

**ASSEMBLEE SPIRITUELLE NATIONALE  
DES BAHÁ'ÍS DE FRANCE**

Bureau des affaires extérieures des bahá'ís de France

**Message from the Baha'is of France to the bereaved families and loved ones  
following the *Charlie Hebdo* attack on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January,  
the Montrouge shooting of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of January and the hostage-taking  
incidents of the 9<sup>th</sup> of January**

**Paris, 10th January 2015 – The Baha'is of France have been deeply affected by the attack that took place at the editorial-office of *Charlie Hebdo*, the shootings of Montrouge and the hostage-taking incidents and convey their most sincere condolences to the bereaved families and loved ones of the victims.**

Hearts have been saddened and spirits afflicted since Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> of January. More than twenty innocent victims have been killed or grievously injured, amongst them: Philippe Braham, Frédéric Boisseau, Franck Brinsolaro, Cabu (Jean Cabut, his true name), Elsa Cayat, Yohan Cohen, Charb (Stéphane Charbonnier, his true name), Yoav Hattab, Honoré (Michel Honoré, his true name), Bernard Maris, Ahmed Merabet, Mustapha Ourrad, Clarissa Jean-Philippe, Michel Renaud, François-Michel Saada, Tignous (Bernard Verlhac, his true name) Georges Wolinski and the other innocent victims.

We have been deeply grieved by these events. We should strive to oppose prejudice collectively and individually and to establish the atmosphere of peace and fellowship that Baha'is yearn for. Each and all should be allowed to freely express their views and participate in the material and moral and betterment of civilization, draw on their most noble capacities, and discover their spiritual reality without being hindered by obscurantism and fanaticism. Is not true religion a cause of attraction, harmony and unity amongst all people?

At this time of shared intense emotion, defending the freedom of speech, the Baha'is convey their loving sympathy and support to those who have been afflicted by this tragedy. In the course of their regular devotional meetings held throughout France, their thoughts go out to these victims, for the consolation of their relatives and friends and for solidarity, peace and unity amongst mankind.

**“When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more powerful thought of love.” (Baha'i writings)**

Office of External Affairs of the Baha'is of France