

Ottawa Journal: remembering the victims of Charlie Hebdo

On January 7, 2015, a horrifying terrorist attack took place in the offices of Parisian news magazine, Charlie Hebdo, which resulted in the deaths of 12 people. It was then followed by two days of unspeakable violence with the murders of a police officer on January 8 and then four Jewish men on January 9.

Our thoughts are with the people of France during this very difficult time. We know all too well as a country the shock and despair that's felt when such egregious acts take place on home soil, as it was only just a few months ago that we experienced the attacks in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu and Ottawa.

The despicable acts of terror that took place earlier this month in France, as well as the attacks that took place here last October and in Sydney, Australia last month, reminds us that acts of terrorism still remain a threat and can happen anywhere. However, it also strengthens our resolve to work with our allies against those who attempt to undermine our shared values of peace, freedom, rule of law, and democracy.

Our Government has taken action to combat terrorism and we will continue to do so with measures such as the Protection of Canada from Terrorists Act. This legislation will help ensure that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has the tools it needs to thoroughly investigate threats to the security of Canada. The legislation also includes technical amendments which would help our Government seek earlier implementation of citizenship revocation from dual citizens who are convicted of terrorism, high treason, or treason or spying offences.

Our Government will remain committed to taking necessary action within the law to ensure the safety and security of Canadians is protected against terrorists and violent extremists who seek to carry out violent acts of terrorism. We will also remain committed to standing firm with the people of France and all our allies against those who seek to subvert our fundamental rights and freedoms.

By David Tilson, MP