

# Editorial

## Second Amendment and Common Sense

By Musafir



We are losing young and not so young lives every day to gun violence in these United States of America. Our lawmakers appear on cameras to give cookie-cutter statements after each tragic incident and the media pundits repeat the same recycled commentaries for about a week and then their topics change as does the weather. The NRA and gun lobbyists show vapid concerns while the rest of us brace for the next tragedy to hit home again. Even our president blames everything on mental disorder evading the topic of reform needed in gun laws lest he should displease his constituency.

Mr. President, take the moral leadership. This is your chance for greatness. Abe Lincoln became great because he did the right thing despite opposition from within and without. Are we the only country in the world that has people with mental disorder? I don't think so, but we have

the highest gun fatalities by far. This is due to the fear tactic applied by the National Rifle Association (NRA) in the name of Second Amendment. Second Amendment has become a shield for gun activists to intimidate anyone from taking any action in regards to reforming gun laws.

The Second Amendment reads: *"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."*

"A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state." Some say that this is to prevent our federal government from becoming too powerful and coercive to deny us and the state their rights and liberty. So why do we elect government and have judiciary? Have we taken the law in our own hands? Don't we have the

system of check and balance to prevent that from happening?

Not only that. Very few of us are aware of the fact that the organization we know today as the National Guard came into existence with the above purpose (protect our rights and liberty) in 1636, when the Massachusetts General Court in Salem established that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were required to join the militia. So, we already have a regulated militia.

Let's use common sense: 1. "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state" was probably needed at some point in history. Things have changed so have time and circumstances. James Madison wrote the second amendment in 1791 in part to reassure his home state of Virginia, where slave owners were terrified of revolts and wary of northerners who would undermine the system. The militia were at that stage almost exclusively a slave-control tool in the south. As I said earlier, the times have changed and so have the circumstances.

Let's use common sense: 2. "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

If so, why are ordinary guns or AK-15s not allowed in political gatherings, flights, concerts, sporting events, courts and in the Senate? This is because of common sense. We accept personal restrictions in our daily lives: we basically can't buy two packs of a powerful prescription decongestant in one week; if you withdraw more than \$10k in cash of your own money from a bank, you have to fill out a form and explain why; if you make multiple purchases with your credit card out of town and don't tell your bank, they may put a hold on your card. If you drive without a seat belt, you can get a ticket and a fine. How about our rights being infringed then?

I am not a constitutional expert nor have I studied law, but I can recognize mayhem when I see one. I also know that this must be stopped. Yes, the people should have a right to keep and bear arms for self-defense, but they don't need an arsenal consisting of twenty AK-15s and other military style assault weapons with magazines capable of delivering up to 900 rounds of killer bullets per minute. Dear NRA, doesn't this go in your head? Where is your common sense? And Dear Parents, why shouldn't you go to the prison for not keeping those lethal weapons of mass destruction away from your children?

What Can Be Done? The Second Amendment or any constitutional amendment cannot be changed, but the constitution can be amended to mitigate the stupidity inherent in the Second Amendment. For example, one clause in Article 4, Section 2 of the original Constitution says that a slave who escapes to a different state cannot be freed by laws in that state, and remains the property of his owner. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery, so this part of the original text no longer applies though it's still there.

Additionally, the framers of the Constitution did not foresee that Americans would one day possess over 300 million guns and would insist on the "individual right" to own assault rifles capable of killing scores of people in seconds. But the Second Amendment makes thousands of us die each year.

Why can't we do something effective against this mayhem? A majority of Americans favor changes in gun control law. In the upcoming 2018 congressional elections in November, ask the candidates whether they would initiate a constitutional amendment to mitigate the second amendment or not. Don't worry about party affiliations and partisan politics. Send the right candidate to Washington DC. Dear Countrymen/women, do the right thing.