

International Templar Order Deplores Senseless Acts in Norway

An Open Message Following the Killings in Utøya, Norway

July 24, 2011

The International Order of the Knights Templar, known throughout the world as *Ordo Supremus Militaris Templi Hierosolymitani* (OSMTH), expresses its deepest sympathy to the people of Norway for the horrific events of Friday, July 22. International Grand Master Patrick Rea, International Grand Commander Robert Disney and the Grand Prior of Norway, Stein Tennebø, as well as all members of the Order deplore the senseless acts of terrorism allegedly committed by Anders Behring Breivik and send our sincere condolences to the families of the deceased, their friends and the people of Norway.

OSMTH (Swiss Registry, CH-660.1972999-4) is an Ecumenical Christian Confraternal Order and accredited United Nations Non-Governmental Organization. As such, it is the only Knights Templar organization recognized as a non-governmental organization (NGO). OSMTH is known for building bridges throughout the world for peace and understanding. Members of OSMTH stand ready to lend a hand to the people of Norway in whatever capacity that their services are needed.

We all watched in horror and dismay as the shocking images came out of Utøya, Norway – innocent children and adults literally slaughtered at the hands of a rampaging right-wing fundamentalist. This can only be described as a national tragedy of international consequence.

Christ's message is one of **love, understanding** and **tolerance** of all peoples in the World. How Anders Behring Breivik so misunderstood and corrupted Christ's message is beyond reason or belief. It would appear from various media reports that Anders Breivik belonged to an ultra-right-wing fundamentalist group intent on ridding Europe of its immigrant population. The group "The European Military Order and Criminal Tribunal (the PCCTS - Knights Templar)" bears no relation philosophically or by affiliation to OSMTH – the Knight Templar International.

As a non-political organization, our works are often carried out in partnership with and for the benefit of all peoples regardless of faith, creed or ethnic background. Although a Christian Order, OSMTH is not a church, fundamentalist group or missionary organization - we do not give spiritual guidance nor judge those who follow another path of faith. We are not modern day "Crusaders". We express our Christian faith through our good works.

Again, OSMTH wishes to extend its sincere condolences to the people of Norway, and most especially the families and friends of those poor lost souls. This is a time of great, great sadness ... we grieve with you. Our prayers go with those who were taken away, and those who bear their loss.

The Members of OSMTH – the Knights Templar International

Non Nobis, Domine, Non Nobis, Sed Nomini Tuo Da Gloriam