

US gun control?

Many Americans seem to have had enough. Enough of guns out of control following the tragedy in December when 26 people, including 20 elementary school children between the age of 6 and 7, were killed by a gunman.

What can be done to control guns? The newly re-elected President Obama has announced that he will try to introduce measures to enforce gun control. He is, however, up against tough opponents. The political right, the Republicans and the National Rifle Association, NRA, fight their best to maintain the liberal laws on gun access.

Obama has announced that one of his ideas is to make it illegal to buy so-called assault weap-

ons. To minimize the effect of these semi-automatic weapons already in use, magazines carrying more than seven rounds will be prohibited. The weapon, which was used by Adam Lanza when he killed 26 people in Newtown, Connecticut, was a semi-automatic Bushmaster AR 15 rifle, which can legally be bought by all Americans with a license.



The Bushmaster AR 15 – a weapon designed for army use.

The rifle comes with a 30 round magazine, and the weapon is able to shoot 45 rounds a minute. The Danish Army equips combat soldiers with model AR 16, which has more or less

the same features as the AR 15. An Internet search shows that an AR 15 costs between 800 and 1000 dollars. The only problem seems to be that the rifle is “out of stock.” People know that Obama is on his way to introduce new tougher laws and take their precautions.

You can buy the AR rifle if you have a license, but you might even be able to buy one without it! It is impossible to control private sales. Across the country, there are numbers of Gun Shows every other weekend. If you want to buy a factory-new gun you have to apply to the rules and get yourself a license before the deals is final. It might take a little time, but if you have

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never been punished and are old enough it's just a matter of formality. At the same Gun Shows, however, you are free to bring your own private weapon and sell it – without any restriction or control. People just put a note saying “for sale” into the barrel. Once the deal is done the seller has no responsibility for the registration of his sold weapon with its new owner. Obama has talked about making it illegal for private people to trade guns at Gun Shows, but it will be impossible to control gun sales among private Americans. Tougher laws might have the opposite effect. Illegal weapons get popular, expensive and commercially interesting.

Americans might be proud of their guns, but it is obvious that there is a growing concern about the number of school shootings and

other incidents during which innocent people get killed.

In Cincinnati, Ohio, as well as in many other cities and states across America, private initiative has been established in the fight against guns.



From YouTube: “Erika shooting the AR-15. I took my sister to the shooting range for the first time, and this is her shooting my Bushmaster AR-15.” (link from exercise page)

The Church of Christ organizes a gun-for-money-program. The idea is that you hand in your gun at the church and instead you get a gift card for a mall like Walmart.

People were lined up from early in the morning on a cold January Tuesday. Critics claim that the campaigns are

without any result because people hand in guns, which are never used just to get the 100-dollar gift card. Anyway, the focus on the problem is vital to the involved church people, and they say that every handed in weapon is one less to be found by a child and used fatally. The local priest says that he is not against guns in general, but worried about “irresponsible possession, weak background check (on people who buy guns) and easy access to weapons meant for warfare.”

The local congregation has managed to raise 3,500 dollars – which at least means 35 fewer guns.

The congregation ran out of gift cards after 45 minutes with more people waiting. One was Michelle Kirkland, who did not want guns around her home now she has grandchildren!