

OCTOBER 30, 2020

## AL MAWLID AL NABAWÎ 2020 IN MOURNING

On behalf of all its members, AISA International NGO strongly condemns the heinous act committed today at the Notre Dame Basilica in Nice.

It is with deep sadness that we send our condolences and prayers to the families of the victims, to their loved ones and to all our Christian sisters and brothers. We share our compassion and support as we grieve with them.

This act—perpetrated not only in a place of Christian worship and meditation, but also on the day of the celebration of the birth of Prophet Mohamed, peace be with him—is a violation of the very essence of his universal message.

Last year, a commemoration of this holy day was held in the city of Nice in the presence of the city's mayor, Mr. Christian Estrosi, and many other personalities.

It is our hope that this tragedy will open our eyes to the urgency and perseverance needed to build a civic society of Living together in peace; one based on respect, kindness and the strengthening of bonds between all people who believe in universal brotherhood.

More than ever, we wish that this day be, for all of us, a time for meditation and revival of the teaching of Prophet Mohamed, peace be with him. In his letter to the Christians of Najran, he proclaimed the charter of protection—granted by God and his apostle to them or to any other Christian community.

*“In truth, Christians are my allies and have my complete support against anything that upsets them. No one should force them to travel or to fight against their will. Muslims must fight for them, if need be. If a Christian woman is to marry a Muslim man, the marriage should not stand without her approval. Once married, no one should prevent her from going to church to pray. Their churches are under the protection of the Muslims. No one should prevent them from repairing or renovating them. The sanctity of their covenant should not be abused under any circumstances. **No Muslim should ever violate this covenant...**”*

Within the context of the abhorrent reality in which we live, this charter highlights the Mohammedan spirit that preaches and practices tolerance, freedom of worship, and the right to be different. We can, by no means, legitimize these acts that are in absolute contradiction with the Muslim tradition. Our hope is that this moment will encourage Muslims to reflect, and to distinguish between what leads to the path of murderous ideologies and what leads to the path of the **Essential**.