

A Victim Mother's Plea for Future Prevention
At the One-Year Anniversary

My name is Kelly, and my 19-year old son George Chen was one of the six slain UCSB students in the Isla Vista mass murder. This year on Mother's day, I was not able to get a call from him. I did not hear his sweet voice saying "Happy Mother's Day, mama". It breaks my heart when I think of him. My sweet boy is gone forever, without a sign or warning, without having a chance to say good-bye.

On the day of the massacre, the bloodthirsty murderer Elliot Rodger stabbed to death his two housemates one visitor who was my son George. This murder took place in the apartment shared by the killer and the housemates. The killer went on a shooting spree that gunned down three and wounded many more. When the massacre eventually ended with the killer committing suicide with a gunshot to himself, it was discovered that he had three 9mm semi-automatic pistols, more than five hundred rounds of unspent ammunition. The potential casualties could have been much more.

The massacre was so brutal, so savage, and so terrifying. In every parent's mind, we have the same question: "how could this real life horror happen, especially next to a seemingly peaceful campus? Why were our children so vulnerable to a wicked killer?" Something must have gone wrong, very wrong, in the student protection system.

The further questions are: "Will this kind of horrible attack be preventable in the future? Are the American campuses still safe?"

Hopefully, the answers will be positive. As a heart-broken mother, I urge that lessons must be learned from this grave loss; and the problems that exist within the system should be repaired, quickly.

We may remember that post the 911 attacks, the airport security procedures were greatly upgraded, and prevented many potential strikes. The same efforts should also be made to secure student campuses.

I hope to raise public awareness in the following areas, around the country

- 1.) The police system needs be enhance so that it will crack down on extreme violent crime more effectively, especially when there are warning signs. In this case, the unsuccessful intervention to the warning signs had boosted Elliot Rodger's confidence of carrying out the murder plot, and actually had increased the danger to his housemates and my Son, George.

There had been multiple alerts of violence regarding Elliot Rodger less than a month before the rampage, including a 911 call and a welfare check by seven police officers. To my deep dismay, the welfare check was only a few minutes of talk at the doorway, while all of his mass murder weapons were laying just 15 feet away from the officers, who made no attempt to gain entry, inquire, or discover.

Moving forward, a police welfare-check procedure has to be repaired to become well structured, including a weapons check and Internet investigation as mandatory steps.

Police officers should stand on high vigilance when investigating any threat to campus communities, when the risk of hundreds of young lives at stake.

2.) The student housing administration should follow a high standard background screening and security check when accepting applications

There should be legislation strictly prohibiting possession of destructive weapons in student housing, and a heightened duty for housing management in acting warning signs of violence.

2.) The parents or guardians of a mentally struggled young person should not leave the person unattended, with mass destructive weapons in possession.

As Elliot Rodger' stated in his chilling manifesto, he had suffered chronic physical and mental abuse since he was a little boy. As a young man, he was distanced from the family while he struggled with mental illness alone.

The lack of family love and the ill-treated childhood had not only worsened his mental health, but also contributed to his merciless character.

A severely mentally struggling person, with murderous weapons in possession, living in student housing, are the most deadly combination. This kind of circumstance should be prevented by all means.

4.) The Media should not give so much attention to an evil killer

The Broad coverage on this malicious murderer has made Elliot Rodger famous, and misleads young children. I wish the Media should focus on glorifying the true heroes, and promoting the spirit of kindness, goodness, and peace loving.

In many long sleepless nights, I knelt on the ground and cried my heart out. I would do anything, give my own life a hundred times over to save George, but I was not given the chance. Now, I can only hope that no other children fall victim to senseless killings. I hope more parents; grandparents, and experts will do something, even a little, to make our campuses more secure, well protected before the emerging of another deadly killer, like Elliot Rodger.

If we could save one child, we have saved his mother's whole world.