

Mumbai victims remembered

Multi-faith event affirms commitment to peace, dialogue

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Two candles were lit at the Beth Israel Synagogue Monday night to commemorate the victims of last month's terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India.

The event brought together almost 100 members of Edmonton's Indian, Jewish and Pakistani communities.

Representatives of each community condemned the violence that engulfed Mumbai in late November and affirmed their commitment to peace and dialogue among different religious and ethnic groups.

Prem Singhmar, a native of India, and his son, Gaurav, organized the event. The family is also donating money to help rebuild Nariman House, the Jewish centre in Mumbai where six people were killed in the November attacks.

"The Jews are guests in India and their homes were destroyed," said Prem. "We want to help them rebuild their home."

Nariman House was run by the Chabad Lubavitch movement, which aims to strengthen Jewish identity, said Rabbi Ari Drelich from Chabad Lubavitch of Edmonton. There are thousands of such centres around the world.

The deaths of those at the Mumbai centre shocked Edmonton's Jewish community, Drelich said.

"This has struck a chord across all lines, both Jew and Gentile," he said.

Also attending Monday's event were Mayor Stephen Mandel, Councillor Amarjeet Sohi and MP's Laurie Hawn and Tim Uppal.

Rabbi Daniel Friedman of the Beth Israel Synagogue said the event showed how different communities that might not always engage in frequent dialogue are united against terrorism



Rabbi Daniel Friedman speaks at Monday's coming together of the city's Jewish and Hindu communities in the wake of the recent terrorism attacks in Mumbai, India.

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"Unfortunately, sometimes it takes a terrible situation to bring people together," Friedman said.

Almost 200 people, including two Canadians, died in the attacks that took place over three days in Mumbai.

The terrorists are believed to have been part of a Pakistan-based militant group.
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