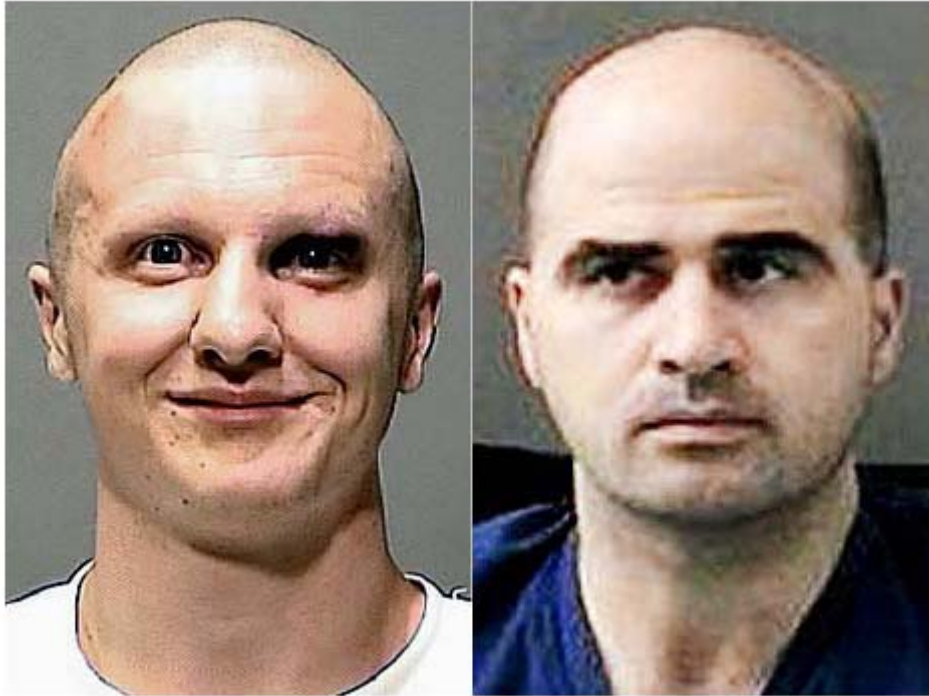


## Mass murderers at Virginia Tech, Ft. Hood and Tucson all used 'legal' high-capacity clips

By Joanna Molloy Wednesday, March 9th 2011, 4:00 AM



AP, Getty

Jared Loughner (left) squeezed off 30 shots in 15 seconds, killing six and wounding 14 (including Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords) in Tucson. Malik Hasan (right) slaughtered 13 people at Ft. Hood

Every country has crazy people, but few let them buy guns and ammo as easily as ours.

Jared Loughner was trying to reload after killing six people in January when three heroes jumped him and 61-year-old Patricia Maisch grabbed the high-capacity bullet clip he'd dropped.

Loughner had already squeezed off 30 shots in 15 seconds - also wounding 14 people, including Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords - and that second magazine would have given him 30 more shots.

God only knows what the death toll would have been if he'd been able to reload.

Guess what? That extra-ammunition clip is perfectly legal.

"It took us five years to pass the Brady Bill and another year to get the automatic weapons and high-capacity magazine ban in 1994," says Richard Aborn, the former Manhattan prosecutor who ran the pro-gun control Brady organization and now heads the Citizens Crime Commission.

"But it had a 10-year 'sunset' provision, and President Bush and the Republican Congress let the ban expire in 2004."

Since then, nearly every single mass murderer in America has used these clips, which can hold as many as 100 bullets, to help them kill: 32 dead at Virginia Tech; 13 people slaughtered at Ft. Hood; 8 killed at a Hartford, Conn., beer distributorship; 13 slain in Binghamton.

"This is not about Republicans or Democrats," Aborn says. "It's about cops, and how we're going to protect them, and in turn, ourselves. There is no purpose in having these magazines in civilian hands."

Congress did nothing until one of its own got shot. Ten days after Giffords was badly wounded, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-Nassau) introduced a bill to ban the extra-ammunition holder. Since then, 100 lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have backed it.

On Friday, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police voted to back the ban.

"We are not opposed to private ownership of weapons, but you don't need 100 rounds to hunt," said upstate Police Chief Michael Biasotti, the association's vice president.

"If you need that many rounds, maybe you need to give up on the deer. If mass carnage is your intent, these magazines are what you want.

"This is about giving police that crucial five seconds when the shooter runs out of bullets and attempts to reload a chance to apprehend him - and citizens a chance to run."

There's a reason why the U.S. has 40 times as many gun murders as England and more than 100 times as many as Japan: softer gun laws.

The National Rifle Association is against the ban, says spokesman Andrew Arulanandam, because citizens might have to defend themselves against mass assailants.

"In the L.A. riots, people were attacked by mobs. When you hear...the sound of your door being kicked in at 2 or 3 in the morning, you don't have the luxury of knowing if there is one attacker or more."

Complying with the law would be a problem for U.S. manufacturers.

"They would have to retrofit all their machinery," Arulanandam said.

Poor dears. Sorry Andy, saving lives is more important than profits.

[jmolloy@nydailynews.com](mailto:jmolloy@nydailynews.com)

© Copyright 2011 NYDailyNews.com. All rights reserved.