



Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence

Assault Weapons Siege in Nicetown-Tioga Neighborhood of Philadelphia

It's over ... but the work is not finished!

Last afternoon and evening, a man wielding a AR-15 type semi-automatic assault rifle terrorized a North Philadelphia neighborhood, wounded six Philadelphia police officers, kept another 2 officers trapped inside, and continued his rampage against the neighborhood and police for 8 hours. All with a weapon and ammunition that he should never have had access to.

The violent siege in the Nicetown-Tioga community of America's 6th largest city is over ... but our work is *not* finished until the US Senate adopts "The Assault Weapons Ban of 2019" (S.66) and we see sensible gun policy come from our state and federal elected leaders.

In Pennsylvania, firearms are used in assaults on police officers every two days. This week it was an assault weapon used in Pennsylvania's largest city. Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross told reporters, "It's a miracle multiple officers weren't killed." We are grateful for the courage of these officers and all who risk their lives everyday for our safety and we will continue to pray for these 6 and their families.

We agree with Philadelphia Mayor, Jim Kenney, who said that police officers "don't deserve to be shot at by ... an unlimited supply of weapons and an unlimited supply of bullets." He is correct and it doesn't have to be that way. With the seemingly unlimited access to these weapons designed not for hunting or sport but simply to be able to kill as many humans as possible is an extremely short period of time we are all endangered along with police officers. It's way beyond time to limit this access. The average citizen has absolutely no need for an AR-15 or AK-47 style weapon in their homes or on our streets.

These guns are used to terrorize and hunt and injure and kill ... *us* ... and it must end ... **NOW!**

Please join *Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence* as we offer not only our thoughts and prayers but the actions and advocacy and change to which those thoughts and prayers lead us. And, please help us do our work by contributing generously. Thank you.

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Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence (Heeding) is a faith-based and grassroots organization devoted solely to saving lives from the uniquely American scourge of gun violence. *Heeding* is headquartered in Philadelphia, with volunteer chapters in the Mid-Atlantic. *Heeding's* activities include using faithful public pressure to persuade gun retailers to eschew sales to those who would resell guns on the street, public interfaith Murder Site Witnesses in effected neighborhoods, installations of Memorials to the Lost™, portable tee-shirt memorials honoring local victims of gun violence and more.

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