

500 MAYORS AGREE WITH THE OBAMA AND BUSH ADMINISTRATIONS:



Stop Terror Suspects From Getting Guns

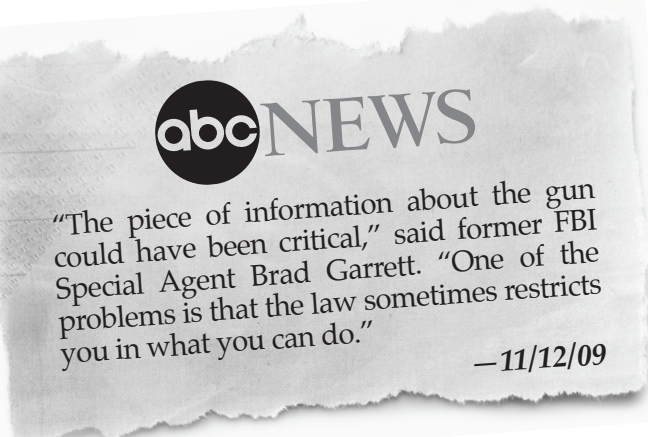
Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid:

The shooting of American troops on American soil at Fort Hood has stunned the nation and devastated the families of those killed. The shooting raises the question: what might the federal government do to prevent future attacks?

Here are the emerging facts:

- **Major Nidal Malik Hasan was suspected of having terrorist links.** The FBI had monitored Hasan, reviewing 10-20 communications between Hasan and Anwar al Awlaki – an al Qaeda recruiter who acted as a “spiritual advisor” to two of the 9/11 hijackers.
- **Hasan passed the federal background check** that is designed to prevent criminals and other dangerous persons from obtaining guns.
- **FBI counterterrorism officials were not notified when Hasan purchased a gun.**
- **Major Hasan used that gun to kill 13 people and injure more than 30 others.**

Law enforcement experts recognize that knowledge of Major Hasan’s gun purchase could have been key to the FBI’s investigation into his association with terrorists:



Over 500 mayors who are members of Mayors Against Illegal Guns support changes in federal law and policy to prevent terrorists from obtaining guns.

The federal government should take these urgently needed steps:

- **CLOSE THE TERROR GAP** in the background check system. In 2007, the Bush Administration asked Congress to give the FBI the power to block gun and explosives sales to terror suspects. And just last week, Attorney General Eric Holder endorsed this legislation on behalf of the Obama Administration. Unfortunately, Congress has failed to act. According to the Government Accountability Office, over the past five years people on the terrorist watch list bought guns or explosives more than 850 times.
- **REPEAL THE TIAHRT AMENDMENTS** which require the FBI to destroy records of approved background checks performed on gun purchasers within 24 hours. Allowing the Department of Justice to maintain those records for 90 days and longer for terror suspects could have given the FBI time to investigate Hasan’s records.

Today, more than 500 mayors are asking you to stand with us to protect the men and women who serve our country and prevent future mass shootings by terrorists.

Sincerely,
Mayors Against Illegal Guns

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Omar Neal, Tuskegee, AL
Carolyn Floyd, Kodiak, AK
Patrick Hays, North Little Rock, AR
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