

EDITORIAL

“It Was Very Close to Home”
by Anil Shrivastava ‘Musafir’



This time it hit very close to home. There was a school shooting in Oxford Township, Michigan only seven miles from our home. On November 30, 2021, Ethan Crumbley, a sophomore at Oxford High School gunned down four students and injured seven other people. We personally know Holly whose granddaughter goes to the same school and was a close friend with one of the students who was killed in the mayhem.

We, as a nation, have become numb in our reaction to these kinds of shootings. Gun

violence is a common occurrence in the United States, anyway. What is different about the Oxford incident is that the Oakland County Prosecutor Karen McDonald has filed involuntary manslaughter charges against the killer's parents in the Oxford High School shooting. “These charges are intended to hold individuals who contributed to this tragedy accountable, but also to send a message,” The Oakland County prosecutor, Karen McDonald said at a press conference. “We

need to do better in this country. We need to say enough is enough. For our kids, teachers, and all of us.”

Miss Karen is right. In my opinion, parents do play a vast role in the development of school shooters. First and foremost, the school shooters feel that they are not being nurtured and that they are not valued in this world by anyone, so they try to make their mark. Some parents are neglectful and do not give the appropriate attention to their children in the house. Many others are violent, abusive, or do not condemn such activities. By portraying the wrong types of role models or behavior at home or in society, the parents can often shoulder a great deal of responsibility for the student that takes a gun and shoots others at school. The parents who teach children certain behaviors that lead to bullying can also take part of the blame when the victim takes a gun to school in an attempt to stop his or her torment.

The above fact is very apparent in the case of the Oxford shooter. On Nov. 21, a teacher at Oxford High School reported Ethan was searching for ammunition on his phone. The school reached out to Ethan’s mother, Jennifer Crumbley, but never heard back from the parents. Instead, the mother texted Ethan, “LOL, I’m not gonna get mad at you, you have to learn to not get caught.” Obviously, the parents not only knew that their son was troubled but they were also

asked to get their son help. The parents didn’t do anything about that. As a matter of fact, Ethan’s father took his son to the gun shop where he bought Sig Sauer Model SP 2022 9 mm semi-automatic pistol for Ethan as a Christmas gift. The Crumbleys kept the gun in a drawer in their room, unlocked. By the way, Michigan does not have laws requiring gun owners to secure their weapons when children are present in a home.

Ethan was obviously a mentally disturbed child whose parents completely neglected his mental condition. This is obvious from the fact that a teacher found a violent drawing on Ethan’s desk scrawled with images of a gun, a person who had been shot, a laughing emoji, and the words, “Blood everywhere,” and, “The thoughts won't stop. Help me.”

Unfortunately, the kid didn’t get any kind of help from his parents. His father gifted him a semi-automatic pistol instead of giving him help. If this is not child abuse then what is it?

We have a tendency to concentrate on the end result and not the root cause of the problem. The root cause of the problem is bad parenting. Bad parenting is hurting our children and society at large. It should get attention similar to abortion and gay rights do – the two biggest preoccupations of the American activists.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR0SvxV6LvB1WyyBJP-yw-R8S1rLP1lw-edxxOxXa1h_lsiZPZLN00LKbaY&v=ZL40FmcIOYs&feature=youtu.be