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The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington express shock and outrage at the horrific terrorist attack at the holy Temple Mount earlier this morning. While any loss of life is a tragedy, that this attack was at the Temple Mount – a site sacred to Christianity, Islam and Judaism – violated a special sanctity and is especially disturbing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Advanced Staff Sgt. Maj. Hail Sathawi, 30, and Advanced Staff Sgt. Maj. Kamil Shanan, 22, and the entire Druze community. As part of his national service, Sathawi served as a border police, choosing to stay in 2012 as a guard at the Temple Mount. Shanan joined the police immediately after graduating high school.

Druze always have been important members of Israeli society, serving in higher percentages than Jews in combat units and as officers, with the bond between Jewish and Druze soldiers often referred to as ‘a covenant of blood.’

We strongly condemn this violent and profane attack and stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel and all of the heroes who protect it.

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The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington is the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community representing Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia. The JCRC focuses on government relations, Israel advocacy, inter-group relations, and social justice.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington is a community-building organization that cares for those in need, deepens Jewish engagement and creates connections among Jews locally, in Israel and around the world.