Attack In Paris
by Caitlin Neal

On Wednesday, January 7, 2015, twelve people were killed in Paris. Armed gunmen rushed into the offices of Charlie Hebdo, a newspaper company. The gunmen from Al-Qaeda were shouting and yelling, and fired up to fifty shots. The brothers who did this , Saïd and Chérif Kouachi, were later encountered by the police and killed. These gunmen of Al-Qaeda shot and killed the employees from the offices of Charlie Hebdo. They did this to the employees specifically for using their freedom of speech by making cartoons of the Muslim Prophet, Muhammad. Islamic terrorists can't use violence to limit people's' freedom of speech.

Terrorists killed employees from the offices of Charlie Hebdo for showing a picture of Muhammad. The cartoon shows Muhammad saying things in French and smiling. Killing people for using freedom of speech is wrong because violence cannot be used to solve conflict. Since this incident, security throughout Paris has increased significantly. Police and other officials are patrolling areas near the Eiffel Tower and other landmarks in Paris. Soldiers have been deployed to Jewish neighborhoods to make sure that children and adults can live their normal lives safely. This improved security should decrease the chance of an attack like this from happening in Paris any time soon. So many people are trying to get Paris back to its original state, but none of this would have happened if the terrorists wouldn't have expressed their opinion with violence.

Many people around the world are upset and displeased about what happened in Paris. They are also upset with how the terrorists reacted to the comic and how they handle things using violence. If so many people disagree with something, you would think that as the majority they are right. In fact, the world leaders met and talked about the shooting. Leaders came from almost every country, and from the United States our Secretary of State, John Kerry, attended. In Paris, there was also a solidarity march, and people mourned for the people who passed away and their families. Thousands marched through the streets of Paris, remembering and praying for the victims of the terrorist attack.

Even though most people are really upset about what happened in Paris, some may say that it was unfair or inappropriate for Charlie Hebdo to make a cartoon that involved the Muslim Prophet, Muhammad. Yes, it might be inappropriate, but violence is never the answer. They could have used words instead. For example, they could write a letter to the newspaper company that would tell them not to use Muslim prophets in their cartoons. Those who disagree with the Prophet Muhammad being used in a cartoon could protest to get their way, not go and kill twelve innocent people. I am sure that some Muslims really were upset that this newspaper company used this prophet in their cartoons, but they just kept it to themselves. Violence is not the right way to handle problems, especially religious issues.

Everyone should have the right to freedom of speech. Freedom of speech is a person's right to be entitled to their own opinion, and say what they want to. People should be able to talk or write about things without having other people judge them, let alone kill them. Journalists and other writers use their freedom of speech whenever they write. For instance, the writers of Charlie Hebdo were using freedom of speech in their cartoons. They were writing what they wanted to about the Muslim Prophet, Muhammad. Freedom of speech cannot be limited by violence caused by terrorists.