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PRESS RELEASE

Terrorist attacks in France and Lebanon

The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand issued a joint statement tonight with the NZ Human Rights Commission in the wake of recent terrorist attacks in France and Lebanon.

"We stand alongside all innocent victims of terrorism in peace, solidarity and humanity," said Hazim Arafah, president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand.

"The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand condemns all terrorist attacks and joins the rest of the world in deep sorrow as we mourn men, women and children murdered by terrorists and extremists."

Race Relations Commissioner Dame Susan Devoy urged New Zealanders to recognise "that terrorism has no religion and that Muslim Kiwis unreservedly and wholeheartedly condemn extremism and violence."

"The Human Rights Commission stands alongside Muslim New Zealanders in their continued and uncompromising call for peace," said Dame Susan.

"Hate starts small but so too does hope. Terrorism has no religion and neither does humanity: we urge Kiwis to stand together in humanity."

ENDS

Contact: Human Rights Commission - Christine Ammunson -
email - christinea@hrc.co.nz Cellphone - 027 445 7333

Contact: Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand -
Email - president@fianz.co.nz

A United and Progressive Community

7-11 Queens Drive, Lyall Bay, Wellington
PO Box 14-155, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6241 • New Zealand

Telephone +64 4 387 8023 • Facsimile +64 4 387 8024
Email fianz@vodafone.co.nz • Web www.fianz.org