

MAYOR OF ROTTERDAM

ROTTERDAM,

15 March 2019

Christchurch City Council  
53 Hereford Street  
P.O. Box 73016  
Christchurch Central  
Christchurch 8154  
New Zealand

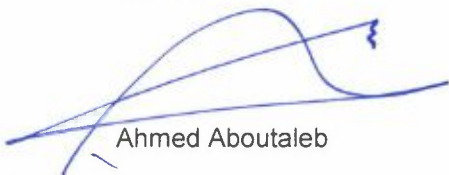
Mayor Dalziel, dear colleague,

It is with great shock and sadness that this morning the city government and citizens of Rotterdam learnt of the terrorist attack that took place in Christchurch. It took the lives of dozens of your citizens and injured many innocent men, women and children worshipping their faith in two mosques. We wish to extend our most profound sympathy to the families and friends of the victims, and the people of Christchurch and New Zealand in these times of grief, sorrow and loss.

This is a brutal reminder that terrorism remains a real and global threat. This attack was an attempt to break the spirit of freedom, to strike fear into our hearts. We feel connected to your city, sharing with you the values of freedom of religion, pluralism and democracy, and stand with you during these troubling times.

On behalf of the city of Rotterdam, I wish you the wisdom in overcoming this enormous tragedy and the strength to defend the values of an open society.

Yours sincerely,



Ahmed Aboutaleb