

Unstoppable hatred

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By Guillermo Alvarado

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Unfortunately, these are not isolated events, casual accidents or sporadic outbreaks of violence, but a chain of tragedies that occur systematically in a nation where legally there are more guns in circulation than inhabitants, including newborn babies and the elderly.

According to data released by the non-governmental organization Gun Violence Archive, an entity based in the city of Washington, between 2019 and 2021 gunfire cut short the lives of 128,207 Americans and left at least 110,263 injured, many of them seriously.

The grim reaper has no days off in that country and so it happened on a recent Saturday in the city of Buffalo, New York State, when an 18-year-old white young man opened fire with an assault rifle against the customers of a supermarket, most of them black, killing ten people on the spot.

An ominous fact is that the subject logged on to a social network and live-streamed the first few minutes of the brutal manhunt.

The act qualifies as what U.S. law defines as a "hate crime", coldly planned and perpetrated. The perpetrator, identified as Payton Gendron, traveled from the city of Conklin, located 320 kilometers from Buffalo, to commit the multiple murder.

He was also equipped for war, with a helmet, bulletproof vest, military clothing and other equipment.

The governor of New York, Kathy Hochul, said that it was a typical attack by white supremacists, a xenophobic and racist ideology that is multiplying dangerously in that nation.

A day earlier, in Milwaukee, 20 people were wounded in two shootings that occurred after the end of a National Basketball Association (NBA) game.

The President of the United States, Joseph Biden, condemned all acts of domestic terrorism and described as repugnant the white supremacist ideology, but these are only words without any practical significance, because these events are being repeated more and more frequently.

No government in that country has been able to impose strict controls on the sale, carrying and use of weapons, perhaps because the lives of citizens, whom they claim to defend so much, are worth less than the contributions that manufacturers and sellers make to their campaigns, a curious concept of democracy.

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