

**For Immediate Release 12:00 p.m.
December 12, 2019**

Tikvat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue, Cleveland, Ohio

Responds to Jersey City, N.J. shooting.

*No weapon formed against you will prosper and you will condemn every tongue that rises
against you in judgment. (Isaiah 54:17a)*

Cleveland— December 12, 2019 — On Tuesday, December 10th; another violent Anti-Semitic attack occurred; this time at a Kosher market in Jersey City, NJ. Some of the known victim's names were Moshe Deutsch, the 24-year-old son of a well-known community leader in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, and Mindel Ferencz. A total of six individuals have died including slain Jersey City Police officer, Detective Joseph Seals. The two gunmen who were finally neutralized by Police have been linked to the known Hate Group: Black Hebrew Israelite Movement. “Black Hebrew Israelites (a.k.a. Black Hebrews, African Hebrew Israelites, and Hebrew Israelites) are groups of Black Americans who believe that they are descendants of the ancient Israelites. Some groups are more militant, extreme, and/or violent than others. There are several different branches and networks of these groups, but one theological point they all seem to have in common is the core belief that all Africans and African-Americans are the “True Israel” while all of the commonly known Jewish people of the world are fakes, and a “conspiracy”. Holocaust denial also seems pervasive within their ranks. We believe this kind of theology is dangerous. More information and Tikvat Yisrael's official position paper regarding “Black Hebrew Israelites” is available on our website at: <https://tikvatcleveland.org/about-us/what-we-do-not-believe>

Not only is the Black Hebrew Israelite movement’s rhetoric dangerous; added to this, in just the last month two student-groups: Free Palestine and Oberlin Jewish Voice for Peace at Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio; erected a “memorial” to 34 known Jihadi Terrorists (including a commemoration of Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorist Baha Abu al-Atta) at their campus located just 40 miles from Cleveland. “Oberlin College has been plagued with highly publicized cases of anti-Semitism, including in 2015, in which an (Oberlin) professor, Joy Karega, claimed that Israelis and Jews were behind the Charlie Hebdo attacks, 9/11 and that the prominent Rothschild banking family “financed both sides of every war since Napoleon.” In 2016, students put a banner on Rosh Hashanah saying that their tuition funds genocide committed by Israel. Similarly, Meredith Raimondo, (Oberlin’s latest vice president and dean of students) gained controversy for featuring solely anti-Israel perspectives, some with Anti-Semitic views, in a course she was giving. The commemoration was designed to increase awareness of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement”¹ Unfortunately, the only accomplishment BDS and other anti-Israel groups such as Oberlin College achieve is to incite violent hate crimes to be committed against the Jewish Community; in the U.S. and abroad.

Tikvat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue stands in unity with our Jewish people in condemning the tongues of all expressions of Anti-Semitism, BDS, and organizations that promote anti-Israel/Jewish hate rhetoric such as Oberlin College, in all its various forms; in addition to ethnic as well as all religious hate crime universally.

The house of worship here at Tikvat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue remains diligent for years now we’ve enforced safety plans and all possible due diligence measures of security. We

¹ (Staff, 2019)

indeed will not fear in our place of worship; as it is written, “*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.*” (Psalm 121:4).

For more information, press only:

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For more information on:

www.tikvatcleveland.org

Works Cited

Staff, J. P. (2019, 25 November). Oberlin students place memorial to Palestinian Islamic Jihad terrorists. Jerusalem, Israel. Retrieved from <https://www.jpost.com/Diaspora/Oberlin-students-place-memorial-to-Palestinian-Islamic-Jihad-terrorists-608931>