

A Statement Regarding Terrorism and Retaliation
-Liberation from the Cycle of Hatred and Violence to Live Together in
Harmony-

With pain and horror, we witnessed terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13. There was little doubt that retaliation would occur. As Buddhists, we feel deep sorrow that this cycle of terrorism and retaliation seemingly has no end.

We of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha denomination express our deepest sympathy to all who were killed and to their families, to those injured in such incidents of all nations, organizations, religions, and beliefs.

The Buddha said, “All tremble at violence; Life is dear for all. Seeing others as being like oneself, do not kill or cause others to kill.” (Dhammapada) He teaches us that we must look inward to the seeds of hatred that exist in each of us.

The urge to retaliate arising from anger not only causes countless deaths. It destroys our humanity as well. Although difficult and challenging, we must search for the wisdom that can reveal to us the true nature of hatred and show us how to regain our appreciation of life.

Human beings cannot be liberated from hatred as long as we resort to violent retaliation. In reflecting on our history, that cycle of violence has created deep divisions between people. Each one of us is being asked to reflect on our collective and individual shame, to stop this endless cycle of violence, and to remain resolute. How we live right now is being questioned by our past and awaited by the future.

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