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LETTERS



People gathering to find out information about a man missing after the mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, on Sunday. AFP PIC

CHRISTCHURCH SHOOTINGS

NZ EVENT WILL BRING US ALL CLOSER

MALAYSIANS must reject bigotry, and always stand up for each other. Politicians, like Australian Senator Fraser Anning, represent the worst type of politics.

They seek to reduce global communities to one dimensional caricatures of evil, to further their selfish goals.

If we adopted Anning's logic, then every white man who walks the earth would be equated with the four or more murderers in New Zealand today — on the prowl, armed to the teeth, looking to butcher every Muslim.

If all 1.8 billion Muslims in the world started to think that white men are like that, what kind of a situation would we have?

There are only good and bad people. We are not defined by our creed or our skin colour, but by our actions.

NATHANIEL TAN

Director of Media and Communications, EMIR Research

Ummah unity

UNDOUBTEDLY, the brothers and sisters who were killed in Christchurch, New Zealand, are heroes.

They are also martyrs and *Jannah* (paradise)-bound.

The accused murderer will spend the rest of his miserable life in jail (given that New Zealand since 1961 does not have the death penalty for murder). Muslims should use the New Zealand episode to come closer to one another and unite.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR SPAHIC OMER

International Islamic University Malaysia

Root causes of discrimination, terrorism must be addressed

ONE philosopher tried to unearth human's primordial instinct by proposing that if we were to wake up one morning and see that everyone is the same, we should be happy.

The shootings in Christchurch,

New Zealand, are one of many incidents that happen around the world in the name of religion, race and nationality.

When the mind is indoctrinated, it is manifested in either a positive or negative way.

In this case, human lives are lost because of the perpetrator's misguided mind.

How do we counter such wretched minds? We live on a piece of rock among the trillions of planets in the universe. If we do not preserve it, we will not have any more rocks habitable to us.

The root causes of discrimination and terrorism need to be addressed, as espoused many times by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the national and global levels.

BAHARUDIN MOHD SHAH

Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang

Monitor extremism on social media

THE mass shootings at the two mosques in New Zealand are a despicable and heinous crime

that must be condemned.

As peace-loving people, we always believe that committing murder, especially in a place of worship, is unacceptable.

An important lesson — safety should not be taken for granted, even in a peaceful nation like New Zealand.

It shows that terrorism knows no boundaries and the world will have to come together to defeat this menace.

No country is safe and we must be on alert at all times.

Extremists have been using social media to recruit people.

Therefore, it is imperative that the government strengthen its monitoring system on social media to identify perpetrators abusing these platforms to promote extremism.

Also, more engagement with all sections of society should be carried to win the hearts and minds of people drawn towards violence and extremism.

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE

Trustee, Malaysia Unity Foundation

End Islamophobia

THE killings in Christchurch must be addressed by the Western world.

Such violence cannot be condoned.

For the last few years, especially after the end of World War 2, Western countries have gone to great lengths to eradicate anti-Semitism.

But why has there been no effort against Islamophobia?

Islamophobia is the fear, or hatred of, or prejudice against, the Islamic religion, or Muslims.

Anti-Semitism is hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.

Both share the same fundamental elements of hostility, hatred, and prejudice against their race and religious belief.

Both must be tackled in the same manner by all countries.

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