

APPENDIXES

New Zealand mosque terror shooting could happen in the UK carried out by neo-Nazis, security minister admits

18 Mar 2019, 10:40 AM

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8660956/new-zealand-mosque-terror-shooting-could-happen-in-the-uk-by-neo-nazis-security-minister-admits/>

A NEW Zealand-style terror attack at a mosque could happen right here in Britain carried out by neo-Nazis, the security minister admitted today.

Ben Wallace said today that it was "absolutely" possible that a far-right fanatic could storm into a Muslim place of worship in the UK.

It comes just days after 50 people were killed by an extremist in a horrific attack in Christchurch last week by white supremacist Brenton Tarrant.

Police stepped up protection at UK mosques after the rampage with more patrols and safety advice.

Mr Wallace said the Government was worried about a "growing" number of people in the UK driven by sick far-right thoughts.

"It absolutely could happen here," he stressed. "It's why the Government has been concerned about a group of people crossing into the extreme mindset on the far-right, and neo-Nazis."

Terrorists are looking to recruit from Brits who think it's OK to engage in violent extremism, he warned.

His comments come as the Muslim Council of Britain begged ministers for more resources to protect their mosques.

Spokesperson Miqdaad Versi told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "There is a real worry that, given how open mosques are, people are able to enter mosques; the level of security at mosques is basically non-existent because it's an open place.

"There is a real concern that things might need to change."

He said that the Government wasn't properly engaging with the Council and other Muslim institutions.

Mr Wallace said if the threat level went up then more funding would be pumped into security.

Schools, universities and the media have a duty to challenge people's perceptions and views to make sure hard-line views are discussed, he added.

"All of us have a responsibility to confront that," he added.

A teenager appeared in court today accused of sharing the full sick live-stream of the massacre - and faced 14 years if he's found guilty.

Facebook, Twitter and Google scrambled to take down the video, which was widely available on social media for hours after the bloodbath.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 28, a suspected white supremacist, has been charged with murder for the mosque shootings.

His only family have said the "twisted" maniac deserves the death penalty as they apologised to the victims of the tragedy.

Sunday saw a steady stream of mourners paying tribute at a makeshift memorial to those killed, while dozens of Muslims stood by to bury the dead when authorities finally release their loved ones' bodies.

Hundreds of flowers have been piled up amid candles, balloons and notes of grief and love outside the Al Noor mosque.

How Christchurch terrorist Brenton Tarrant went from smiling tot to white supremacist maniac who murdered 49 after trips to North Korea and Pakistan

15 Mar 2019, 12:43 PM

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8642007/new-zealand-mosque-shooting-manifesto-anders-breivik/>

THE terrorist who filmed himself slaughtering Muslims in a New Zealand mosque is understood to have become radicalised after travelling to North Korea and Pakistan.

Brenton Tarrant described himself as "a regular white man, from a regular family" - as his former gym manager confirmed his identity from the live stream footage.

Tracey Gray said Tarrant worked with kids as a personal trainer at Big River Gym in New South Wales between 2009 and 2011 before travelling extensively through Asia and Europe - which some believe is how he became radicalised.

He is said to have made some money from Bitconnect, a cryptocurrency similar to Bitcoin, and used those funds to travel the world.

Tarrant set off for the seven-year trip around the world after his dad Rodney Tarrant died of cancer aged 49.

In his chillingly warped 74-page manifesto, Tarrant described how he had been preparing for the attack since his trip to Europe two years ago.

During his visit to France, he described a town in Eastern France as a "cursed place".

He wrote: "In every French city, in every french town the invaders were there.

"No matter where I travelled, no matter how small or rural the community I visited, the invaders were there.

"For every French man or woman there was double the number of invaders.

"I had seen enough, and in anger, drove out of the the town, refusing to stay any longer in the cursed place and headed on to the next town."

Photos shared on social media show him smiling while visiting Pakistan in October 2018.

In another image from online he is seen with a tour group visiting the Samjiyon Grand Monument in North Korea.

Gray told ABC that he was passionate about working with kids, but believes he never had an interest in firearms before travelling.

She said: "I think something must have changed in him during the years he spent travelling overseas."

Former friends have speculated Tarrant was "perhaps radicalised" while on his travels, the New Zealand Herald reports.

'WELL-MANNERED YOUNG MAN'

In one family photo, Tarrant is a toddler and smiles as his father holds up while posed with his mother and sister.

His family who still live in his hometown of Grafton are said to be in shock and were assisting the authorities with their investigations.

They are trying to come to terms with how a "polite, well-mannered young man" evolved into a killer, Sky News reports.

He wrote the disturbing manifesto after he was inspired by Anders Breivik - the far-right terrorist who killed 69 kids of a Workers' Youth League on the island of Utøya in Norway in 2011.

Tarrant vowed to take revenge for the "thousands of European lives lost to terror attacks".

In the sickening manifesto, titled The Great Replacement, he declared that he wishes he'd "killed more invaders and traitors".

He also wrote: "I have read the writings of Dylan Roof and many others, but only really took true inspiration from Knight Justiciar Breivik."

The use of "Knight" is a reference to the Knight's Templar - a legion of Christian soldiers from the 12th century.

The author of the manifesto - which features a circular design mentioning "ethnic autonomy" - is understood to have filmed himself using a GoPro as he fired at worshippers in the Masjid Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch.

At least 49 were killed and 48 others injured after the attack at the Masjid Al Noor Mosque and the nearby Linwood Masjid at around 1.40pm on Friday.

Three men and one woman are now in custody.

It was originally reported one of the people arrested were wearing a suicide vest, but that theory has now been discounted by police.

The graphic footage of the attack and manifesto were published on the Facebook account of Brenton Tarrant. His profile has since been removed.

The names of the gunmen have not yet been confirmed by police.

When writing why he carried out the evil massacre, the shooter said: "To take revenge on the invaders for the hundreds of thousands of deaths caused by foreign invaders in European lands throughout history.

"By the definition, then yes. It is a terrorist attack. But I believe it is a partisan action against an occupying force."

'BY DEFINITION IT'S A TERRORIST ATTACK'

He boasted that he chose to use firearms so he could influence politics in the US.

He wrote that he wanted to "create conflict between the two ideologies within the United States on the ownership of firearms in order to further the social, cultural, political and racial divide".

And he ranted about his hopes that "this conflict over the 2nd amendment and the attempted removal of firearms rights will ultimately result in a civil war that will eventually balkanize the US along political, cultural and, most importantly, racial lines."

The suspected shooter described himself as an "ordinary white man born in Australia to a working class, low income family."

He wrote: "My parents are of Scottish, Irish and English stock. I had a regular childhood, without any great issues."

He said he had "little interest in education" and "did not attend University as I had no great interest in anything offered in the Universities to study.

"I am just a regular white man, from a regular family. Who decided to take a stand to ensure a future for my people."

In footage too distressing to show, the gunman executes people at point blank range – including one girl who lies on the floor screaming for help.

The man, who was dressed in military clothing, was even seen re-entering the mosque and shooting piles of groaning bodies.

Two gunmen attacked Masjid Al Noor Mosque in Christchurch and the Linwood Masjid at around 1.40pm on Friday.

The Bangladesh cricket team were among worshippers caught up in the carnage.

Mohammed Nazir told TVNZ he saw three women bleeding on the ground outside at Masjid Al Noor Mosque.

Another witness told the station: “My husband was driving past he said he took three people to the hospital, one was a little girl, all been shot.

“He wanted to take more he said there was like a dozen people just lying on the road.”

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern called it “one of New Zealand’s darkest days”.

Small children are said to be among the dead, and bodies have been reported laying on the ground outside.

A massive police response is under way with the city locked down.

Canterbury Police tweeted: “We have a critical incident in Christchurch. Please avoid the area. We will give more in the near future.”

Sheltering Islam from criticism has emboldened radicals and created a world for monsters

6 Jun 2017, 09:34 PM

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3740078/sheltering-islam-from-criticism-has-emboldened-radicals-and-created-a-world-for-monsters/>

ANOTHER month, another atrocity.

This time the targets were Saturday-night revellers in London Bridge and Borough. Mown and stabbed for the crime of having fun. Killed for being free.

And almost instantly, even before we knew how many souls had perished, we saw the same craven response that follows every act of Islamist terror.

“Watch out for an Islamophobic backlash”, aloof observers and leftists said.

Once again, their minds were agitated more by the thought of stupid white people saying something rude about Islam than by an act of Islamist mass murder.

Their greatest fear is always what us ill-read plebs, as they see us, will say and do after a terror attack.

Even as the details of the latest outrage are unfolding on the rolling news they’re taking to Twitter and the media to lecture the throng.

“Don’t be mean about Islam”, they snootily warn. Not only is this a deeply patronising response that treats ordinary people as a greater threat to social stability than gangs of theocratic murderers — it’s also an incredibly dangerous one.

It is becoming increasingly clear that our unwillingness to criticise Islam, to throw it open to the same scepticism and mockery that every other religion and ideology faces, plays into the terrorists' hands.

It emboldens their belief that Islam is perfect and beyond rebuke, and that anyone who says otherwise deserves punishment.

Yes, one of the main problems we face is not that our society is too mean about Islam, but that it flatters Islam too much.

Islam now enjoys the same kind of moral protection from ridicule that Christianity once, wrongly, enjoyed. If you criticise the Koran or question whether women should wear the full-face veil, you'll be branded "Islamophobic" and elbowed out of polite society.

Student unions regularly refuse people they judge too critical of Islam to be given a platform to speak — a policy known as "no platforming". They accuse these critics of "spreading hate".

Campaign groups like Tell Mama trawl Twitter and the press for unkind words about Islam and log them all as evidence of a "rising tide of hate".

Things are so bad that political leaders won't even use the I-word when talking about terrorism.

When Ukip leader Paul Nuttall broke with this informal diktat and said "Islamism" during the BBC General Election debate last week, he was rounded on by the other panellists.

Green Party leader Caroline Lucas branded him "completely outrageous" for suggesting recent terror attacks are "somehow representative of Islam".

He had committed the cardinal speech-crime of our era: he said something a little bit critical of Islam.

After the Manchester Arena attack, the city's mayor Andy Burnham said the attacker was just an "extremist".

As legendary Mancunian Morrissey quipped: "An extreme what? An extreme rabbit?"

Our leaders and many in the media constantly censor themselves, flat-out refusing to say anything bad about Islam. And they police the minds and words of the rest of us.

This censorious privilege is not extended to any other religion.

We do not avoid saying "Catholic paedophiles" about the priests who molested children for fear of tarring all Catholics with the same brush.

We happily say "Christian fundamentalist" about people who are Christian and fundamentalist.

And yet Islam is ring-fenced from tough discussion. Criticism of Islam is virtually treated as a mental illness — it's a "phobia", and a phobia, of course, is an irrational fear. Thou Shalt Not Speak Ill Of Mohammed — the key commandment of our age.

This is incredibly dangerous. This censorious flattery of Islam is, in my view, a key contributor to violence in recent years.

Because when you constantly tell people that any mockery of their religion is tantamount to a crime, is vile and racist, you actively invite them to become intolerant.

You license their intolerance. You inflame their violent contempt for anyone who questions their dogmas.

You provide a moral justification for their desire to punish those who insult their religion.

From the 7/7 bombers to the Charlie Hebdo murderers to Salman Abedi in Manchester, all these terrorists expressed an extreme victim mentality and openly said they were punishing us for our disrespect of Islam or our ridicule of Mohammed.

According to those who knew him, Abedi was obsessed with Islamophobia. He apparently once reported a schoolteacher over his “Islamophobic” line of questioning about conflicts in the Middle East.

When a friend of his was stabbed, Abedi was convinced it was an Islamophobic hate crime, even though there was no evidence for this. He was convinced everyone hated Islam, and that hating Islam was the worst thing in the world. Where could he have got an idea like that?

Likewise, one of the London Bridge attackers,

, mixed with a gang of Islamists who were incredibly sensitive and hostile to criticism of Islam.

Butt appeared on last year’s Channel 4 documentary ‘The Jihadists Next Door’. He and his fellow Islamist loudmouths were fans of the radical American preacher Ahmad Musa Jibril, whose finger-wagging YouTube sermons are packed with denouncements of the “kuffar” (non-believers).

There’s a depressing, unholy marriage between the chattering class’s attitude to Islam and the demands of these hot-headed radicals: both believe Islam must be defended from public questioning.

Our leaders want to defend it from what they patronisingly view as a dim-witted public. Islamists want to defend it from kuffars.

But the cry is the same: Islam must never be demeaned. It’s wonderful. Bow down.

What really stood out in that documentary, which I watched again on Monday night, was the narcissism of the aspiring jihadists, including Butt.

They publicly displayed the IS flag in London's Regent's Park.

They stood on street corners telling people they would go to hell for criticising Islam (a more fiery version of being No Platformed for criticising Islam).

And not many members of the public, far less officials or thinkers, confronted them and debated them. Probably for fear of being branded Islamophobic. We're not allowed to criticise Muslims, right?

Force-fielding Islam from the to and fro of public debate has been a disaster. It has green-lighted Islamist intolerance.

There are no quick fixes to the terror problem, but here is a good start: we should oppose all clampdowns on offence and blasphemy and Islamophobia.

All of them, whether they are legal, in the form of hate-speech laws, or informal, in the guise of Twittermobs against critics of Islam or self-censoring politicians being literally struck dumb on TV because they cannot muster up the word "Islamist".

This will at least start the process of unravelling the Islamist victimhood narrative and its bizarre, violent, officially sanctioned sensitivity to criticism.

The response of our supposed betters to terror outrages — where they say, "Don't blame Islam, don't criticise Islam" — is the worst response imaginable.

It inflames the very religious narcissism and violent self-pity that motors many of these attacks.

Making criticism of Islam as commonplace as criticism of any other religion is the first step to robbing Islamist terrorism of its warped moral agenda.

It will also send a clear message to everyone in Britain: that our society prizes freedom of speech above everything else, including your religion, your prophets, your holy book and your feelings.

We must be able to criticise Islam without fear of being branded Islamophobes

27 Mar 2017, 11:02 PM

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/3193250/we-must-be-able-to-criticise-islam-without-fear-of-being-branded-islamophobes/>

“IT is wrong to describe this as Islamic terrorism. It is Islamist terrorism. It is a perversion of a great faith.”

This is what the Prime Minister said last week in Parliament.

While I completely accept that the sins of extremists should never be visited on the vast majority of moderate believers, I am increasingly uneasy about how we handle the connection between religion and extremism.

The ideology to which Khalid Masood was converted in prison may indeed be a perversion of Islam, but it is a version of it.

We should not shy away from saying so.

After Nice, Maajid Nawaz of the Quilliam Foundation wrote that saying such terrorism has nothing to do with Islam is as dangerous as stating it has everything to do with Islam.

The terrorists in London, Paris, Brussels, Nice, Munich, Berlin, Würzburg, Ansbach, Orlando, San Bernardino, Sydney, Bali, New York, Bombay and many other places have been white, black and brown, rich, poor and middle class, male and female, gay and straight, immigrant and native, young and (now) older.

The one thing they have in common is they had been radicalised by religious preachers claiming to interpret the Koran.

Islamist terrorism has become more frequent, but criticism of Islam seems to be becoming less acceptable

Moreover, while a few sick individuals find within Islam justification for murder and terror, a far larger number find justification for misogyny and intolerance.

We must be allowed to say this without being thought to criticise Muslims as people.

Islamist terrorism has become more frequent, but criticism of the faith of Islam, and of religion in general, seems to be becoming less acceptable, as if it were equivalent to racism or blasphemy.

The charge of Islamophobia is too quickly levelled.

Friday's press release from Malia Bouattia, president of the National Union of Students, is a case in point.

It failed to mention by name the murdered policeman Keith Palmer and highlighted how Muslims "will be especially fearful of racism".

Race and religion are very different things.

I admire many religious people.

I am prepared to accept that being religious can make some individuals better people, though I also think it is preferable to be moral without having faith.

I am even open to the possibility that the best defence against extremism is a gentler version of religion.

But I think that, rather than there being good religion and bad religion, there is a spectrum of religious belief, from virtuous morality to politicised violent terror.

At one end are people inspired by faith to think only of how to help those in need.

At the other are people who kill policemen and tourists, throw homosexuals off buildings, carry out female genital mutilation and throw acid in the faces of

women who have stood up against the male code (there were 431 acid attacks in Britain last year).

In between, though, are positions that also contain dangers, albeit more subtle, ones.

There are people who would not commit violence themselves but think women should be the chattels of men, wearing of veils is mandatory and Sharia should reign.

Then there are people who think homosexuality is sinful, contraception is wrong and slaughtering animals by cutting throats is more moral than stunning them.

I do not condemn such beliefs as evil, but nor do I respect them.

On LBC radio last week the journalist James O'Brien said of those, like Masood, who have made the journey from faith to extremism: "Don't we have to start mocking the early stages of that journey?"

"People who believe that chopping off a child's foreskin is going to make it easier for them to get into heaven.

"People who believe that eating fish on Fridays is somehow going to please their god."

In 1979, some Christians took offence at Monty Python's Life of Brian.

The Christians were angry, but the Pythons did not go into hiding.

Two years ago, in the wake of the murder of his fellow satirists at Charlie Hebdo, the late Australian cartoonist Bill Leak drew cartoons of the Prophet.

He was forced to sell his house and move to a secret location.

In 2004, after the media was filled with discussion of how the Boxing Day tsunami was an "act of God", I said to a friend: "The tsunami was not an act of God, but 9/11 was."

Would I dare say the same today about the events of last week, or would I pause now to consider how it would get me into trouble?

Saying such terrorism has nothing to do with Islam is as dangerous as saying it has everything to do with Islam

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali wrote at the weekend of the “creeping Islamisation of communities” and called for an Islamic reformation to respect freedom of religion, abjure legal punishment for blasphemy and agree that women should be equal in law.

Yet despite two decades of partly religion-inspired violence, those who call for an Islamic reformation, such as Mr Nawaz, are increasingly vilified by many on the left.

Three days before the Westminster attack, the BBC’s Asian Network quite rightly apologised for asking “What is the right punishment for -blasphemy?” shortly after an outspoken atheist had been hacked to death in India for expressing his views.

There have been 48 murders of atheists in Bangladesh in recent years.

Yet it is now more acceptable to attack “militant atheists” than militant theists. Blasphemy is back.

We can and must make an offer to the fundamentalist Muslims: abandon your political ambitions and become a religion as this has come to be understood in a diverse and tolerant world — a private moral code, a way of life — and you will find the rest of us to be friends.

But threaten the hard-won political, intellectual and physical freedoms now accorded to every man and woman in our essentially secular society and you will be resisted.

And, pray God, defeated.

Manifesto claims NZ shootings were revenge

15 Mar 2019, 04:34 AM

[dailymail.co.uk/wires/aap/article-6812235/Manifesto-claims-NZ-shootings-revenge.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/aap/article-6812235/Manifesto-claims-NZ-shootings-revenge.html)

A man claiming to have been born in Australia has issued a 74-page "manifesto" saying he carried out the fatal shootings at Christchurch mosques to avenge the deaths of thousands in Europe.

The man had prepared his manifesto titled "The Great Replacement" and posted it on a message board website.

He describes himself as "Just an ordinary White man, 28 years old. Born in Australia to a working class, low income family."

He said he had a regular childhood but had little interest in education and has recently worked as a "kebab removalist".

Under a heading "Why did you carry out the attack?" he says it was to avenge "thousands of deaths caused by foreign invaders."

"To most of all show the invaders that our lands will never be their lands, our homelands are our own and that, as long as a white man still lives, they will NEVER conquer our lands and they will never replace our people," he writes.

"To take revenge on the invaders for the hundreds of thousands of deaths caused by foreign invaders in European lands throughout history.

"To take revenge for the enslavement of millions of Europeans taken from their lands by the Islamic slavers.

"To take revenge for the thousands of European lives lost to terror attacks throughout European lands.

"To directly reduce immigration rates to European lands by intimidating and physically removing the invaders themselves.

"To incite violence, retaliation and further divide between the European people and the invaders currently occupying European soil.

"To avenge those European men and women lost in the constant and never ending wars of European history who died for their lands, died for their people only to have their lands given away to any foreign scum that bother to show up."

A video has also been posted on social media of the gunman arming himself, leaving his car and walking into the mosque where he opens fire, killing multiple people.

Mosque attacks spark outrage, fuel concern over Islamophobia

15 Mar 2019, 07:24 AM

[dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-6812521/Turkeys-Erdogan-condemns-New-Zealand-mosque-attack.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-6812521/Turkeys-Erdogan-condemns-New-Zealand-mosque-attack.html)

BRUSSELS (AP) - World leaders expressed condolences and condemnation Friday following the deadly attacks on mosques in New Zealand, while Muslim leaders said the mass shooting was evidence of a rising tide of violent Islamophobia.

In a tweet, U.S. President Donald Trump sent "warmest sympathy and best wishes" to the people of New Zealand.

He wrote that "49 innocent people have so senselessly died, with so many more seriously injured. The U.S. stands by New Zealand for anything we can do. God bless all!"

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan called the attacks the "latest example of rising racism and Islamophobia."

New Zealand police said at least 49 people were killed Friday at two mosques in the picturesque South Island city of Christchurch. More than 20 were seriously wounded in what Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern called a "terrorist attack."

One man was arrested and charged with murder in what appeared to be a carefully planned racist attack. Police also defused explosive devices in a car. Two other people were being held in custody and police were trying to determine how they might be involved.

Speaking at the funeral of a former minister, Erdogan said the Islamophobia that motivated the attacks "has rapidly started to take over Western communities like a cancer."

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan echoed those sentiments.

"I blame these increasing terror attacks on the current Islamophobia post-9/11 where Islam & 1.3 bn Muslims have collectively been blamed for any act of terror by a Muslim," he tweeted.

The secretary-general of the 57-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Youssef al-Othaimen, said in a statement that the attack "served as a further warning on the obvious dangers of hate, intolerance, and Islamophobia."

Queen Elizabeth II, who is New Zealand's head of state, said in a message to the country she was "deeply saddened by the appalling events in Christchurch" and sent condolences to families and friends of victims. The queen also paid tribute to emergency services and volunteers supporting the injured.

"At this tragic time, my thoughts and prayers are with all New Zealanders," she said in her message.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker tweeted that he learned of the attack "with horror and profound sadness."

"The European Union will always stand with #NewZealand and against those who heinously want to destroy our societies and our way of life," he wrote.

In France, home to western Europe's largest Muslim community, Interior Minister Christophe Castaner ordered regional authorities to bolster security at mosques as a precaution.

London's mayor, Sadiq Khan, said the city's Metropolitan Police force would be visible outside mosques.

"London stands with the people of Christchurch in the face of this horrific terror attack," he said. "London will always celebrate the diversity that some seek to destroy."

Mayor Bill de Blasio said New York City is providing extra security for Muslim community centers and mosques. He said he wants the city's Muslims to know that New Yorkers "truly embrace" them and "have their backs."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canadians are appalled by the attack and said they remember all too well the sorrow after a Canadian man shot dead six Muslim men in a Quebec mosque in 2017.

"Far too often, Muslims suffer unimaginable loss and pain in the places where they should feel safest," Trudeau said in a statement. "To move forward as a world, we need to recognize diversity as a source of strength, and not a threat."

Indonesia's President Joko Widodo condemned the attacks, in which an Indonesian father and son were among those wounded. Indonesian Muslim leaders expressed anger at the shooting rampage while urging Muslims to show restraint.

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said bigotry in Western countries contributed to the attacks on Muslims in New Zealand. In a Friday tweet, he also criticized the West for "defending demonization of Muslims as 'freedom of expression.'"

Afghanistan's Taliban movement - Islamic militants who carry out near-daily attacks on Afghan security forces - also condemned the shooting rampage, calling it an "unforgivable crime."

Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yusuf called on the New Zealand government to investigate "the root cause of such terrorism and hand a hefty punishment to the attackers."

Lebanon's Hezbollah militant group, which is considered a terrorist organization by Western countries, condemned the "policy of hatred that the United States is feeding around the world instead of prevailing religious values that call for forgiveness."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the attacks a "brazen act of terror." His office said on Twitter that Israel mourns the murder of innocent worshippers, condemns the assault and sends its condolences to bereaved families.

Jordan's King Abdullah II tweeted that "the heinous massacre against Muslims praying in peace in New Zealand is an appalling terrorist crime. It unites us against extremism, hatred and terrorism, which knows no religion." Jordan's Foreign Ministry confirmed that one Jordanian was killed and five wounded in the attack.

A telegram of condolences sent by the Vatican on behalf of Pope Francis said he was "deeply saddened to learn of the injury and loss of life" caused by the "senseless acts of violence" in Christchurch. He assured all New Zealanders, and in particular the Muslim community, of his "heartfelt solidarity."

Attacked French weekly often lambasted religion, especially Islam

7 Jan 2015, 02:47 PM

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/reuters/article-2900581/Attacked-French-weekly-lambasted-religion-especially-Islam.html>

PARIS, Jan 7 (Reuters) - Charlie Hebdo, the French satirical newspaper that was victim of a bloody attack on Wednesday claiming at least 12 lives, has never pulled its punches when it came to lambasting religion, especially radical Islam.

From publishing the Danish cartoons of Mohammad that sparked Middle East riots in 2005 to renaming an edition "Sharia Hebdo" and listing Islam's prophet as its supposed editor-in-chief, the weekly has repeatedly caricatured Muslims and their beliefs.

Politically left-libertarian, it has gleefully fired barbs at other religions, such as the Catholic Church when it was mired in child sex abuse scandals several years ago, and devotes even more space to lampooning politicians on the right and left.

But its attacks on Muslims have caused the most controversy, including a court case on charges of racism and the firebombing of its offices in 2011 after the "Sharia Hebdo" edition. "Hebdo" is French slang for a weekly newspaper.

The weekly has also made fun of the Muslim veil for women and ridiculed Islamist extremists. In the edition publishing the Danish cartoons, its cover had a drawing of Mohammad in tears, saying: "It's hard to be loved by jerks."

Hours after the event, police still had no information about the identity of the three attackers. But the widespread assumption in Paris was that they were Muslim extremists punishing the publication for years of criticising their faith.

Police said the weekly had received several threats in recent weeks and had permanent police protection.

"THEY WANT TERROR"

At the scene, Paris imam Hassan Chalgoumi said of the attackers: "We must be firm with them, because they want terror, they want racism, they want to pit people against each other."

The racism case went to court in 2007, but the plaintiffs -- two leading French Muslim groups and the Saudi-backed Muslim World League -- stood no chance against the weekly's defence that France's freedom of speech and separation of church and state guaranteed its right to criticise any religion.

Because of its relentless criticism of many public figures and institutions, Charlie Hebdo's often crude -- many Muslims would also say cruel -- caricatures are seen in France more as free speech rather than far-right anti-Muslim agitation.

Former President Nicolas Sarkozy, who was interior minister at the time of the 2007 trial, defended Charlie Hebdo as a newspaper "following an old French tradition, satire."

Many of its cartoonists started in the 1960s on Hara-Kiri magazine, which openly proclaimed its aim to be "inane and nasty". It was banned in 1970 after printing a mock death notice for General Charles de Gaulle, only to reappear months later under the name Charlie Hebdo.

Editor Stephane Charbonnier, who according to French media was killed in the attack, told Reuters in 2012 that nobody noticed when the paper ridiculed Catholic traditionalists. "But we are not allowed to make fun of Muslim hardliners. It's the new rule ... but we will not obey it," he said.

8TH ARTICLE

French weekly has history of angering Muslims with cartoons

7 Jan 2015, 05:26 PM

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2900562/French-weekly-history-angering-Muslims-cartoons.html>

PARIS (AP) — The French newspaper Charlie Hebdo's staple is provocation — and it pokes fun at popes, presidents as well as the Prophet Muhammad.

The satirical weekly has a history of drawing outrage across the Muslim world with crude cartoons of Islam's holiest figure. The magazine's offices, where 12 people were killed by gunmen Wednesday, were firebombed in November 2011 after it published a spoof issue that "invited" Muhammad to be its guest editor and put his caricature on the cover.

A year later, the magazine published more Muhammad drawings amid an uproar over an anti-Muslim film. The cartoons depicted Muhammad naked and in demeaning or pornographic poses. As passions raged, the French government defended free speech even as it rebuked Charlie Hebdo for fanning tensions.

The small-circulation weekly leans toward the left and takes pride in making acerbic commentary on world affairs through cartoons and spoof reports.

"We treat the news like journalists. Some use cameras, some use computers. For us, it's a paper and pencil," the Muhammad cartoonist, who goes by the name Luz, told The Associated Press in 2012. "A pencil is not a weapon. It's just a means of expression."

Editor Stephane Charbonnier, among the 10 journalists killed Wednesday, also defended the Muhammad cartoons speaking to The AP in 2012.

"Muhammad isn't sacred to me," said Charbonnier, who used the pen name Charb. "I don't blame Muslims for not laughing at our drawings. I live under French law. I don't live under Quranic law."

Islam is not alone in being singled out by Charlie Hebdo's satire. Past covers include retired Pope Benedict XVI in amorous embrace with a Vatican guard; former French President Nicolas Sarkozy looking like a sick vampire; and an Orthodox Jew kissing a Nazi soldier.

The magazine occasionally publishes investigative journalism, taking aim at France's high and mighty.

Charlie Hebdo has come under pressure ever since its 2011 Muhammad issue. Its website has been hacked. It faced a lawsuit over the prophet cartoons. Riot police once guarded its offices. Charb lived under police protection — and his bodyguard was killed Wednesday along with another officer.

Charb told Le Monde newspaper two years ago: "I'd rather die standing than live on my knees."

One of his last cartoons, published in this week's issue, seemed an eerie premonition.

"Still no attacks in France," an extremist fighter says. "Wait — we have until the end of January to present our New Year's wishes."

Shortly after the attack, Charlie Hebdo's website went down. Hours later, it was back up with the slogan "Je Suis Charlie" emblazoned against a black background.

A click on the rallying cry of solidarity — which went viral on Twitter — brings up the same message in several languages, including Arabic.

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