



Fédération Internationale des
Associés Professionnels de
l'Avortement et de la Contraception

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Statement from the Board of FIAPAC on the murder of Dr George Tiller

The Board of FIAPAC express their deep shock and sadness at the murder of Dr George Tiller on Sunday 31 May 2009. We find it particularly repugnant that he was shot at his church. As abortion professionals we identify with Dr Tiller's belief in women's reproductive rights, in particular access to abortion at gestations that a country's law permits. We acknowledge the adverse climate in the USA and some other countries in which our colleagues work and realise the difficulties for them of going to work each day.

We pay tribute to Dr Tiller's courage. It is true courage, after having been shot in the arms (by a woman in 1993), to return to working in that same environment, with constant threats and damage to property in his clinic. He had three months of daily federal Marshall protection. Dr Tiller never wavered in his commitment to providing safe health care for women. This entailed legal challenges to his practice in more recent years as the United States Supreme Court and Congress progressively eroded the constitutional guarantees of *Roe v Wade*. His life will remain as an example to all of us.

We also remember at this time the injuries inflicted on North American clinic staff by fire bombs and acid attacks over the years. In particular we remember those seven individuals murdered between 1993 and 1998 in similar fashion, and one in Australia in 2001, because they carried out abortions, worked in clinics or were protecting clinics. These people were involved with medical procedures that are lawful and medically indicated.

We send our sincere condolences to his wife, Jeanne, George's four children and ten grandchildren and his close friends.

June, 2009

Mirella Parachini, Italy
Kristina Gemzell, Sweden
Elizabeth Aubény, France
Christian Fiala, Austria
Sam Rowlands, UK
Maria Francès, Netherlands
Thea Schipper, Netherlands
Lucie van Crombrugge, Belgium

Anne Verougstraete, Belgium
Raymonde Moullier, France
Gaby Halder, Germany
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