Executive Director Rabbi Douglas Kahn explains, "There is never any justification for killing of innocent people; this hateful and violent crime is contrary to Jewish teaching and to universal moral values."

JCRC President Ruvim Braude stated, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the injured and with the families of the victims. We join the Jewish community around the globe in mourning the tragic and untimely deaths of Liz Trubeshi and Nir Katz."

San Francisco Jewish Community Federation LGBT Alliance Director, Lisa Finkelstein stated, "The safety of LGBT youth is of utmost concern; this could happen at any center anywhere in the world and we need to raise awareness that homophobia anywhere impacts the LGBT community everywhere - especially our youth - and will not be tolerated."

San Francisco Jewish and gay organizations and individuals are organizing a candlelight vigil/memorial for tonight, Monday, August 3, to memorialize the young Israeli victims. People will gather at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (290 Dolores Street @ 16th Street) at 6:00pm, and march down Dolores Street and along Market Street to the San Francisco LGBT Center (1800 Market Street @ Octavia Street). Speakers will include: Rabbi Camille Angel; San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty; Jessica Trubowitch, Director of Legislative Affairs and Intergroup Relations for the Jewish Community Relations Council; a representative of the San Francisco LGBT Center; and a representative of Mayor Gavin Newsom. Vigil organizers include Rabbi Camille Angel (Congregation Sha'ar Zahav), San Francisco Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Martin Tannenbaum (LGBT Alliance), organizer/comedian Lisa Geduldig, The Jewish Community Federation of San Francisco, SF LGBT Center, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, and Kol Tzedek: A Bay Area Coalition of Jewish Organizations for Justice and LGBT Rights.