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United Against Hate
October 31, 2018
Park East Synagogue, New York

How good and how pleasant it is when brothers and sisters sit together in peace. Today we stand together as one with families in Pittsburgh whose lives have changed. I am grateful to all of you for joining us on this very painful, painful moment in America's history.

I am a Holocaust survivor. On November 10, 1938, Kristallnacht, eighty years ago, I saw my synagogue burning while police and firemen stood by. I concluded a long time ago those who burn books, those who burn houses of worship are ready to burn human beings, just as my family was burnt in Auschwitz. I thank God for Our Blessed America. Our law enforcement agencies, Chief of Police, FBI, State Troopers, please rise and let us thank our police forces for protecting us. We also are honored to have a very large congressional delegation here and heads of major faith communities. Will you please rise so we can applaud you for joining us together? Finally, the diplomatic corps joined by our beloved Secretary-General António Guterres; standing together against hatred, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

We have Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Ambassador Jonathan Cohen, and Austria, Germany, Switzerland and many, many countries represented. Would you please rise? Finally, we have the collected blessings of all religious leaders, please rise.

On Sunday, I led a delegation to Pittsburgh of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation. Governor George Pataki, Ambassador Earle Mack, trustees and I flew down early in the morning and we visited the synagogue which is known as Eitz Chaim, "The Tree of Life". The Tree of Life became a place of horror. After meeting with Chief Shubert, there is only praise for the heroic intervention of the police and all the agencies, I went as a pastor to the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Hospital. There was one victim severely wounded – as she sat in prayer with her mother, she spotted the killer and wanted to shield her mother – but it was too late. Her mother Rose Mallinger was killed on the spot praying. The burial will be on Friday. What can one say to a daughter, in a synagogue, in a house of faith who saw her mother gunned down? Then we visited the heroic policeman Daniel Mead. He came face to face with the beast and risked his life in order to protect and give some of the worshippers' time to get out. So I said I will bring you a comprehensive ecumenical blessing. (Cardinal Dolan whom I reached out to, but had to officiate Mass on Sunday) I am going to bless you and it is going to be a joint blessing of Cardinal Dolan and myself, and as I said – keep on

repeating “Adonai Li ve’lo iriah” – “God is with me, I am not afraid”. Keep on reciting with me the 123rd Psalm. “I look up to the mountain and where shall my help come” and God will give you renewed strength. So, I said to the Chief, you know he deserves a promotion, he said you know, I don’t want to be an administrative policeman, I want to go back into the street to protect the people in my neighborhood.

So where do we go from here?

First, immediately the Appeal of Conscience Foundation made a contribution of \$100,000 to pay for the funerals, to pay for the medical care, for the emotional psychological needs and also a commitment to aid the families of the injured policeman.

I never thought that what I experienced in Europe and what Europe is experiencing today, after the defeat of Nazi tyranny, anti-Semitism, the worst case of anti-Semitism American Jewry has ever faced, here in the land of freedom. Very, Very painful, but if we stand together, united we prevail, divided we fail; united we can guarantee our security, our freedom. And just to see all my beloved brothers and sisters of all faiths with us, gives us encouragement. We are not alone, you stand with us and we stand with you. So, my prayer: May God bless the United States of America. May God protect and shield the guardians of our security. Do not give up. I have been through the worst, I have seen the beast of man and the best of man and the best of man are going to prevail. The best of man will prevail because we believe in life and not death. We believe in harmony and peace and not conflict, that’s my wish and I know it is your prayer. All of us in prayer – to be together and standing together. There is one plea, Chief you heard me say it on Saturday night when Mayor De Blasio was here, we are lucky, we have the 19th Precinct next door. Not every church, not every mosque is so fortunate, not every synagogue is so fortunate. I am glad to see so many members of congress here. We need additional allocation of funds from Homeland Security to protect houses of worship. Also, an appeal to the President of United States. Whether it is a mosque, a church, a temple or a synagogue, we cannot handle it ourselves. We do need the additional support and I know that we will get that support because the jugular vein of every faith community is a house of worship. You want to attack a faith community, go first to the house of worship. So, bless you all for coming and now it is a great privilege to introduce a dear friend who changed his entire program on short notice. He is always there as a passionate leader and moral compass who is trying to guard this troubled world through very deep, difficult times. We are blessed to see you, Secretary-General of United Nations. You stand for good, you stand for kindness, you stand for compassion, you stand for peace. We value your leadership and I personally value your friendship. May God grant you strength to carry on in either way of peaceful co-existence, mutual acceptance and peace in the world. Let us warmly welcome the Secretary-General of United Nations, António Guterres.