

## EDITORIAL

## Mass murder is not normal; we're tired of all the loss.

SOURCE | SCREEN CAPTURE



**THE 21 DEAD** (TOP ROW, L to R) Students Naveah Bravo, Jackie Cazares, Makenna Lee Elrod, Jose Flores, Ellie Garcia, Uziyah Garcia, Amerie Jo Garcia; (MIDDLE ROW, L to R) Xavier Lopez, Jayce Carmelo Luevanos, Tess Mata, Miranda Mathis, Alithia Ramirez, Annabelle Guadalupe Rodriguez, Maite Rodriguez; (BOTTOM ROW L to R) Alexandria Aniyah Rubio, Layla Salazar, Jailah Silguero, Eliahana Torres, Rojelio Torres; Teachers Irma Garcia and Eva Mireles all lost their lives to bullets from an assault rifle.

What's the first thing that comes to mind when you think of American schools? Is it the pep rallies? The crappy cafeteria food? Or maybe it's the active shooter drills that have been a part of school since kindergarten.

Mass shootings and gun violence in general have become a part of American culture to the extent that most people have become desensitized. Guns are the leading cause of death for young people in the United States, beating out car accidents and suicide.

There have been more than 200 mass shootings in the U.S. in 2022 so far and many of these shootings don't even receive national coverage.

A shooting needs to be tragic enough to be featured on the news, otherwise, it's just "normal," right?

The Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas took the lives of 19 children and 2 teachers and traumatized hundreds of others all because an 18-year-old was able to stop by the store and pick up an AR-15 assault rifle like it was nothing more than a bag of chips.

Here in California, a Federal District Judge appointed by Donald Trump ruled in 2021 that the state law prohibiting anyone under 21 from buying an assault rifle was unconstitutional. For now the law is being enforced while the state appeals, but there's nothing to stop an 18-year-old from driving to Nevada or Arizona, purchasing an assault weapon, bringing it back to California, and then shooting up an elementary school.

For decades, the majority of Americans have begged for stronger gun laws to regulate the purchase of guns after witnessing tragedy after tragedy.

Legislators vowed to make a change following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 which took 12 lives and the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in 2018 which resulted in 17 deaths.

**Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Texas Governor Greg Abbott and most other Republican politicians would rather receive lobby money from the NRA than prevent the death of young children.**

And yet nothing has been done.

That's because congresspeople like Texas Senator Ted Cruz, Texas Governor Greg Abbott and most other Republican politicians would rather receive lobby money from the National Rifle Association (NRA) than prevent the death of young children. Blood money paid for with their lives and the lives of hundreds of thousands of others.

These are the people who claim to be "pro-life." What happened to defending the already living?

Many Republicans have said that the solution to preventing school shootings is to increase the number of campus police and to harden schools.

Children inside the Uvalde elementary school frantically called 911 while 19 police

officers waited around outside for backup. The school was hardened.

Not only did the officers allow the shooter to enter freely, they handcuffed and pepper-sprayed parents to prevent them from going inside the school to help their own children.

Police officers have proven time and time again that they are incapable of serving and protecting like they took an oath to do.

More policing is not the solution, stronger gun regulations are.

People shouldn't be allowed to buy an AR-15 or any assault weapon at all. They are military rifles and not suitable for anything except fighting on the front lines of war and murder — certainly not for everyday protection.

All gun purchasers must undergo thorough background checks. Red flag laws must be put in place — permitting police or family members to petition a state court to order the temporary removal of firearms from a person who may present a danger to others or themselves.

Schools should be a safe haven for all young people and adults alike. Sending kids to school shouldn't feel like sending them to a warzone.

Politicians: do better.

the MIRROR

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