14 November 2015, Washington, DC —The Federation of Jain Associations in North America (JAINA) representing 150,000 Jains condemns the despicable act of terror in Paris that took over 125 innocent lives and injured more than 350 civilians. We are deeply saddened by this monumental loss. Jainism holds that the taking of any life is a cardinal sin and we reiterate that nothing can ever justify terrorism and murder. Our thoughts and prayers are therefore with the victims and their families.

We stand in solidarity with all the people of France, and feel the pain they are suffering from these actions. All people of faith and conscience must stand up against violence, terrorism, extremism, bigotry, racism, and hate.

These horrific acts moreover should NOT be permitted to vilify and stereotype the peaceful and law abiding faith based community in France, America and worldwide. These terrorists are not adhering to any religion, no matter how they may seek to deceitfully justify their actions. Their savage acts violate the most basic tenets of any and every religion. We reiterate our Jain principle that teaches love and respect for all lives and that is the only avenue to an enduring peaceful life in every circumstance.

We are profoundly sad for our French brothers and sisters, and wish them to know we stand shoulder to shoulder with them in their hour of sorrow.

We all share the grief and profound anguish of every person of good heart and faith in France, and around the world.

Warm regards,

Ashok Domadia
JAINA President