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<http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/willis_e_elliott/2009/06/again_pro-life_terrorism_does_not_stop_at_murder.html>

**Pro-Life Terrorism Leads to Murder**

The front page of today's Wall Street Journal shows the covered corpse of Dr. George Tiller being carried out of the church (Reformed Lutheran in Wichita, Kan.) where he was ushering yesterday; and A3 has a photo of and major article on him. Big bad news of *made-in-America terrorism*.

For a decade, anti-abortionists had been increasing their pressure on this physician, who insisted that late-term abortion is "a matter of survival for [some] women." Besides long suffering of long "pro-life" street-demonstrations, Dr.Tiller's clinic, which had long endured "pro-life" street-demonstrations, has been "bombed, blockaded and vandalized." Tiller once was shot in both arms, but back at work the next day. What to do? He just won't get terrified enough to quit. Any conviction extended far enough and sufficiently inflated arrives at *violence*.

Within hours of Tiller's murder on Sunday, "pro-life" leaders had assured the public that violent language against abortion (beginning with inflated rhetoric) does not lead to violent action. But violent language *is* violent action. If pre-borns are inflated into "babies," "abortionists" (an inflated neologism for physicians who perform abortions) become "baby-killers," "mass-murderers," "serial destroyers of human life."

The point of terrorism is to *fear*-immobilize a person or population by dramatic destruction (for example, 9/11) or threat of destruction (for example, European media criticizing Muslims or Islam). Terrorism is effective: fewer American physicians are willing to perform abortions. In comparison with war and ordinary juridical forms of criminal process, governments need some leeway in counter-terrorism. Currently, the Pakistani government has had to expand its anti-Taliban efforts to the ultimate level - war.

Dr.Tiller's murderer probably feels good about himself, that he stopped the hands of a man he considers a serial murderer. He believes that abortion is murder, and doubtless he grounds that conviction in "*the sanctity of life*." The irony of it! A competent, compassionate physician is murdered to honor "the sanctity of life"!

While "the sanctity of life" is not a new phrase, the extension of it to include the pre-born is recent. Recent medical increases in our knowledge of the pre-born, and of our ability to prevent both conception and birth, have led to increased public attention to the fate of the fetus. What gets public attention gets the public. Focus on the fetus has led many into *fetolatry*, worship of the fetus as sacred, untouchable. Being processed right now in some American bodies of law and jurisprudence is the question of whether a woman seeking an abortion should be forced to be in the same room as a television showing an ultrasound of a "baby" moving in a womb.

"The sanctity of life," by its recent inflation of the beginning and ending of life, is not an elaboration of Bible teaching but a *competitor* with the Bible's command to "Worship only God!"

**BY WILLIS E. ELLIOTT  |  JUNE 1, 2009; 10:39 PM ETSAVE & SHARE:                       
PREVIOUS:**[**MURDER IS MURDER AND ABORTION IS NOT**](http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/arthur_waskow/2009/06/murder_is_murder_abortion_is_not.html)**| NEXT:**[**ABORTION, CHRISTIANITY AND LIFE**](http://onfaith.washingtonpost.com/onfaith/panelists/susan_k_smith/2009/06/abortion_christianity_and_life.html)

**Comments**

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I am very heartened by Mr. Elliot's words showing how anti-abortion zealotry represents bad theology, lack of any historical, religious, moral, legal, or scientific basis. It is simply a notion that has fostered, perhaps because of a neurotic ambition to control the lives of others, or perhaps because of the utterly false projection of childhood on the unborn.

As I have written time and again, the issue is not life, because all cells involved with conception are alive. The real issue is ensoulement, and the unprovable notion, quite recent historically, that ensoulement begins at conception. Without any justification from science, medicine, or theology, this narrow religious doctrine is dangerous, divisive, and undemocratic. We must stand against such ignorance and we must support the rights of living, and clearly ensouled, women to make their own choices about their bodies and their medical health. Anything less is sheer terrorism.

**POSTED BY: AGENTG | JUNE 2, 2009 4:50 PM****REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**

This is absolute nonsense.

I find it interesting that liberals - like "Pastor" Elliot - only have the guts to use the word "terrorist" when describing pro-life supporters. Gitmo detainees? They're just freedom fighters I guess.

The commentators on here throw the term "christianist terrorist" around in ways they're afraid to do when islamic terrorists - i.e., REAL terrorists - are involved.

No one rejoices at the death of Tiller. Tiller's life had value and he was due mercy, even though he showed none to the thousands of babies he killed through abortions and partial birth abortions over 30 years. He was killed by an extremist who will face justice.

That said, let's all understand what Tiller practiced. An abhorrent, sick, violent and unnecessary procedure (yes, unnecessary - which is why a majority of states have banned partial birth abortions). The procedure may still be legal in Kansas, but that certainly doesn't make it moral.

"Pastor" Elliot doesn't discuss the reality or morality of this procedure because it's inconvenient and doesn't help his argument that pro-lifers are "terrorists" and obsessed with fetuses or other such abortion lobby inspired nonsense. I would expect more from a "Pastor," even one from his church.

The liberal commentators on here wouldn't tolerate this type of abortion procedure on cats, dogs or cows. Most of you are probably vocally against waterboarding real terrorists because it's "inhumane." But, "Pastor" Elliot (and many commentators here) apparently feels that all people who are against partial birth abortion on babies are terrorsts.

Utter nonsense. And, let's call the victims of this procedure what they are,"Pastor" Elliot - they're babies. It's not "fetolatry" to want to stop the killing of babies in their 6th, 7th, and even 9th month.

**POSTED BY: TOMPAINE76 | JUNE 2, 2009 3:20 PM****REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**

Women have been having abortions for centuries, usually self-administered. Nowadays, it's performed safely by doctors in clean and safe environments, and the result of that progress is that they and the women (patients) they treat are abused and terrorized by religious zealots. I've got back news for them: the more they push and try to intimidate ordinary people, the more the moral majority they claim to represent will turn against them.

**POSTED BY: BOBDOB | JUNE 2, 2009 2:03 PM****REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**

Reading through the comments to various articles on this website is a real eye-opener. There are more christianist terrorists at large in the U.S. than I would have imagined. I can only hope that Homeland Security is tracking the IP addresses of these anti-American terrorists and rounding them up before they kill again. Decent people should not have to live in fear of being shot or blown up at church or at the doctor's office. This has to stop, fortunately we have the anti-terror laws on the books to do so.

**POSTED BY: SCREWYOU | JUNE 2, 2009 1:21 PM****REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**

The idea that the pre-born have any legal or moral rights as a person has no historical or legal basis. It has been inflated in response to the recent ability of women to control their own bodies and reproductive abilities. A woman's freedom in this area is anathema to many conservative religious groups including Christian, Muslim and Jewish.

If you can equate an abortion with murder or infanticide then your might argue you're protecting "life". How then does 'God' allow miscarriage? If the mother drinks or smokes or doesn't eat or exercise 'properly' and has a miscarriage, is she a murderer?

When the choice comes down to a mother's life or that of an unborn fetus, the choice has to be the mother's. No government or religious organization can justify forcing a woman to risk her own life.

**POSTED BY: THEBOBBOB | JUNE 2, 2009 12:41 PM****REPORT OFFENSIVE COMMENT**

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