

MEDIA RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Mike Hodge 615-289-4216



Statement on the Attack of the US Capitol by President of NOAH and Executive Committee

Our nation's lawmakers impeached the 45th president as a result of him inciting a violent mob to commit terror, sedition and interference with a peaceful transfer of power. As the first president to be impeached twice, Trump rightfully deserved this indelible stain on his presidency. Could we not see January 6 happening and Trump's role in it? Trump, a "wanna-be" despot who fomented divisions even before being seated in office, received nearly 47 percent of the votes cast in the recent election.

Why then should America be shocked at the events that occurred in this nation's capital? Is America embarrassed because the world clearly sees its nakedness and shame as the prophet Isaiah spoke of Babylon? Historically, for the last five centuries, America has openly displayed violence, terrorism, racism, slavery, lynching, Jim Crowism, genocide, secession, insurrection, hatred and many other demons. Did we not see this attack coming? Since the last five years beginning June 16, 2015 when Donald J. Trump announced his candidacy for president, he unashamedly released his animus by attacking immigrants and the Islamic community. Trump has allowed legions of demons to occupy his soul and encouraged thousands of other followers to let these demons take control. Why should we be shocked? Have not Trump's supporters from the far-right evangelical religious communities spewed the same hatred and even called for civil war? Joining the chorus of hatred and racism are some of our national elected senators and representatives, city and state elected officials, hate groups and business leaders.

What did we see on January 6? America was just being America. These same negative and destructive forces are sadly the building blocks of America history. We also see the inconsistencies and double standards in maintaining so-called "law and order." Imagine what would have happened if those from the Black Lives Matter Movement had staged a siege and occupation on the US Capitol.

Until America truly demonstrates acts of repentance and restoration, this nation will continue to be what it has been. America largely has chosen not to change. "Make America Great Again," the slogan of Trump's campaign is a clear dog whistle for "Make America White Forever."

With great anticipation, there is hope that the new administration will usher in meaningful change. Justice demands the new administration vigorously root out systemic racism and religious intolerance, if not America will continue to be America of its past.

President Trump is culpable along with the violent insurrectionists who physically attacked the Capitol, caused mayhem and death on January 6. Justice demands Trump's conviction by the Senate so that he is disqualified from ever holding public office again, as well as prosecution of the perpetrators. The climate of hatred and disdain for certain ethnic and religious groups is a major cause for the current climate and uprising. Many faith and political leaders are encouraging Americans to believe and practice these unacceptable social behaviors. Faith communities and political leaders who believe in justice should demand our nation stop perverting the course of justice.

How can we bring peace and tranquility to our land? The prophet Isaiah offers the solution, "Justice will produce lasting peace and security." Isaiah 32:17 (CEV)

###

Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH)

NOAH is an anti-racist faith-based coalition made up of 62 congregations, labor unions, and other groups, working to amplify the power of ordinary people.