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### **Statement on the Hostage Situation at Congregation Beth Israel**

**Colleyville, Texas** - The twelve-hour standoff between law enforcement and an extremist holding four congregants of the Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas hostage thankfully came to a resolution late Saturday evening with all hostages being released with no injuries. Minor details about the motives of the assailant, Malik Faisal Akram, are known at this time; however, all the hostages seem to be in good spirits and have provided their assistance to respective law enforcement agencies regarding their experience.

*University Democrats issued the following statement:*

“Antisemitism embodies one of the oldest and ugliest acts of bigotry present in our polarized society. Every Jewish citizen possesses the right, especially in their house of worship, to feel secure and at peace. It is a core principle of any democratic society that every group, regardless of race, ethnicity, or religion, is free to exercise their rights as human beings and not second-class citizens living in perpetual fear.

It is at times like these when we remember the attacks on Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue, Jersey City’s JC Kosher Supermarket, and many other Jewish institutions in recent years. These attacks are a sad reminder of the consequences that various forms of extremism have on the Jewish community. Everyone at the University Democrats stands in solidarity with the Jewish community and hopes for the eventual eradication of the virulent disease that is antisemitism.”

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