OMNI NEWSLETTER #5 ON VIOLENCE USA, August 22, 2012. Compiled by Dick Bennett.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE.
(#1 Feb. 25, 2008; #2 August 20, 2011; #3 April 8, 2012; #4 July 26, 2012)
See OMNI Newsletters on International DAY to End Violence Against Women, part of OMNI’s National/International DAYS Project.

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ Here is the link to the Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

Many of OMNI’s topical newsletters confront different kinds of violence: empire, militarism, torture, individual wars, bullying, death penalty, battering women, etc. Also see the newsletters on resistance: nonviolence, conflict resolution, diplomacy, etc.

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Ask Obama to Resume Ban on Assault Weapons
After Three Shootings, America Needs Zero Tolerance on Guns

Posted by: "Dave" mplsstreetrwy
* If we are going to take aim at anything, then let it be at America's unhealthy obsession with guns and at the empty arguments against gun control, not at common sense.
* Not Senseless, Not Random: The Deadly Mix of Race, Guns & Madness
* 60 Mass Shootings Since Tucson

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sanjay-sanghoee>, Huffington Post
<../../../../../AmeriConscience/ www.huffingtonpost.com>

(August 14, 2012) My first reaction to the killing of a cop and a civilian in Texas by a man armed with an automatic gun was disbelief. First Colorado, then Wisconsin, and now this, all in a space of weeks.
This can't be happening, I thought. Are we turning into a nation of trigger-happy psychopaths? I really hope not.

But hope is not enough; it's time for Americans to act on gun control.

My first blog on this topic, "Why Gun Control is Patriotic," <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sanjay-sanghoee/gun-control-laws_b_169190.html> debunked the myth that it is un-American to want gun control. The second, "It's Time to Challenge the Second Amendment," <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sanjay-sanghoee/gun-control-its-time-to-c_b_1759542.html> dealt with the twisted interpretation of the Second Amendment by the NRA and the far right. Based on the responses, I want to put some wrong notions to rest and recommend actions that we can take to deal with this mess.

Full story...<http://evergreenedigest.org/after-three-shootings-america-needs-zero-tolerance-guns>

Related:

* But none of (what we need to do) will be likely unless, in our grief and fear, we also muster up clarity and outrage. Right now - before the public debate is recaptured by questions of which politician said what to whom.

* 60 Mass Shootings Since Tucson
* Sikh temple shooting sheds light on world of 'hate rock'
* Batman Shooter and His Psyche Drugs

GUN MAGAZINES IN BAPTIST HOSPITAL WAITING ROOM

I visited North Little Rock’s Baptist Hospital recently and was introduced to the world of US gun violence in its ICU waiting room. Four gun magazines offered an introduction to our violence: *American Rifleman*, *Shooting Times*, *Guns and Ammo*, and *Field and Stream*’s 2010 Special Deer Issue. See Naomi Wolf’s take on US gun violence below. Dick

US COURT HOUSE WAR ON TERROR: ARMED GUARDS AND METAL DETECTORS

Why this extraordinary security? Who is in danger and needing guards and detectors? Who in the Washington County Court House has been harmed or even threatened with violence?

In Montesano, Wash., this year a judge was stabbed and a deputy shot, but the metal detector and its armed custodian did nothing to prevent it. The assailant grabbed the deputy’s gun after entering the building.

Who does need protection? In Fayetteville, apparently the University of Arkansas’ professors. A professor of English was murdered several years ago by a distraught student. But guarding every entrance of a university is absurd.

Let’s convert the big budget court house Security money to alertness training for our court house and school employees, and use the left-over tens of thousands of dollars saved at each court house for our schools, health programs, and transportation. Dick

GUNS OR SHOES

Perhaps the people of USA are not more violent than other populations, but they are armed with guns. Instead of breaking a nose with a fist, they pull a trigger and kill. In other industrialized countries laws make it difficult to
acquire a gun. But in our country the trend has been the opposite. So we must dig deeper into our culture if we are to reverse open gun laws.

In some cultures, throwing shoes to insult someone has long been a form of protest. Remember when an Iraqi threw his shoes at then-President George W. Bush in Baghdad in 2008? Let’s call upon the peace movement to explore other modes of shaming and rebuke. Dick

US PEACE TRADITIONS
LTE TO ADG sent 8-7-12  Published 8-20-12
To the Editor

Recent letters and columns have expressed alarm over violence in the United States—its addiction to violence both at home and abroad: the public thirsting for violent television programs, with sports “leading the way,” its “out of control gun culture,” and its thirst for armed force abroad, its foreign wars, bombings, killings. No wonder some observers here and around the world decry the U. S. culture of violence from the country’s beginning to the present.

But also from its commencement, the U.S. has enabled a persistent counterculture reflecting different priorities. While many more people per 100,000 die by violence in the United States as in other industrialized nations, another U. S. culture refuses to kill. You may immediately and appropriately think of the peace churches—Quakers, Mennonites, Church of the Brethren, Dunkers, Shakers, Amana.

But another counter-culture exists in our literature. Many of our writers—our poets, novelists, dramatists, essayists—have imagined a culture different from the one that has emerged: William Penn, John Woolman, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Adin Ballou, Henry David Thoreau, Mark Twain, William James, John Steinbeck, Karl Shapiro, Denise Levertov, Howard Zinn and thousands more. Always the violence that has shaped our country’s domestic and foreign policies has been challenged by the realism and idealism of our literary tradition—of what is and what might be.

A readily available introduction to this tradition is the book An Energy Field More Intense Than War by Michael True.
References
Bass Trumbo, “America Addicted to Sex, Violence.” NAT (5-21-12).

Naomi Wolf, Arming the Asylum
Project Syndicate, August 1, 2012 RSN
Wolf writes: "By some estimates, there are more than 20 mass shootings per year in the United States. And always the same question: Why?"
READ MORE http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/436-2nd-amendment-rights/12726-focus--arming-the-asylum

Obama: AK-47s Belong on Battlefield, Not Streets
Darren Samuelsohn, Politico, July 26, 2012
Samuelsohn reports: "President Obama touched the sensitive issue of guns here on Wednesday, pivoting off last week's Colorado movie theater shootings to call for a 'consensus around violence reduction' in the country."
READ MORE http://readersupportednews.org/news-section2/318-66/12627-obama-ak-47s-belong-on-battlefield-not-streets

When does the violence end?
Sojourners via uark.edu August 7, 2012
to jbennet sojomal@sojo.net

Dear Dick,
As Christians around the country and globe pray for those affected by the attack on a Sikh gurdwara near Milwaukee, we are again reminded that gun violence continues to devastate our communities. Whether on the streets of Chicago or a movie theater in Aurora, Colo., no place is immune to the pain caused by the loss of innocent life. The prevalence of gun violence reveals both the depth of human sin and the failure of our politicians to address the problem. While many absurdly claim that buying more guns and carrying them into more places will somehow stop these horrific events, Christians know the truth — violence only leads to more violence. A faithful witness requires following the call of Jesus to be peacemakers and the example of nonviolence he offered to a broken world. As our families and faith communities struggle with responding
to tragedy, Sojourners wants to support those witnessing to the power of nonviolence and the need for healing. For a limited time, we’re offering our Putting Down Stones resource guide for free. This amazing resource offers Christians and other people of conscience encouragement and guidance to use their gifts and skills to bring about reconciliation and justice. Just click here and use the coupon code “peaceful” to download your free copy today. These heart-wrenching acts of violence must end.

In faith,
The Sojourners team

P.S. Don’t forget to use the coupon code “peaceful” and download your free copy of Putting Down Stones.

President Obama & Governor Romney: Ask Congress to reinstate the federal assault weapons ban. Dear James,

The shock and trauma from the images and stories from Aurora are still very much with us, and it is impossible to put into words the pain being felt by families and friends of the victims. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't speak out. In the wake of this massacre, it's time to put aside politics and reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons. Urge President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney to ask Congress to reinstate the expired federal assault weapons ban today. Click here to automatically sign the petition. After the news broke last Friday, President Barack Obama said that "there are going to be other days for politics, this I think is a day for prayer and reflection." Governor Mitt Romney said, "I stand before you today not as a man running for office, but as a father and grandfather, a husband, and American."1 Both of their campaigns asked networks to pull their negative advertisements. The gestures from the two men who are running for President were welcome steps. But, we need more than sympathetic words. We need real leadership to start to address the senseless gun violence that holds our communities hostage.

One of the principal weapons used by the shooter in the horrific Aurora massacre was an AR-15 assault rifle.2 This weapon features a magazine that holds 100 rounds of bullets, and its trigger is capable of firing 50-60 rounds per minute.3 The federal assault weapons ban which was passed in 1994, banned the sale of guns like the AR-15.4 Unfortunately, that ban expired in 2004 as a result of fierce lobbying by the NRA. It's long past time to reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons like the AR-15.

Urge President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney to ask Congress to reinstate the expired federal assault weapons ban today. Click here to automatically sign the petition. CREDO members worked to pass
the federal assault weapons ban in 1994. And we fought to stop its expiration in 2004. And we continue to advocate for a federal ban on assault weapons like the AR-15 used in the Aurora massacre. Massacres on the scale of the tragedy in Aurora happen in part because our federal gun laws make it easy for civilians to obtain military-level firepower. We need to pass and enforce sensible federal gun laws restricting ready access for civilians to assault weapons. Reinstating a strong version of the federal ban on assault weapons known as the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act is where we should start.
We're not so naïve as to think that sensible gun laws are all that's needed to stop the killings. There are many things that need to change in American culture to stop the next Aurora-like massacre. But we do know one thing we should put at the top of the list — keeping military-level assault weapons like the AR-15 with a high capacity clip out of the hands of civilians. Click below to automatically sign the petition.
Becky Bond, Political Director
CREDO Action from Working Assets
4. Beauchamp, "Expired