PROTEST EASY GUNS
NEW YORKERS AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

For Immediate Release

August 27, 2007

Protest Easy Guns Lie-in by Westchester Chapter of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence

Protestors Called for Action from Congress in Wake of Country's Deadliest Mass Shooting at Virginia Tech and America's Daily Toll of 32 Murders by Gun Including the Murder of Jessica Santos, Daughter of Protest Organizer Gisela Marin

(White Plains, NY): A group of local mothers and concerned citizens staged a peaceful protest on Monday August 27th at 1:00 pm at Renaissance Park in White Plains NY. This civil protest was held to express the group's outrage over the shootings that take the lives of 30,000 Americans every year, including over 11,000 murders by gun. Last August 27, 2006, Jessica Santos was shot and killed by a drive-by shooter the evening before her return to the University of New Haven where she would've started her sophomore year studying Criminal Investigations. Instead, of planning her future, her mother planned her funeral.

The shooting massacre at Virginia Tech in April, the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history is a wake-up call for the country. Protesters are attempting to stimulate public discourse and draw attention to the fact that it is too easy to purchase a gun in America. Each of the 32 protestors symbolizes one of the students or teachers murdered at Virginia Tech. They also symbolize the 32 Americans murdered by gun each day in the United States. The protestors lied on the ground for several minutes, signifying how little time it took for the shooter to buy his gun. Other concerned citizens were encouraged to support the protesters and replicate their demonstration.

According to the group's organizer, Gisela Marin, Westchester Chapter Leader, New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, "The goal is to increase public discourse on gun laws -- to discuss and explore what must be done in order to protect our children and the citizens of this country. We implore our elected leaders to take a hard look at how we can combine elements of training, education, and background checks so that it takes longer than a few minutes for someone to buy a gun."

Today's event participants asked for:

1) Congress to pass the Background Check Improvement Act (HR297) sponsored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy to ensure that dangerous individuals such as the Virginia Tech shooter are not allowed to buy guns

2) Congress to close the gun show loophole to ensure that all gun sellers at gun shows conduct background checks

3) Congress to remove the Tiahrt restrictions in the ATF funding bill to ensure law enforcement has full access to crime gun trace data. Despite the recent ATF publication of a select portion of data, the restrictions that have been used to withhold information for 5 years are still in place, and much of the information remains unavailable. There was no reason for these restrictions and they should be removed.

Jackie Kuhls, Executive Director New Yorkers Against Gun Violence said, "Our goal is to demonstrate the support of average citizens for sensible gun laws. The common sense measures we are asking for here today reflect what the American people want. Congress must not remain silent while 30,000 Americans die from guns every year. They must take action to save lives.

For more information go to protesteasyguns.com

Website: http://www.nyagv.org

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