



**The Joseph Interfaith Foundation**

*United in a Vision for Truth*

## **The Joseph Interfaith Foundation's statement on yesterday's horrific murder of journalists and police officers in Paris**

**“The Joseph Interfaith Foundation is extremely saddened and horrified by yesterday's murder of the journalists of the newspaper Charlie Hebdo and the police officers in Paris. We condemn it unreservedly and offer our condolences to the families and friends of the victims.”**

The Foundation also supports the statement below:

Muslim Council of Britain Statement on Charlie Hebdo Massacre  
8 January 2015

The Muslim Council of Britain reiterated its condemnation of the barbarous murder of journalists at the French newspaper Charlie Hebdo. The attack has been condemned by Muslims in France, in Europe and around the world. In France, the French Muslim Council (CFCM) has said: “This extremely grave barbaric action is also an attack against democracy and the freedom of the press.”

Dr Shuja Shafi, Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain said: “Nothing justifies the taking of life. Those who have killed in the name of our religion today claim to be avenging the insults made against Prophet Muhammad, upon whom be peace. But nothing is more immoral, offensive and insulting against our beloved Prophet than such a callous act of murder. Our thoughts, prayers and solidarity go to the families of the victims and the people of France.

Naturally, and unfortunately discussion will now fall on the right to intentionally publish hurtful material that denigrates religious figures and traditions. But however offended we may be, the ultimate denigration of our faith comes from these murderers who have unjustifiably taken life.

In the coming weeks Muslims will face the test of having to justify themselves and their place in Western society. As Muslims we are ever mindful of our Lord's injunction to convey our true faith with wisdom and beautiful words. Indeed in the noble Qur'an we are told: 'The true servants of the Merciful are those who walk humbly on the earth and when the ignorant address them they say: Peace.'

In addition, while Muslims must engage with fellow citizens in a spirit of dialogue and friendship, we must all come together to seek unity and defy the terrorists whose only aim is to divide us. The best defence against closed minds is for a truly open society, welcoming of all."

Ref: <http://www.mcb.org.uk/paris-murders-jan-08-15/>