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Colorado Ceasefire Responds to Planned Parenthood Shooting

For many in Colorado Springs today, Black Friday turned into more than a holiday shopping spree. A gunman, reportedly armed with an assault rifle and other weapons, entered the Planned Parenthood building and began shooting.

After a five-hour standoff, police took the suspect into custody. Although the story is still, television reports indicate that a University of Colorado, Colorado Springs officer was fatally shot. We extend to the family of that officer our deepest condolences.

Reportedly eleven people were taken to area hospitals, including 5 law enforcement officers. We at Colorado Ceasefire hold in our hearts and thoughts those who were shot and those who have been terrorized by this shooting. We wish for a speedy recovery for those who have been injured, and we especially honor the rapid response of the Colorado Springs police.

“Although we can only speculate as to the motivations of the shooter, it is regrettable that in this nation military-style firearms are readily available to virtually anyone who may have a grievance towards people or institutions, even to the point of what is easily labeled as domestic terrorism,” said Eileen McCarron, president of Colorado Ceasefire.

The Colorado Springs community is once again reeling from the staggering blow of gun violence. Less than one month ago, the city experienced a horrific shooting in a near-downtown neighborhood, where three innocent victims were randomly shot and killed on a city street by a man openly carrying an assault rifle.

Colorado is no stranger to mass shootings, having experienced tragic events at Columbine High School, Youth with a Mission and New Life Church (also Colorado Springs), and the Aurora Theater. The incomprehensible tragedy today is yet another mark of the deadly toll of firearms in our state, which, as with all gun violence, is completely preventable.

As details of this tragedy emerge in the ensuing days, we at Colorado Ceasefire hold the Colorado Springs community in our hearts and prayers.

Colorado Ceasefire, an all-volunteer statewide organization, has been fighting for freedom from gun violence since 2000. Ceasefire initiated and was instrumental in the enactment of the 2013 Colorado firearms laws, which included universal background checks, a high capacity magazine ban, and domestic violence firearms relinquishment.

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