

May 2009

Global Doctors for Choice Mourns the Murder of Dr. George Tiller, Provider of Safe and Legal Abortion

On May 31st, 2009, Dr. George Tiller, an abortion provider for over 3 decades and former board member of Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, was gunned down in his place of worship in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Tiller was one of the nation's few late term abortion providers, and had been targeted by anti-choice extremists throughout his career. In 1986, Dr. Tiller's clinic was bombed; in 1991, his clinic was the focal point of a summer of anti-abortion protests; in 1993, he was shot in both arms by an anti-abortion activist. He spent several years under the protection of Federal Marshals. He fought repeated battles with the courts to defend the legal practice of abortion. Dr. Tiller was the fourth doctor in the United States to be murdered for performing abortions since 1993.

Global Doctors for Choice honors the memory of Dr. George Tiller, an unwavering supporter of women's right to safe and legal abortion. We are outraged by this act of cowardice and condemn the use of violence by anti-abortion extremists. We urge that the perpetrator of this crime be brought swiftly to justice. We also urge governments in the United States and the rest of the world to take the necessary steps to protect providers of legal abortion services. Global Doctors for Choice remains committed to supporting physicians who provide safe abortion and reproductive health services around the world.

Sincerely,

Global Doctors for Choice