

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Responds To Shooting at Tennessee Church

July 28, 2008

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force expresses its condolences to the families of the victims of a tragic shooting at a church that welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. On Sunday, a man opened fire at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville, Tenn., killing two people and injuring seven others. Police are investigating the possible hate crime angle of this shooting, since the perpetrator reportedly expressed hatred for the liberal views of the church.

Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"We express our heartfelt condolences to the families of those whose lives were lost yesterday and wish a full recovery to those who were injured. This attack is tragic, abominable and senseless. We pray and hope for comfort to the families of the victims and to the congregants of this welcoming church. Our deepest sympathies are with everyone affected by this terrible event. We condemn any crime motivated by hate or bias."