



SevenDays® statement on New Orleans attack  
From Mindy Corporon, Co-founder & The Board of Directors

Amid what should have been a carefree celebration, hatred claimed at least 14 lives and injured dozens on Bourbon Street in New Orleans as the New Year dawned. Those killed included a single mother, a father of two, a college student and a recent high school graduate.

**SevenDays®, an organization committed to overcoming hate by promoting kindness and understanding through education and dialogue, condemns the New Orleans attack and what it represents. Actions such as this are rooted in hatred and plant the seeds for additional hatred.**

**The New Orleans perpetrator, whom we won't name, was killed in a shoot-out with police.** Before the attack, the 42-year-old Army veteran and U.S. citizen from Texas had proclaimed his support for ISIS (Islamic State, also known as Daesh), the jihadist group that has unleashed terror attacks around the world. The FBI said an ISIS flag was located inside the vehicle the perpetrator used in the attack.

The Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR), the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization, joined the New Orleans Muslim community in mourning the Bourbon Street attack.

"If reports that the perpetrator was a man with a history of drunk driving and spousal abuse who plotted to kill his family before supposedly experiencing dreams telling him to join Daesh are true, then his crime is the latest example of why cruel, merciless, bottom-feeding extremist groups have been rejected by the overwhelming majority of the Muslim world – from Islamic scholars, to mosques, to organizations, and to individual Muslims," the Washington-based organization said.

Concerning to SevenDays® is the potential for a new wave of anti-Islamic sentiment in the United States.

Cory Saylor, research and advocacy director at CAIR, said "the best response is to stand together and rally around New Orleans, showing all such extremists that their vision of the world is garbage."

SevenDays® also condemns attempts to use the New Orleans attack to foment anti-Muslim propaganda. As the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars."

The nonprofit SevenDays® was created after the hate-based shooting in 2014 that claimed the lives of three innocent Kansas City area residents – Reat Underwood, his grandfather Dr. William Corporon, and Terri LaManno.

We offer many free resources on how to practice kindness and embrace the diversity that is our Kansas City and national community.

You can be a ripple of kindness today. Our website, [SevenDays.org](http://SevenDays.org), offers many ideas. TOGETHER-we shall overcome hate with kindness.

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