

UTS President Hugh Spurgin's Statement on the Terrorist Attack in Belgium

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Dr. Hugh Spurgin, President of Unification Theological Seminary, issued the following statement today:

The trustees, administration, faculty, students, and alumni of the Unification Theological Seminary mourn the death of the innocents that occurred on Tuesday in Brussels, Belgium. We lift up our hearts in prayer for those who have been killed or wounded, and those left grieving in the aftermath of the horrendous act of violence. May God also bless the courageous first responders who rushed forward to help victims at the risk of harm to themselves.

On March 22nd, the Belgian capital was the scene of the latest savage attack by radical Islamic militants. In the last few years, hundreds of lives have been claimed in Europe and thousands have been the victims of terror attacks globally.

By their teaching and their example, the co-founders of the Unification Theological Seminary, have made it clear that the resolution of conflicts between religious people will not be achieved by force. UTS stakeholders continue to engage religious leaders and scholars of conscience in harmonious commitment by people of faith to speak out against hatred and violence, including violent acts carried out in the name of religion.

We encourage all efforts to achieve interfaith peacebuilding by citizens around the world who are praying for peace. May all people of faith and conscience join hands in prayer and with a common resolve to meet the terrorist threat, by affirming that even in this dark moment in which we are surrounded by tragedy, there are prospects for peace. Let each of us call for candid dialogue among civic leaders to affirm and seek the universal goal of peace on earth.

Robin James Graham