

Newtown, Connecticut

Yet another mass slaughter has been carried out today, December 14, 2012, in the middle of an otherwise quiet town in a supposedly civilized nation, the USA. The mass murderer, mentally unbalanced, also killed himself, *but his accessories, those who made it easy for him to arm himself with deadly weapons, are still at large.*

The National Rifle Association, the right-wing extremists, and all those who have been convinced by their brainless dogma, share the guilt for today's 26 deaths, 20 of them young children, and the numerous other mass murders, and many thousands of individual gun homicides every year.

The dead children had barely stopped bleeding when pond scum like Huckabee made public statements trying to blame the tragedy on public schools not teaching religion, even worse than those who immediately whined about the government trying to take their guns away.

Not only are these people obsessed with their 2nd-Amendment rights, they refuse to accept any rules of responsibility in exercising those rights. They oppose requiring licenses and registration and any other regulation to try to keep guns out of irresponsible and unstable hands.

Those who value their gun rights need to start rethinking their priorities and start advocating strict laws mandating responsibility, not weapons anarchy.

"A study in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery found that the gun murder rate in the US is almost 20 times higher than the next 22 richest and most populous nations combined. Among the world's 23 wealthiest countries, 80 percent of all gun deaths are American deaths and 87 percent of all kids killed by guns are American kids."

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/07/gun-deaths-a-familiar-american-experience/>

Each year there are roughly 10,000 homicides with firearms in the US. That is more than the number of American troops killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are not having a civil war in this country, but you couldn't tell that from the numbers.

Mass murders like today's in Newtown, Connecticut tend to focus public opinion, as they should, but we should remember that most of the thousands of fatal shootings are done one or two at a time, every day of the year in cities and towns nationwide.

It is easier to get hold of a firearm and ammunition than it is to get a license to drive a car. Buying them legally is easy enough, with little or no regard for background, mental stability, or knowledge of safety and relevant laws. Idiotic laws like "stand your ground" actually encourage irresponsible and deadly confrontations. Failure of gun owners to secure their weapons from easy

theft often leads to both criminals and children having and using them.

Why are guns not titled and registered like motor vehicles, making the owner responsible for their safe use? Why isn't every purchaser required to have a license, having to pass a test of mental health and knowledge of safety and law? Who benefits from allowing uncontrolled access to deadly weapons?

Those who want to keep the Second Amendment, now is the time to prove you deserve it. Every right has a responsibility that goes with it. Control your guns. Control all guns. Keep them away from murderers, sane or insane. Stop threatening the rest of society, and stop bragging about how well-armed you think you are.

Don't for a minute think you're safer because you're armed. Gun owners get shot. Their children get shot. Their children get their guns and shoot each other. As long as you fight against sensible gun laws, you make it more likely that tragedies will happen over and over again.

If you can't bring yourself to write your Congressman and say 'Yes, let's get assault weapons off the streets, and pass sensible license and registration laws for gun sales', then you need to shut the hell up about your gun rights. We've already heard way too much about that.

--cosmicrat December 14, 2012