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# WORLD JEWRY STANDS WITH SAN DIEGO

BY ADAM MOSES

Jews around the world are mourning in solidarity this week in the wake of yet another terrible terror attack, this time in San Diego on the last day of Pesach.

Mrs Lori Gilbert Kaye Hy'd was tragically killed at the Chabad of Poway Synagogue, after a gunman opened fire on her with an AR-type assault weapon as the congregation were about to recite the memorial prayer 'Yizkar.'

The Rabbi of the shul, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, was shot in the hand and had 2 fingers blown off, as he heroically tried to apprehend the gunmen. In an amazing act of Divine providence, the gun then jammed as the shooter was about to enter the main sanctuary. Had this not happened, he would have G-d forbid killed many more innocent people.

About 100 congregants were worshipping at Chabad, including



Lori Kaye

Lori honouring her mother at Yizkar.

She had just asked Rabbi Goldstein the time of the service, and then the shooting began moments later.

After being shot and losing two fingers, Rabbi Goldstein wrapped his hand in a prayer shawl and ran towards children standing nearby, where he was joined by Almog Peretz, and his niece Noya Dahan, 8, who he tried to protect. The gunman hit Peretz in the leg and injured his niece. They both suffered shrapnel wounds too. Despite being seriously injured, the Rabbi and Almog remarkably moved the children to safety.

"Lori took the bullet for all of us, she died to protect all of us." Rabbi Goldstein told reporters. "This could have been a bloodbath," he added. "I hope our actions helped prevent a worse loss of life."

Back in the lobby, he saw Lori's husband who is a Doctor fainting from shock after trying unsuccessfully to resuscitate his wife.

Their daughter Hannah was overcome with grief when she saw both her parents lying on the ground.

## THE KALIVER REBBE Z"TZL



The Kaliver Rebbe Z"tzl who died this week. His death is mourned by thousands all over the world.

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Paramedics evacuated congregants and tended to the injured. In spite of the tragedy, Rabbi Goldstein had a message of hope.

"This will leave emotional and physical scars forever," he told

Chabad.org. "When I look at my fingers, it will remind me of how vulnerable we are, and also how

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heroic we must be.

"We Jews are happy to be living in the United States, where our freedom to practice our religion is protected. We cannot and will not let terror win. My life was spared for a reason, so that I can continue my 35 years of outreach to Jews in Poway."

"The Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, taught that in the face of darkness and evil we must continue reaching out and inspiring people.

"Let's get everyone to synagogue this Shabbat. Let's show them this will not deter us one step."

He added, "We're all in this together, we're going to survive this and we're going to grow from greater strength to greater strength," he told Chabad.org.

John Earnest, a local 19-year-old, in his first court appearance on Tuesday, pleaded not guilty to murdering Lori, 60, and injuring three other worshippers including Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein.

Earnest also pleaded not guilty to burning a mosque in nearby Escondido last month.

Noya was carried on her father's shoulders at a vigil at a local community park wrapped in an Israeli flag to cheers on Sunday where leaders asked community members to do acts of kindness to remember victims.

Lawyers said the teen killer fired at least eight to 10 shots rounds of bullets before escaping with 50 unused bullets.

Prosecutors added Earnest eventually called 911. He was arrested without a struggle, after his car was shot at congregant.

Hundreds of people from different faiths and ethnic groups honored Lori at her funeral at Chabad Poway on Monday.

Jewish leaders, elected officials and Chabad rabbis attended the service, streamed live on Chabad.org, which was poignant but also celebrated her life.

Shul president, Sam Hoffman, said those present were in the place that a terrorist came to tear us down, but everyone would help us rebuild.

"We are here to bring a light to our hero Lori Kaye and show that we stand tall against the darkness of evil," he noted.

Itan Weiss, Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles, spoke of Lori's devotion to Jewish values and Israel's dedication to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with Jewish people around the world.

"This is our greatest victory against those who will try to harm us," he said. "The more they threaten us, the more we will push back by celebrating and upholding the values we hold dear. Eventually, we will be triumphant. We will always be here."

Poway Mayor Steve Vaas led a rendition of "G-d Bless America."

Rabbi Yonah Fradkin, Chabad San Diego regional director, spoke of the beauty and kindness in which Lori lived her life.

Her husband, Dr Howard Kaye, said Lori's soul that was "greater than any of us could ever believe," adding, "Lori sacrificed her life, she did not suffer, she went straight to heaven."

Addressing Earnest and those who perpetrate hate, he urged them to come back into the world of Lori, a world of peace and love on earth.

Lori's daughter, Hannah, 22, said her



Rabbi Goldstein



Lori's daughter honors Kaye at the funeral

mother was her greatest advocate and best friend. Older sister, Randy, said her mother epitomized all that is light and good in this world. Rabbi Shlomo Canin, head Chabad California, urged those gathered to do mitzvot in Lori's name.

Rabbi Goldstein, whose life she saved, attended the service.

"There is a big garden, G-d took the rose and brought her up to heaven," he said. "Our job, is to make this world truly a dwelling place for G-d."

His sons, Rabbis Mendel and Shua Goldstein, together with Rabbi Mendy Rubinfeld recited Psalms.

Lori is remembered for kindness, sensitivity, enthusiasm and generosity.

Rabbi Goldstein recalled Lori as "a philanthropist, kind-hearted person and always there for others."

Born in San Diego, she graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

A devoted member of the Jewish community, together with her husband, they were pillars of the Chabad Poway community, which she joined in the early 1990s.

Today, the Chabad campus includes a synagogue, pre-school, senior center, mikvah, kosher kitchen and Friendship Circle serving children with special needs.

Earnest, who has no prior criminal record, legally purchased the gun. He showed no emotion in court. Judge Joseph Branigan denied bail and scheduled a hearing for July 6.

A top student, athlete and musician, he

## "Our entire nation mourns the loss of life, prays for the wounded and stands in solidarity with the Jewish community,"

could face the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted of murder that is classified as a hate crime.

District Attorney Summer Stephan would not identify Earnest by name, stating the defendant expressed his "intent to harm Jews" in an online posting.

Earnest's father, John A. Earnest, a high school physics teacher said their son and five siblings were raised in a family that "rejected hate."

"To our great shame, he is now part of the history of evil that has been perpetrated on Jewish people for centuries," he told reporters.

"Our son's actions were informed by people we do not know, and ideas we do not hold."

The terror attack took place six months to the day after 11 worshippers were killed at a Pittsburgh synagogue in the deadliest attack on American Jewry.

Police and the FBI are still investigating a motive for the shooting.

Earnest is believed to have used social media sites with extremist, racist and violent viewpoints. He reportedly posted an anti-Jewish screed an hour before the attack praising suspects accused of carrying out attacks in New Zealand and Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue that killed 61 people.

US President Donald called Rabbi Goldstein to offer support.

"The President expressed his love for the Jewish people and the entire community of

Poway," Deputy Press Secretary Judd Deere said in a statement.

World leaders condemned the attack.

"Our entire nation mourns the loss of life, prays for the wounded and stands in solidarity with the Jewish community," President Trump told a rally.

"We forcefully condemn the evils of anti-Semitism and hate, which must be defeated."

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it was "a blow to the Jewish nation's heart."

"The international community must step up its fight against anti-Semitism," he added.

Netanyahu's office said he would will convene a meeting with officials tasked with fighting anti-Jewish prejudices on the international arena.

President Reuven Rivlin said no country nor society were immune to anti-Semitism.

"The Jewish people will never allow anti-Semitism and hatred to triumph. We are strong and we are proud of our heritage and our identity of love for each other and our fellow humans," he added.

Education and Diaspora Affairs Minister Naftali Bennett called Kaye "a hero, who will be remembered in Jewish history."

"It's immoral to attack people of any faith at any place of worship. It must be stopped!" Jewish Agency Chairman Isaac Herzog said in a statement.

A World Jewish Congress delegation arrived in San Diego earlier this week to stand in solidarity with the local Jewish community.

"Jews around the world stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the Jewish community of Poway in shock and disbelief at the nightmare that unfolded during prayers," said WJC CEO Robert Singer.

"The Jewish community is not alone. As its members grapple with the aftermath of this attack, people of all faiths must stand together in unity and opposition to all forms of anti-Semitism and xenophobia."

He added, "Terror is indiscriminate, we must recognize that unless we do everything in our power to stop it, we are all potential victims."

"We must be vigilant in upholding our values of liberty, tolerance, democracy, and security for all. All Jews are responsible for one another, and we must protect each other, but we must also stand firmly in solidarity with all religious communities when vile hatred threatens. We must never give in."

"Jews around the world are distressed and saddened following the anti-Semitic attack," noted Chief Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, President of the Conference of European Rabbis.

"This latest attack follows a series of recent heinous incidents against worshippers and houses of worship in Belgium, Pittsburgh, New Zealand and Sri Lanka. It is sickening to see that houses of worship are increasingly becoming targets for terrorists, bigots and extremists."

"It is clear the advancement of the internet, and social media in particular, mean that it is easier than ever to spread hate. Houses of worship have to be adequately protected by their Governments and that means clamping down on extremism online as well as further restrictions on assault weapons."

"Freedom of religion is a basic tenet of a functioning society, we need Governments to act quickly to prevent this trend going any further."

