



Indian Diaspora Council International

Shared heritage, aspirations and interests

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PRESS STATEMENT

For Immediate Release

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IDC CONDEMNS GUN VIOLENCE AND MASS SHOOTINGS IN AMERICA

The Indian Diaspora Council International (**IDC**) joins with other organizations, agencies, groups, individuals and institutions nationally in expressing strong and unequivocal condemnation of all gun violence and shootings, in particular mass shootings, in the United States, a continuing pattern of gun violence resulting in wanton, indiscriminate killings of thousands of innocent civilians and injury to many, many more.

Recent shootings with multiple (3 and more) fatalities:

- April 15, 2021 Indianapolis, Indiana: 9 killed (incl. 4 Sikhs)
- April 7, 2021 Rock Hill, S. Carolina: 7 killed
- April 6, 2021 New York City: 4 killed
- April 5, 2021 Allen, Texas: 6 killed
- April 3, 2021 Wilmington, N. Carolina: 3 killed
- March 31, 2021 Orange, California: 4 killed
- March 26, 2021 Essex, Maryland: 5 killed
- March 22, 2021 Boulder, Colorado: 10 killed
- March 16, 2021 Phoenix, Arizona: 4 killed
- March 16, 2021 Atlanta, Georgia: 8 killed (incl. 6 Asian women)



Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mass_shootings_in_the_United_States_in_2021

According to the “Gun Violence Archive”, 19,380 people were shot dead in 2020 in the US, an increase of more than 25 per cent over 2019 gun violence deaths. Responding to the Indianapolis shootings, US President Joseph Biden ordered the national flag to be flown at half-mast at all government facilities and US embassies abroad, and said that gun violence is an epidemic in America, referring to it as “a national embarrassment”.

According to the FBI’s 2019 the latest available hate crime statistics, there were 49 anti-Sikh attacks with 60 victims. In 2012 a gunman attacked a gurdwara in Oak Creek, Wisconsin State, killing seven Sikhs and wounding four. “Our hearts bleed for all of the families of the victims of yet another senseless massacre that has become a daily occurrence in this country,” said AAPI Victory Alliance Executive Director Varun Nikore. “Four Sikh Americans were among the eight victims of the mass shooting in Indianapolis, exactly one month to the day since the Atlanta shootings which explicitly targeted our AAPI communities.

IDC considers these brutal and despicable acts as inhuman, senseless, and unjustified criminal actions directed to cause tremendous death and injury using firearms, while creating widespread fear among innocent citizens. **IDC** considers these killings by gun violence as heinous acts against humanity, perpetrated to foster widespread fear and intimidation. **IDC**’s global membership shares the pain and anguish of those affected and extend condolences to the families of the victims with prayers for speedy recovery of those injured, displaced, and support of those in need.

IDC commends law enforcement and medical services in the USA for prompt and diligent efforts for emergency services to the survivors and their families. We fully support all measures to rein in gun violence and shootings using firearms, to bring security, calm and confidence to the citizens of the country. **IDC** shares in the belief that such callous and uncivilized crimes perpetrated against innocent people cannot diminish people’s desire and courage to live peacefully with dignity

IDC urges all efforts to prevent similar attacks in the future and support a national dialogue on gun violence, accessibility and mental illnesses, to resolve conflicts and misplaced perceptions which can lead to such tragedies.