

Anti-Abortion Violence Watch

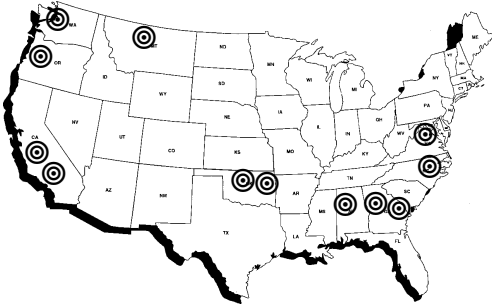
Reporting on Domestic Terrorism Against Women's Health Clinics

A Project of the Feminist Majority Foundation's National Clinic Access Project

June, 1997 #1

There have been **11** women's health clinic bombings or arsons in the first five months of 1997.

Clinics Arsoned/Bombed 1997



Anti-Abortion Actions Planned

June 23-July 3

Operation Rescue West
Show the Truth, Summer 1997 Tour
Santa Barbara,
San Luis Obispo, CA - June 23
Santa Cruz, Vallejo, CA - June 24
Ukiah, Eureka, CA - June 25
Eugene, Salem, Portland, OR - June 26
Olympia, Seattle, WA - June 27
Spokane, WA, Boise, ID - June 28
Reno, NV - July 1
Sacramento, Modesto, CA - July 2
Fresno, Bakersfield, CA - July 3

July 13-19

Dayton, OH
"The Return to Truth"
Operation Rescue National event
Speakers: Randall Terry, Joseph Scheidler, Flip Benham, Pat Mahoney, Keith Tucci, and others.

July 21-25

Twenty-Two cities in Virginia
Face the Truth Tour

July 21-August 1

Wisconsin (30 locations)
Missionaries to the PreBorn,
Wisconsin Freedom Tour.

September 11-13

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Pro-Life Action Network (PLAN)
convention: Rescue America and
Missionaries to the Preborn.
A direct "field action" at a clinic has
been announced for September 14.

Abortion Clinic Arsons and Bombings Reach Highest Rate Since 1984 Peak

The May 23rd arson of the Lovejoy Surgicenter marks the eleventh abortion clinic arson or bombing of 1997 — the highest rate of anti-abortion violence since 1984. The Portland clinic, which sustained massive damage, was the target of threatening calls the week before which were reported to law enforcement officials. Threatening calls also were received by the Feminist Women's Health Centers in Portland and Eugene, as well as the Center for Choice in Yakima, WA and Women's Health Care in Boise, ID. The caller had warned he would strike on Friday, May 23rd, threatened to kill staff, and screamed profanities into the phone.

The Lovejoy Surgicenter has been the target of anti-abortion terrorism since the 1980's. In fact, the clinic brought suit against Advocates for Life Ministries, an anti-abortion group promoting justifiable homicide, in 1989. The case, *Lovejoy*

Surgicenter v. Advocates for Life, resulted in the largest punitive damage award against anti-abortion extremists — \$8.1 million dollars.

Alarmed by the resurgent wave of abortion clinic arsons and bombings, Feminist Majority Foundation President Eleanor Smeal called for anti-abortion violence to be officially classified as "domestic terrorism" and for more law enforcement investigative resources to prevent further losses like in Portland.

A survey released earlier this year by the Feminist Majority Foundation, reveals that 27.6% of clinics faced severe anti-abortion violence in 1996, including death threats, stalkings, bombings, arsons, blockades, invasions and chemical attacks. When gunfire, home picketing, and vandalism are included, the number of clinics and offices experiencing some form of violence, harassment or intimidation rises to 44.9%.

Federal Investigators Release Composite Sketches in Atlanta Abortion Clinic Bombing

Federal officials released composite sketches of two men believed to have been seen near the Atlanta abortion clinic before the January 16 double bombing which injured seven. They also released portions of a letter from the "Army of God" claiming responsibility for the clinic bombing and a February 21 lesbian nightclub bombing in which five were injured. The letter is



scrawled in block letters denouncing "sodomites" and declaring "Death to the New World Order." Officials hope the new

information will result in tips that could help them solve the two bombings. Also released was a photo of a hazy figure sitting on the bench where the July 27 Centennial Olympic Park bomb exploded, killing one person and injuring more than 100. Officials indicated they are increasingly confident that all three bombings are linked, and have extended the \$500,000 reward in the Olympic Park bombing to cover the other bombings. People with information should call 1-888-ATF-BOMB.

Arsons/Attempted Arsons

Hannibal, MO • November 1996

Arson of Family Planning Clinic. Damages estimated at \$75,000.

Phoenix, AZ • December 1996

Three attempted arsons of A-Z Women's Center. Clinic had minimal damages.

Tulsa, Oklahoma • January 1, 1997

A "Molotov cocktail" was thrown through a rear window at the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic causing minimal damage; a second "Molotov cocktail" started a small fire outside the building.

Falls Church, VA • February 18, 1997

James Mitchell was arrested for breaking into a Falls Church abortion clinic and setting it on fire. No one was injured, but the fire caused an estimated \$25,000 in damages. The incident was the second of its kind at the clinic, which had its back door set on fire in '94.

Greensboro, NC • March 6, 1997

The Piedmont-Carolina Medical clinic was set on fire causing \$50,000 in damage. The only other clinic offering abortion services recently shut down after the landlord refused to renew the lease because of fear of arson.

North Hollywood, CA • March 7, 1997

A "Molotov Cocktail" was thrown through a window at the Family Planning Assoc. Medical Group causing \$1,000 in damage.

Portland, OR • May 27, 1997

The Lovejoy Surgicenter, a frequent target of anti-abortion protests, was set on fire suffering \$250,000 in damage. The clinic received several bomb threats from 5/17-19. The caller left similar threats at the Feminist Women's Health Centers in Portland and Eugene as well as the Center for Choice in Yakima, WA and Women's Health Care in Boise, ID.

Bozeman, MT • April 2, 1997

Anti-abortion activist John Yankowski was arrested for setting fire to the building housing the office of Dr. Susan Wicklund. Four fires were ignited in a 15-foot by 5-foot area of the roof. Fire Marshal C. Winn estimated the damage at \$2,000, but said the fires "were just minutes away from burning out of control."

Yakima, WA • May 7, 1997

Attempted arson at Planned Parenthood Central WA's Yakima Family Planning Clinic. Clinic sustained minimal damage.

Bombings

Atlanta, GA • January 16, 1997

Two bombs were set off at Northside Family Planning Services. The first bomb destroyed most of the interior of the clinic. The second bomb, one hour later, was placed near the parking lot and appeared to be designed to kill rescue workers, law enforcement personnel, or clinic staff forced outside the building by the first blast.

Tulsa, Oklahoma • January 19, 1997

Two bombs were set off at the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic, the same site as the January 1 firebombing. Damage to the interior of the building was severe.

Atlanta, GA • February, 21, 1997

One bomb exploded and another was discovered and detonated by authorities at an Atlanta lesbian nightclub; five people were injured. A few days later, a letter from the "Army of God" claimed credit for both the February 21 and January 16 clinic bombings.

Bakersfield, CA • March 17, 1997

Anti-abortion activist Peter Howard drove a pick-up truck loaded with 13 gas cans and 3 propane tanks into the Family Planning Assoc. clinic. Howard has been charged with "detonating a destructive device" and "terrorism with a destructive device." Howard who was wearing a helmet and earplugs, crashed through the doors, walked to the back of the truck, ignited newspapers and rope soaked in fuel. The truck's interior failed to fully ignite and fire fighters were able to douse the flames before the tanks exploded.

Assaults/Attempted Murders

New Orleans, LA • December 1996

Dr. C. Jackson was stabbed repeatedly as he entered the Orleans Women's Clinic after self identifying as the doctor. Jackson lost over four pints of blood and his ear was nearly severed. The assailant was apprehended later that day, as he lay in wait to attack a second doctor, having illegally entered a Baton Rouge clinic carrying a knife.

Tulsa, OK • February 2, 1997

Office and medical equipment inside the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic was shot with a handgun. This was the third attack at the clinic in five weeks.

Arrests/Convictions

Sacramento, CA • January 9, 1997

Anti-abortion activist Angela Dawn Shannon, daughter of Shelley Shannon, was sentenced in federal court to almost four years in prison for threatening the life of a WI abortion provider Dr. George Woodward in a letter.

Tulsa, OK • February 6, 1997

Federal agents arrested a 15 year-old boy on charges he bombed and "shot-up" a Tulsa abortion clinic in three separate attacks.

Virginia • February 12, 1997

Anti-abortion activist Jennifer Sperle was sentenced to 30 months in prison and fined \$1,355 for a plot "to burn" two VA abortion clinics. Sperle and co-defendant Clark Martin poured lighter fluid through a mail slot to set fire to a Newport News clinic in 12/94 and set fire to a Norfolk clinic three months later by breaking a window and igniting kerosene.

Englewood, NJ • March 15, 1997

Police arrested 17 anti-abortion activists at the Metropolitan Medical Associates clinic after they stormed a police barricade. Those arrested were charged with violating a court order that demonstrators must remain across the street from the clinic. They were also charged with resisting arrest, criminal trespass and failure to provide fingerprints.

California • May 30, 1997

Federal authorities arrested Richard Thomas Andrews with setting three arson fires at abortion clinics in CA in 1992 and 1994. Andrews, faces 3 felony counts of arson, 3 felony counts of "violent intervention of commerce" and 2 misdemeanor counts of intentional destruction of reproductive health services.

Tulsa, OK • June 5, 1997

The parents of the teenage boy convicted of attacking the Reproductive Services clinic on three separate occasions were indicted on a number of counts. Greg Paul and Diane Dona Alleva have been charged by a federal grand jury with possession of an unregistered explosive device, aiding and abetting and "unlawfully transferring a handgun to a juvenile."

Break-ins/Vandalism

Dallas, Texas • December 14, 1996

Two men robbed a Planned Parenthood Clinic at gun point. The incident was a month after a similar holdup at the same location.