



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL
of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

For Immediate Release:

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JCRC Condemns Terrorist Attack in Jerusalem and Mourns Loss of Innocent Life

November 18, 2014: We are heartbroken and outraged by the terrorist attack that took place today in Jerusalem. Five Israelis, three of whom had dual American citizenship, were brutally murdered as they peacefully worshiped in Kehilat Bnei Torah synagogue in Jerusalem. There is no justification for attacks against innocent civilians. Our Jewish community mourns the loss of innocent life and our hearts and prayers are with the families of the victims. We are grateful to our interfaith friends who have reached out to us with their sympathy and concern.

Attacks like these are meant to spread fear and anger, and are intended to extinguish the hope for peace. This attack comes after weeks of increasing violence and incitement, praising those who commit such acts. While Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has condemned today's attack, the Palestinian Authority must consistently condemn violence and incitement, which it has failed to do in these last few weeks. We note that Hamas once again celebrated the killing of innocent Jews, as it continues to seek an end to the State of Israel.

We praise Israel's swift efforts to protect the safety and welfare of all synagogues, mosques, and churches to prevent acts of retaliation while ensuring the security of the Israeli people, Jewish and Arab alike. We join with those who urge restraint from vigilante acts of retaliation amidst our grief and anger. Justice must come through the rule of law. Those who aided and incited today's attacks must be brought to justice.

Even during these difficult times we remain committed to the goal of peace and a negotiated two-state solution, in which both the Israeli and Palestinian people live securely within mutually recognized and sovereign borders, as the best way to bring long-term peace to Israelis and Palestinians.

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