



MEDIA STATEMENT
Bishop Brian Tamaki | 15 August 2019

DEATH PENALTY FOR CHRISTCHURCH KILLER BECAUSE HE REMAINS A THREAT

The Christchurch mass murderer's letters getting out into the public domain are a cause for concern, but even more sinister is the influence this killer will continue to exert on society for the next 30, 40 or 50 years and makes a strong case for re-introducing the death penalty for mass murders who are unrepentant and who continue to be a danger to the public.

Destiny Church leader Bishop Brian Tamaki said the key issue everybody was overlooking was that this individual would continue to be a threat to the public even from behind bars.

"Swedish mass murder Anders Behring Breivik – who the Christchurch killer reveres – continues to insert himself into the public consciousness, like a sore wound, on a regular basis. This Christchurch killer is a follower of Breivik and will adopt his methods of nuisance and influence from behind bars."

Bishop Tamaki said he wasn't calling for the death penalty as a deterrent, because the research around whether that is effective was inconclusive, but to end a real and continuing threat.

"Breivik is a good example of the dangers posed by a criminal system that is too soft. Sweden is too soft and New Zealand is too soft. Sentencing the Christchurch killer to death is not so much a deterrent as a move to end a real and continuing danger. Sometimes the only way to kill an idea is to cut off the head of the serpent."

Bishop Tamaki said that New Zealand is a country built on the Christian tradition and from the earliest the Bible makes it clear that the penalty for murder is death.

"Genesis says, 'Whoever sheds the blood of man through man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God He made man'. In the new Testament we see the deaths of Annanias and Saphira."

Corrections gives more freedom to killer than they do to ManUp Kelvin Davis must own responsibility and go

Bishop Tamaki called for the resignation of Corrections Minister Kelvin Davis because Christchurch murderer was able to exert his evil influence from behind bars under Davis's watch.

"His excuse that we have never had a prisoner like this before is nonsense and should be seen for what it is. He is one prisoner -- just one prisoner.

"How hard is it to manage one prisoner in isolation? Why did he not leave instructions that either himself or The Department of Corrections chief executive Christine Stevenson personally review this prisoner's mail?"

"It also suggests that he did not know prisoners were entitled by law to send and receive mail, in which case he is incompetent to be in the role."

Bishop Tamaki said that the irony is that Davis and Corrections are more willing to let the Christchurch killer spread a message of hate than they are for Destiny's ManUp programme to spread a message of love and hope.

"ManUp's applications letters somehow go missing while Corrections allows this killer's letters to go viral."