

life matters

Should we use violence to fight abortion?

Vol. 9, No. 2

a publication of

Life Matters
WORLDWIDE

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Grand Rapids, MI 49501

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Why do we take that position? And why must non-violent means of fighting abortion prevail?

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"Private citizens are not allowed to intend to kill another human being and are not allowed to engage in premeditated

acts of deadly force in order to accomplish what they intend. In other words, a private citizen can intend to stop, but not to kill, an assailant regardless of the final result. Attacks on abortion doctors fail this test. Furthermore, an act of homicide is unjustifiable if the attacker's victim could have been adequately defended in any way other than causing the attacker's death.

"[T]he killing of an abortion doctor in actuality does not constitute a meaningful defense of unborn life . . . because an abortion doctor is only one of the participants in the act of elective abortion, and not the most important one. . . . The killing of an abortion doctor does nothing in itself to diminish a woman's demand for an abortion. . . . As long as abortion is legal . . . we must influence the actions of women who are considering abortion.

"The overwhelming majority of abortions represent a morally unjustifiable form of killing. It is a unique form of killing, involving several parties. An abortion is undertaken by a physician who performs abortions, at the request of an unborn child's mother. Often, a woman is pressured by the child's father to have an abortion. Pressure may also come from family members, friends, and others. Her decision is then permitted by the civil law of the United States. Each participant in this act of unjustifiable killing, including the government of the United States (and ultimately 'we the people,' who are the sovereign of this government and have elected its officials), bears a share of the responsibility."

The Declaration goes on to describe the various moral responses that the pro-life movement uses to address each facet of the problem:

■ **Abstinence education programs** aim at lessening the demand for abortion

by upholding God's plan for sexuality and the sanctity of marriage.

- **Pregnancy care centers and maternity homes** offer pregnant women practical support for choosing life for their unborn babies.
- **Political involvement** to change abortion laws is undertaken at every level: voting, lobbying, campaigning for pro-life candidates, drafting pro-life legislation, communicating with government officials, drafting pro-life party platforms, running for office, initiating boycotts, and so on.
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Life Matters Worldwide exists to equip believers for participation in legitimate means of fighting abortion, which must continue. We shouldn't allow the actions of a lone gunman to deter us from speaking the truth about abortion, or demoralize our commitment to non-violence. Acts of violence will not end the violence of abortion, but lead to more acts of violence.



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