

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **STATEMENT OF AHMADIYYA MUSLIM COMMUNITY** **FOLLOWING FRANCE CHURCH ATTACK**

All members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community throughout the world have been left shocked and devastated by yesterday's murder of Father Jacques Hamel in a church in France.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community considers this to be an outrageous and evil attack that can never be justified in any way or under any circumstances.

The teachings of the Holy Quran and of the Founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) are of peace, tolerance and love for humanity.

The Quran says to kill even one innocent person is akin to killing all of humanity (Quran 5:33).

Throughout his life, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) condemned all forms of warfare, violence and injustice. He strictly instructed his followers that even in a state of defensive warfare, Muslims were not permitted to attack any religious leader, any place of worship or to target innocent people such as the elderly, women and children.

Today no nation and no group has waged war against Islam. Muslims are living freely here in the *West* and are able to practice their religion and so Muslims should be grateful for these freedoms. Thus the hatred manifested by terrorists and extremists is completely incomprehensible. Such terrorists and extremists are not defending Islam but rather are serving only to defame and discredit its name and its teachings.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community offers its deepest condolences to the family of Father Jacques Hamel and to all those affected.

We further offer our sympathies to Pope Francis, the Roman Catholic Church and to the people of France. We share in their grief and we share in their outrage.

We pray for peace in the world and for an end to all forms of terrorism, extremism and hatred.

**End**