

National Black Church Initiative

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NBCI Offers Condolences to the Families Who Lost Loved Ones in the Connecticut Shooting

Whether or not racism was involved, the Black church must speak out against violence

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 34,000 churches, wishes to extend sincere condolences to the 10 individuals hurt or killed in the shooting in Connecticut. NBCI is saddened for the families affected by this tragedy and mourns the loss of 8 lives so brutally and undeservingly taken on August 3, 2010. In a civil society, no matter what the catalyst is, violence is never the appropriate means in dealing with anger. Despite Omar Thornton's allegations of racial harassment, to pull a gun as a remedy is irrational, unethical and morally reprehensible. Racism is a very real issue unfortunately prevalent in this country but there are ways of dealing with this injustice. Violence, especially murder, is never an acceptable solution. We must seek to resolve our conflicts with the spirit and action of equality - vicious bloodlust only exacerbates existing prejudices and dysfunctions. As Martin Luther King so aptly said, "Violence begets violence, and we must break the cycle of violence."

In a time of heightened economic stressors, tenuous national security, and various other fundamental struggles, it is imperative that our nation comes together to overcome these issues. The perpetuation of violence and rash conduct can never help our society to achieve success in surmounting the various problems it faces. It is daunting to think that someone would actually be capable of committing such cruel and heinous acts of murder, and it must be made publicly known that in no situation could this ever be justified. Therefore, the Black church has nothing but one potential way to deal with this problem. We must condemn the actions of this young man and the violence that he perpetrated on his victims. We must also pray for his soul and ask God to have mercy.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, states, "Jesus, Gandhi, and Martin Luther King warned us that we may one day evolve into a society whereby rational and irrational individuals both choose violence as their only means of human expression. We must find a way out of this vicious circle of hatred. In previous press releases, I have called for a national conversation on race, but I also must call for a national conversation on violence. This is why I will not hesitate to condemn the vicious actions of this young man because of the broad misery he has spread not only in Connecticut, but across the entire country. We will not tolerate violence from African Americans or any other race. All violence must be condemned."

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The National Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The National Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work.