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For Immediate Release

The African Methodist Episcopal Church Seeks Sensibility in a Time of National Sorrow

The people of the United States have shown their resiliency over and over, standing in unity in the face of adversity while resolving any internal conflicts as “family”. Once again, Americans face an ugliness that we believe does not reflect the spirit of our country. No explanation is sufficient to justify the shootings that occurred in Tucson, Arizona on this past Saturday. So, we join with our fellow Americans in decrying the senseless acts of violence that have claimed the lives of six individuals, and caused injury to another 14 persons. Our prayers are continuous for the healing of those wounded, for their families, for the perpetrator and his family who have also suffered, and for this entire nation.

We also join with our fellow Americans in supporting the statements of President Obama who has pledged to make every resource available to bring the person(s) who are responsible to justice, mindful of the fact that everyone deserves their day in court.

Finally, we are compelled to speak out against the climate that would lend any credence to solving problems or disagreements with arms. We have all agreed that “war” is never the answer, but too often we resort to that means. Now, we see the fruits of glorifying guns and arms as tools of threat, intimidation, or resolution of disagreements.

The alleged perpetrator of this reprehensible action may be emotionally disturbed, but others in a similar condition may respond to inflammatory words in dangerous ways. Spouting violent rhetoric that can motivate those similarly disturbed is like throwing a match into a can of gasoline - the result can be horrendous.

The thought attributed to Edmund Burke and paraphrased here, that, “*All that it takes for evil to prevail is for good people to do nothing... or say nothing*” must guide us in the days ahead. It is our calling to be the voice for the voiceless and to speak truth to power vs. seeking political correctness. People of Faith must not remain silent while any suggestion of eliminating another with whom we disagree becomes the broadcasted solution. We must decry racism, sexism, and any forms of discrimination especially when masked as a “*movement*” to deceive the people. We must enact legislation, use the electronic airways, and submit opinions to the print media – stating unequivocally, “*Enough is enough.*”

Our liberty is at risk if justice is not served for the victims of this tragic occurrence. As people of faith we must be in prayer, preparing to make a difference and never forget, that, “*Whenever a separation is made between liberty and justice, neither is safe.*” We must guard that legacy and leave a clear message for future generations.

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