



French Bishops Condemn Antisemitic Attacks

11.06.2002

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In recent days, attacks have been committed against several synagogues in France, in Lyon, Marseille, and Strasbourg. The Jewish communities have been deeply stricken in their most precious places of worship. Such acts of violence always make one fear the worst.

Even if the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has taken a dramatic turn in recent days, this does not justify such an escalation of intolerance. To strike any community in its religious sensibilities and faith is a particularly grave act, which deeply affects our democratic life.

Condemning these attacks with the greatest firmness, the Catholic Church in France expresses its profound sympathy and solidarity with the Jewish communities. We call all our fellow citizens to special vigilance. This is essential for genuine social peace.

Monsignor Jean-Pierre Ricard

President French Bishops Conference

April 3, 2002