

We are indeed a minority under siege around the world-and Canada is no different.

And no-one is listening to the realities of what we face as men and fathers

By Jeremy Swanson

Jeremy Swanson wrote the following after reading about a family lawyer shot dead after an argument and struggle in the laneway behind his office in Melbourne, Australia.. "It may turn out to revolve around something from the Family Law Court. Sometimes they are very emotive and I just think this has got a lot of emotion attached to it," the detective said. "Honestly, I don't believe it (was) meant to go as far as it did." Police

Jeremy writes:

I have said it before and I say it again violence solves nothing and I do not personally subscribe to it as a remedy. Although we all profess to accept and support non-violent protest and resistance others are increasingly taking up arms and resorting to extreme measures. In Florida a man threw his children and then himself out of a high-rise to their deaths as a result of an impending divorce scenario. In NYC a divorcing Doctor blew up his own building rather than submit to his family law/divorce restrictions. Before that we saw Perry Manley of Seattle and his open 'death-by-cop' suicide action-and more recently Darren Mack in the USA shot a judge after killing his wife-all among several other awful family law incidents in that country. We see family-law related murder suicide situations in the news in the USA almost every week now. And I dare say there are many more not identified as such.

In April this year Frank Maily of Ottawa took the worst possible action in his resistance to the family court and killed his wife and three children before blowing up his own house with himself in it. Then there was the Hadley family and several other terrible situations involving entire families. In Toronto in this year alone men and women have stabbed their partners and even children to death when the family law disaster impacted them directly. More and more now one can see the signs that men (and some women) are taking the law into their own hands. And its more men reacting this way, not because they are predisposed to doing it but because social assault is directly aimed at them. There is no equality in the law and no balance and as such the reaction is starting to seem typical. It's not what we want, anywhere in the world, and not what we as activists condone, but for some of these people they see no other way out. And no-one is listening to the realities of what we face as men and fathers. Its no small wonder we cheer on Fathers For Justice and similar activist organizations.

I have not met or spoken to a single man, dad-activist or not, who is suffering under the system, who can condone the violence but every one I speak to knows exactly what the situation was that caused the action, the mindset of the man who did it, and why he has resorted to it. There is a sad, unspoken, almost resigned 'understanding' and general feeling that its all something to be expected. One of our Canadian activists cycled across the country last year speaking to Men and Dads everywhere he stopped. He reported more and more men in hopeless family law situations talking of extreme responses. It's the stuff of revolution and its very disturbing. If it had to break I also don't know many men and fathers in the family law struggle who would not say, "I told you so". To us the 'other side of the coin' is the state-sponsored kidnapping and theft of our children, the confiscation of our property, facing criminal court based on false allegations of domestic violence and sexual abuse, the removal of the right to a viable, comfortable and constructive life and lifestyle and the virtual destruction of our lives in several other ways, all at the hands of the courts with their obvious bias and anti-male discrimination.

We are indeed a minority under siege around the world and Canada is no different. it might even be that men and fathers are dealt with more harshly here than anywhere else in the world although each country has its horror stories. I often draw parallels to the history of oppressed people and its always the same in that when society takes no notice and ignores the realities and the plight of the persecuted there is almost

always a violent reaction preceding change. In that history there have been cataclysmic results to the persecution of cultures and groups and I see the war on fathers no differently. It's almost inevitable. Not everyone will bow down and peacefully accept this tyranny forever. And the apathy and indifference of the public, the politicians and the media does not help at all.

I predict worse is yet to come.

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Send email responses or comments to Jeremy via webmaster@everyman.org