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November 17, 2015

H.E François Hollande, President
Palais de l'Elysée
55 Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré,
75008 Paris, France

Dear President François:

The Secular Policy Institute offer our deepest condolences to the victims and their families of the brutal murders last Friday. We also extend our deepest sympathies to the people of Paris and France, and draw strength through the long history of unbreakable resolve that France and the French people have shown through incursions and turmoil from within.

The rest of the world finds strength in the inspirational resilience of France in even the states most repressive to free speech and expression standing with French people at the January 2015 slaughter of satirists. Through the l'affaire du voile and process of integrating the newest generations (descending from both at home and abroad), we see France set an example for the rest of the global community on developing a harmonious marriage of pluralism and cultural unity.

As angry individuals have decided to engineer their crooked political and religious agendas aspirations upon the innocent and all the world, we must consider that monsters seldom emerge in a vacuum and it is contingent upon all people of goodwill, dignity, and virtue to serve as an example before, during, and after horrors.

At this moment of profound mourning, and as anger is certainly risking additional heartbreak; we look to yours and your administration's leadership to employ France's greatest power: the strength of French culture and conviction to endure and thrive. Concurrent with Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, the fourth pillar of French society (laïcité) was seasoned through a dark history of religious Huguenot-persecution and civic-redemption through the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Through papal concordats, the Dreyfus Affair, occupational governments a recurrent commitment to secularism remains an indefatigable and unmistakably French commitment to the equal dignity and worth of all people within the boundaries of the Republic. As right wing nationalist groups foment a sectarian discord we urge your administration to hold fast to republican principles to which no terrorist's bullet can abrogate, no matter how seductive the contrary.

Vive la Ville Lumière, vive laïcité, vive la France!

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