

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

There have been **16** women's health clinic bombings or arsons since January 1997.

April 1998 #9

Clinics Arsoned/Bombed 97/98



Status of Investigations

See reverse for details on incidents

April 1, 1998 • San Diego/Riverside, CA
Pacific Beach Planned Parenthood
No Arrests

January 29, 1998 • Birmingham, AL
New Woman, All Women Health Care Clinic
Eric Robert Rudolph sought as a suspect

January 27, 1998 • San Antonio, TX
Planned Parenthood of San Antonio Southeast
No Arrests

October 19, 1997 • Portland, OR
All Women's Health Services **No Arrests**

July 22, 1997 • Tuscaloosa, AL
West Alabama Women's Center **No Arrests**

May 27, 1997 • Portland, OR
Lovejoy Surgicenter **No Arrests**

May 7, 1997 • Yakima WA
Planned Parenthood Central WA **No Arrests**

April 2, 1997 • Bozeman, MT
Mountain Country Women's Clinic
John Yankowski sentenced

March 17, 1997 • Bakersfield, CA
Family Planning Associates Medical Clinic
Peter Howard sentenced to 15 years

March 7, 1997 • North Hollywood, CA
Family Planning Associates **No Arrests**

March 6, 1997 • Greensboro, NC
Piedmont-Carolina Medical Clinic **No Arrests**

February 18, 1997 • Falls Church, VA
Commonwealth Women's Clinic
James Mitchell sentenced to ten years

January 16, 1997 • Atlanta, GA
Northside Family Planning **No Arrests**

January 1 & 19, 1997 • Tulsa, OK
Reproductive Services. Greg Paul, Diane
Dona Alleva charged & teenage son convicted

Anti-Abortion Actions Planned

Orlando, FL • May 31-June 6, 1998

Operation Rescue National is planning to hold a "National Rescue Event" in Florida. The group plans to hold protests at Disney World, local Barnes & Noble stores and at near-by women's health clinics.

Landmark Ruling in Federal RICO Lawsuit

Jury Finds Nationwide Conspiracy to Close Clinics

Chicago - A federal District Court jury has ruled that leading anti-abortion extremists violated federal racketeering laws by conducting a nationwide campaign of violence and intimidation aimed at closing women's reproductive health clinics and depriving women of their right to obtain an abortion. Defendants named in the case included Operation Rescue, Pro-Life Action League, and others who participated in the enterprise Pro Life Action Network, through which defendants carried out their violent nationwide conspiracy.

The defendants named in the civil case *National Organization for Women vs. Scheidler* were found to have conspired to illegally close women's reproductive health clinics, using threats and extortionate acts against doctors, clinic employees and patients, in violation of the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO). Jurors found that the defendants made threats, committed actual physical violence against persons and property, and traveled across state lines with the intent to commit acts including extortion in violation of federal and state laws.

Additionally, the jury found the defendants traveled across state lines and used the mail/telephone with the intent

to commit or facilitate an unlawful act such as extortion under state or federal law.

The unanimous decision came after seven weeks of testimony in the class action lawsuit filed on behalf of two clinics in Delaware and Milwaukee owned by Susan Hill, president of the National Women's Health Organization. The jury ordered the defendants to pay some \$86,000 to the two clinics to cover damages and heightened security costs. The award is automatically tripled under RICO - or \$258,000.

The judge may hear many similar damage claims by many of the some 900 clinics nationwide that comprise the class in this case. In June, the judge will rule on the plaintiffs' request for a nationwide permanent injunction against the defendants' blockades, extortion and other use of force or violence at clinics.

Eleanor Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation, commented on the national significance of the decision: "After 12 years of litigation, we have proven in civil court for the first time that there is a nationwide conspiracy to illegally close women's healthcare clinics that provide abortions. We hope the decision will embolden federal law enforcement to take a criminal RICO case to shut down the anti-abortion reign of terror once and for all."

Rudolph to be added to FBI's Ten Most Wanted List

Almost 3 months after the fatal clinic bombing in Birmingham, AL, suspect Eric Robert Rudolph remains a fugitive. Rudolph is wanted in connection with the January 29 bombing at the New Woman, All Women Healthcare Clinic. An off-duty police officer was killed and a clinic nurse was severely injured. According to the Associated Press, **the FBI is preparing to add Rudolph to its Ten most wanted list and is planning on offering a \$1 million dollar reward for his capture.** Rudolph and others are also sought in connection with clinic and nightclub bombings in Atlanta in early 1997. Call 1-888-ATF-Bomb with any information.



Arson Suspect Caught on Tape

A man thought responsible for an attempted arson of a clinic in San Diego, CA on April 1st was witnessed by a store clerk purchasing gasoline in a plastic container. The clerk remembered the man after descriptions of the suspect's vehicle were given by police. See reverse for details on the attempted attack. The suspect remains at large.



Photo of suspect from store surveillance camera.

Recent Clinic Violence Incidents

Arsons/Attempted Arsons

Fargo, ND • April 6, 1998

Attempted arson of the Fargo Women's Health Organization between 3-6:00 am. A diesel fuel mixture was spread around the interior of the clinic, but failed to ignite. A window was broken to gain entry, apparently injuring the would-be arsonist. Blood was found on the broken glass and floor.

Riverside/San Diego, CA • April 1, 1998

Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties was firebombed around midnight. An incendiary device was thrown on the roof. Neighbors helped extinguished the fire keeping the damages to a minimum. A white RV without plates was spotted leaving the scene.

San Antonio, TX • January 27, 1998

There was an attempted arson at the Planned Parenthood of San Antonio Southeast in the early morning hours. Damage was minimal.

Portland, OR • October 19, 1997

An arson occurred at All Women's Health Services just before midnight. Cardboard was taken from the dumpster, placed next to the building and set on fire. Only the exterior of the clinic suffered damages, which were estimated to be \$5,000.

Tuscaloosa, AL • July 22, 1997

West Alabama Women's Center sustained \$250,000 in damages, after a firebombing gutted the interior of the building. A flammable petroleum-based liquid and a lighted flare were dropped down a roof vent.

Portland, OR • May 27, 1997

Lovejoy Surgicenter, a target of protests and violence, was set on fire suffering \$250,000 in damage, after receiving several bomb threats from 5/17-19. Similar threats were made at other Pacific Northwest clinics.

Yakima, WA • May 7, 1997

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

Bozeman, MT • April 2, 1997

John Yankowski was arrested for setting fire to the building housing the office of Dr. Susan Wicklund. Damage estimated at \$2,000.

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.

Greensboro, NC • March 6, 1997

The Piedmont-Carolina Medical clinic was set on fire causing \$50,000 in damage.

Falls Church, VA • February 18, 1997

James Mitchell was sentenced to 10 years for setting a Falls Church abortion clinic on fire. No one was injured, but the fire caused an estimated \$25,000 in damages.

Bombings/Attempted Bombings

Birmingham, AL • January 29, 1998

An anti-personnel device packed with nails exploded at the New Woman, All Women Health Care Clinic, killing a security guard and seriously injuring a clinic nurse. The bomb was disguised as an otherwise harmless object and was partially concealed near the clinic's front door. The Army of God has claimed responsibility in letters sent to two media outlets in Atlanta. The clinic interior was damaged and windows were broken, but the clinic was able to reopen within a week.

Louisville, KY • January 8, 1998

A clinic received a hoax bomb in the mail disguised as a video tape. The Christmas-paper wrapped package contained bomb components including PVC pipe, batteries and wire.

Little Rock, AR • September 25, 1997

Three women's clinics were targets of bomb hoaxes as President Clinton visited the city. At two clinics, Ryder trucks were parked outside, blocking their driveways. Police bomb squads responded, along with the ATF and FBI. A third clinic had its locks tarred shut.

Bakersfield, CA • March 17, 1997

Peter Andrew Howard was arrested after driving a truck loaded with 13 gas cans and 3 propane tanks into the Family Planning Associates Clinic. Howard tried to ignite a fire, but was interrupted by a clinic security guard.

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, an anti-personnel device, was placed near the parking lot and appeared to be designed to kill rescue workers, law enforcement personnel, and clinic staff forced outside the building. Seven were injured in the second blast, including five law enforcement officials. On February 21, a similar double-bombing was attempted at a lesbian night club. Five people were injured in the first explosion; the second device was discovered and exploded while a robot attempted to disarm it. A few days later, a letter from the "Army of God" sent to Atlanta news agencies, claimed credit for both the February 21 and January 16 bombings. FBI authorities believe the same bomber/s were involved in the 1996 Olympic Park bombing in Atlanta.

Tulsa, Oklahoma • January 1&19, 1997

Two separate bomb incidents at the Reproductive Services and Adoption Affiliates clinic caused damage to the interior of the building. A teenager was convicted in the bombing and his parents were charged.

Arrests/Convictions

Sacramento, California • February 9, 1997

Richard Thomas Andrews agreed to a plea bargain in a case involving several clinic arsons. Andrews is accused of setting eight fires at clinics in **California, Montana, Idaho** and **Wyoming** from 1992 to 1995. According to federal authorities; each fire was set using gasoline as an accelerant; all fires were set between 3:00-5:00am; red plastic gas cans wrapped in dark plastic garbage bags were found at the scenes (similar wrapped containers were found in Andrew's car in June, 1996); all of the fires were set outside of the structure, next to a wall, on a flat, hard surface, including the last five, were deliberately set near glass building elements which are more vulnerable to fire damage; road flares were used as ignition devices in several of the fires. Under the terms of the proposed plea bargain, Andrews faces up to seven years in prison for each incident.

Sacramento, California • February 9, 1998

Peter Andrew Howard was sentenced to **15 years in prison for his attempt** to destroy a Family Planning Associates clinic in Bakersfield, California, after pleading guilty to attempted arson and use of an explosive device. Howard had a history of picketing the clinic.

Portland, OR • November 8, 1997

Brian Kemper, a regular protester at the LoveJoy Surgicenter and head of anti-abortion youth group Rock 4 Life, was **arrested on an outstanding warrant for forgery and embezzlement**. Kemper spent the weekend in jail and was back at the clinic the following day.

Spokane, WA • October 1, 1997

A federal jury convicted Brian Rattigan of conspiring with three others in the bombing of a Planned Parenthood clinic and robbery of a nearby bank on July 12, 1996. Rattigan and his co-conspirators, who used the name "Phineas Priests," shared anti-government views, and used the Old Testament to justify violence.

The Anti-Abortion Violence Watch is compiled by the staff of the Feminist Majority Foundation and is published monthly. Incidents listed here are drawn from National Clinic Access Project reports and other sources, and are a sampling of anti-abortion violence. To report anti-abortion activities or for more information on the National Clinic Access Project, call Washington DC (703)522-2214 Los Angeles (213)651-0495 or write to 1600 Wilson Blvd #801, Arlington, VA 22209