

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA**

Barack Hussein Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

April 4, 2014

Dear President Obama,

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 3 million supporters, members and activists in over 150 countries and territories who campaign to fight injustice and promote human rights. Amnesty International's vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

As the Board of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA), we are concerned about gun violence as a human rights issue that affects thousands of individuals, families, and communities across the United States. Nationally, more than 11,000 people are victims of homicides involving guns each and every year. Gun violence is most prevalent and has the largest impact in our cities, especially for our youth. Chicago, your hometown and where members of AIUSA are gathering for its annual human rights conference, is one of the worst example of this violence. In 2013, Chicago experienced 414 homicides, with 80 percent the result of guns. Violence affects everyone in Chicago, but it is particularly devastating for the city's youth, who are so often the perpetrators and victims of violence. From 2008-2012, almost half of Chicago's 2,389 homicide victims were killed before their 25th birthdays.

Gun violence impacts a range of human rights, from the rights to life and security of the person, to the rights to freedom of movement and freedom from discrimination. All states have an obligation to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, and have a duty to take positive measures to prevent acts of violence and unlawful killings.

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While the issue of gun violence is complex and requires a multi-pronged solution, an important step you can take to advance progress toward that end is to create a Presidential Advisory Committee of health care providers and other stakeholders to provide recommendations to your office and Congress on how to prevent gun deaths. We welcome your 2013 Memorandum ordering the Centers for Disease Control to conduct or sponsor research into the causes of gun violence and the ways to prevent it, but more can be done to ensure that the mandate for proper data collection and research is fulfilled. We are calling on you to champion this issue with Congress by urging the Legislature to:


- reinstate funds to the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health for research on firearm injury and prevention;
- remove restrictions in the Affordable Care Act and other legislation that prevent data collection on gun violence prevention programs; and
- pass H.R. 2465, a bill introduced by Representative Kelly (D-IL) that would require the Surgeon General to report annually to Congress on the effects of gun violence on public health and the status of actions taken to address them.


We urge you to lead on these concrete steps, recognizing the profound impact of gun violence on public health and the importance of taking a comprehensive approach to prevention.

Sincerely,


Govind Acharya


Jan Knippers Black

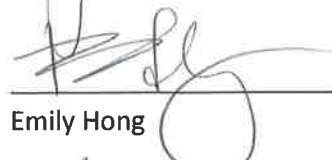

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