

National Black Church Initiative

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE CONDEMNS HELEN THOMAS' REMARKS OF HATRED

Remarks Do Not Help Peace Process or Race Relations

Washington DC- Helen Thomas' resignation on Monday, June 7th brings a sad end to an illustrious, trailblazing career. The impetus of her resignation was her now infamous statements regarding Israel – statements that in the course of mere days tarnished a lifetime of work. Her downfall serves as a stark reminder of the power of words, especially for the war-torn Middle East. By leveling statements that Jews should “go home” Thomas has highlighted the pervasive race issues plaguing not only Israel but the world. These remarks not only incense an already volatile region but characterize the complex issue of race and nationality as something that can be solved by merely separating groups of people.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, “The Church takes no joy in condemning a 90 year old journalist who was beloved by many Americans. Nonetheless, her words were ugly and reprehensible. Jews have a right to live anywhere in this world – they do not need to leave Palestine or anywhere. The existence of Israel is key to my faith and key to many of the world's religions. Ms. Thomas, who has been in the public eye for years, misdirected her rage, which stemmed from the continuing unrest in the Middle East, to the Jews. These remarks should be strongly repudiated from those of us who seek peace between Palestinians and Jews.”

Peace, a long elusive concept in Israel, should be our goal. There are daily reminders in the Middle East that violence, bigotry, and inflexibility are not working. It is easy to become frustrated with the lack of progress and point fingers but the truth is, many factors are at play which contribute to the unrest - clearly it is ludicrous to insinuate otherwise. Sadly, Ms. Thomas learned this lesson the hard way.

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.