

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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National Black Church Initiative Condemns The Racially Motivated Killing at the Holocaust Museum

*NBCI offers its prayers to the family of slain security
guard and his shooter*

Washington, DC – The National Black Church Initiative and its coalition of 34,000 churches strongly condemns the recent shooting at the Holocaust Museum. James W. Von Brunn is identified as the man who walked into the Holocaust Museum determined to murder innocent Blacks and Jews. This is an unspeakable crime that should not be taken lightly under any circumstances. NBCI looks upon this criminal act as a continuation of the ever growing list of shooters around the country who despise minorities and the tremendous achievements they have made within the context of the American Dream. Let us be mindful that Von Brunn consciously chose the Holocaust Museum, which is dedicated to teaching all of us of the horror of the Nazi Holocaust and underscores man's raw inhumanity to man.

Jews and Blacks have always been targeted in our American society and that has not changed to date. We must remain ever so vigilant in order to stamp this type of hatred out. The Holocaust Museum does not only represent the horror of the Jewish people, but also symbolizes the 25 million Africans who died in the Middle Passage and all other acts of genocide. Blacks and Jews continue to be the target of hatred and in many cases both peoples have played a role of healing and have been a symbol of tolerance throughout history. We vow to speak against every single act of injustice, and are even more powerfully moved to do so because in this case it was a Black soul that protected and fertilized the hallowed grounds of this great museum - Stephen Tyrone Johns.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, said, "I could not believe my ears when I heard that Mr. Von Brunn would have chosen the sacred place of the Holocaust

Museum to perpetuate this deadly poison from his heart and extinguish the light of the life of Stephen Tyrone Johns. He knew exactly what he was doing. It was an act against Blacks and Jews. Now Mr. Von Brunn's life and memory will serve as a strong bond between Blacks and Jews. When a Jewish person speaks of Blacks not caring anymore about Israel than they once did I vow to invoke the name of Stephen Tyrone Johns. When Blacks speak of the fact that Jews don't care for us as they once did, again I vow to provoke the name of Stephen Tyrone Johns. Mr. Johns will serve as a permanent reminder of the interwoven destiny of Blacks and Jews to be the people of tolerance, justice, peace and mercy. These two groups have shed too much blood for humanities sake to allow petty differences to get in our way of binding our histories together. Mr. Johns has taught us through his death what one soul can do for evil; God can make it for good."

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI's purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.