

Rabbi Zamore's Message for February, 2015

Je Suis...

Friends,

As I write this, we are still processing the horror of what has just happened in France. Twelve murdered as terrorists seek to punish the journalists at *Charlie Hebdo*. Je suis Charlie, the signs proclaim. A Muslim police officer killed as he lies helplessly on the ground, wounded already. Je suis Ahmed. A police woman killed while guarding a Jewish school. Finally, at a kosher grocery store, four Jews assassinated and many others held waiting to see if they would live or die. Je suis Juif.

Je suis Who am I in all of this? I am sickened and pained. I believe that Democracy must guarantee and protect freedom of the press, even when I personally find the products of such a free press offensive. I believe that a pluralistic society must recognize the sacrifices and contributions of every citizen. I believe that such society, whether here or abroad, must never criminalize an entire people or religion, because of the violent and misled actions of radicals. I believe that every Democratic nation must be honest about the rise of Anti-Semitism and not fool ourselves that each ugly event stands on its own, an isolated anomaly.

I acknowledge that the Jews of France and of Europe are facing very difficult times. I am grateful for the existence of Israel, the safe haven of all Jews, but we cannot let the escalating Anti-Semitism go unchecked.

Je suis Charlie, Ahmed, Juif. Je suis aware, engaged and caring. I will not let these events fade into the background as the news cycle moves onto the next story. I join with all who stand against hate.

May peace increase in our world.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Mary L. Zamore

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