



CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION OF NEW YORK CITY

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Crime Commission Statement on Colorado Mass Shooting

Richard Aborn, former President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, calls "Congress' continued indifference to gun violence a national crime"

NEW YORK-In response to this morning's mass shooting in a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado which injured 50 and killed 12, Richard Aborn, President of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City issued the following statement:

"Tragically, the shooting in Aurora, Colorado is only the latest in a horrifying string of mass slaughters that continue to plague our country for lack of sensible gun control laws. The shooter used an AK 47 style assault rifle to increase his mayhem, murder and maim innocent people with dozens of bullets in a matter of seconds. This is exactly the kind of weapon that Congress banned in 1994 as part of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban, and shockingly allowed to lapse in 2004.

More Americans were killed by gun violence last year than all American troops who have been killed in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Congress' continued indifference to gun violence is a national crime."

Resources

The Crime Commission manages a database of significant mass shootings in America (defined by the FBI as at least 4 victims killed), all of which involve previously banned weapons. The database catalogues over 20 major recent incidents, with detailed information about the weapons, magazine capacity, and circumstances of the shooting itself. Data also indicates that mass shootings occur consistently throughout regions of the United States, further underscoring the need for federal legislation. The increased lethality of such incidents is made possible by the use of assault weapons and assault clips which enable a shooter to rapidly fire off as many as 100-rounds without having to reload the firearm, often shooting at police. Since the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) does not require police departments to report data on magazine capacity, the Crime Commission's database is a valuable resource.

View the database here: <http://www.nycrimecommission.org/initiative1-shootings.php>

Background

As the former President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence (1993-1996), Richard Aborn was the principle strategist behind the original Federal Assault Weapons Ban in 1994. Congress failed to renew the ban when it expired in 2004.

The Citizens Crime Commission of New York City is a non-partisan non-profit organization working to make criminal justice and public safety policies and practices more effective through innovation, research, and education. In the last three decades, the Crime Commission has been a leader on key issues such as: increasing the size of the NYPD, expanding the use of DNA evidence in crime fighting, creating innovations that reduce juvenile crime, developing interventions against gun violence and illegal gun crime, and highlighting the changing nature of the threat of terrorism.

For more information please visit our website at: www.nycrimecommission.org

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