

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION**

HEBRON MASSACRE

1994

"One who destroys a single life is as if one destroys an entire world; one who saves a single life is as if one has saved an entire world." -Sanhedrin 4:5

"God is peace, God's name is peace, and all is bound together in peace." -Zohar

As Jews we have a responsibility to protest against all acts of injustice. We are taught:

"Whoever can prevent members of his household from committing a sin but does not is punished for the sins of his household.

If he can prevent his fellow citizens from committing sins but does not, he is punished for the sins of his fellow citizens.

If he can prevent the whole world from committing sins but does not, he is punished for the sins of the whole world." -Talmud, Shabbat 54b

As Jews we are outraged by the murderous assault against the Muslim worshipers of Hebron while engaged in prayer on the first Sabbath of their holy month of Ramadan. This act of blind rage and violence by a Jewish extremist is all the more deplorable because it took place on a the Jewish holiday of Purim which sensitizes us to the evil of racial intolerance and religious hatred. This massacre of 39 religious worshipers on their holy day was a perversion of our religious principles and a desecration of all that we hold to be sacred.

As Jews, we condemn the murderous acts of Jewish extremists no less than the Arab extremists who murdered a pregnant woman in the presence of her family, among the lives of their other innocent victims. The extremists on both sides are united in their desperate efforts to derail the peace process. We mourn the tragic loss of life to both Arabs and Jews, and we see these violent acts of hatred as all the more reason to reaffirm the paths of peace.

We call upon Jews of conscience and people of goodwill everywhere to join us in condemning the violence and lending renewed support to the pursuit of peace.