



November 16, 2015

M. Pierre Olivier SUR
Président
Barreau de Paris
11, Place Dauphine
F-75053 PARIS LOUVRE RP SP
FRANCE

Dear President SUR

On behalf of the legal community of Asia-Pacific, I write to express our deepest sense of grief and outrage at the most inhuman and senseless act of mass murder and violence perpetrated on innocents on the streets of Paris.

We, the members of legal profession, are bound by our solemn obligation to uphold the rule of law and to safeguard human rights and basic human freedoms.

The senseless acts of terrorism in Paris strike not merely at human beings who are targeted, killed or injured but at the very core of values of humanity and respect of human freedoms and justice, and thus challenge the way we look at our obligations.

The feeling of pain, fear, insecurity and revulsion that these dastardly acts evoke are designed to invite reactions that serve to diminish the content of human freedoms in order to ensure security for human life as the first priority. The intention is to create an atmosphere of distrust of fellow human beings and an atmosphere of mutual suspicion on the basis of religious and racial markers.

This is done specifically to trigger a cycle of hatred and retribution and counter retribution that diminishes the rule of law, which terrorists exploit to convert vulnerable minds to their cause.

Such a scenario casts even a bigger and more onerous obligation on the members of the legal profession and law associations to continue to defend fiercely human freedoms, dignity and human rights by ensuring that the due process is available to all and the rule of law continues to be upheld.

Our continuous celebration and upholding of human dignity is perhaps the only way to deny terrorists any false justification of their acts and to choke the expansion of their ranks.

We express our complete solidarity with the members of the Paris Bar and the people of France. We share in their sorrow. We pray for the well being and safety of all, and for peace for the souls of the departed.

Yours sincerely

Prashant KUMAR (Mr)

PRESIDENT

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific