



Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans & ADL South Central Region Statement on the New Zealand Terror Attack

March 15, 2019 -- The Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans and the ADL South Central Region are horrified by today's terror attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, where a gunman murdered at least 49 people peacefully engaged in prayer at two mosques.

A place of worship should always be a place of peace and welcome. Our hearts are broken for the victims and their loved ones, and we pray for the full recovery of all those injured.

We are sickened by this act of wanton bloodshed and grotesque Islamophobia. The effects of intolerant rhetoric are far-reaching, and we urge our community to stand together with us against senseless violence and bigotry.

Arnie Fielkow, CEO of the Jewish Federation, stated: "These hate-motivated murders in Christchurch are truly sickening. As I've had to say in the aftermath of other, similar tragedies in recent months – too many times, unfortunately – hate against one is hate against all. We stand in solidarity with our Muslim community in Greater New Orleans, and express our deepest condolences to them and to the community in New Zealand."

"The safety and sanctity of houses of worship are being violated by hate and violence, whether a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, an AME church in South Carolina, or a synagogue in Pennsylvania," added Aaron Ahlquist, ADL's South Central Regional Director. "Their pain, and our pain, is now shared a world away by those impacted by the mosque shootings in Christchurch. Our condemnation comes with a call to action to examine the increasing role that technology and social media are playing in the spread of hate around the world."

Let us be unified by love and understanding, and not by hatred.

Arnie D. Fielkow | CEO | Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
Henry Miller | Board Chair | Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans
Bradley Bain | Chair | Jewish Community Relations Council
Aaron Ahlquist | Regional Director | ADL South Central