

Chalk, a blackboard and a gun



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By Roberto Morejón

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The most recent of the pitifully endless succession of attacks occurred in the U.S. state of Oklahoma.

There, a man killed four people in a hospital to take revenge on a doctor who operated on him, because even after being discharged from the hospital he was still in pain.

With such a disconcerting argument, Michael Louis bought an AR-15 rifle and a pistol, with which he opened fire in the sanatorium and later took his own life.

The fatal outcome was reported just a week after Salvador Romero, 18, killed 19 students and two teachers at a school in the city of Uvalde, Texas.

With both tragedies, the U.S. has now compiled a staggering 233 mass shootings this year, enough to bring the debate on free gun ownership back to the forefront and mobilize Congress and President Joseph Biden.

But while the legislature is scrambling to analyze possible bills to limit access to assault rifles only, dangerous initiatives are being taken in several states.

The Ohio House of Representatives passed a bill that would allow teachers and other school personnel to arm themselves, with the inconsequential requirement of 24 hours of training.

A Florida campus raffled off several weapons, including handguns and semi-automatic rifles, to raise funds for the institution, despite the recent massacre at the Uvalde school.

The mayor of New York, Eric Adams, is so shocked by the violence that he appointed a commissioner to head a group to combat it, by sending community workers to neighborhoods considered more prone to settle altercations with bullets.

The United States has so embraced a culture of gun ownership, and the National Rifle Association and other elites have such a stranglehold on the economy and politicians, that society seems increasingly trapped in crisis.

Where settling disputes and reprimanding an adversary is done by carrying an easily acquired rifle, they seem so misguided as to accept in Ohio to equip teachers with a pistol on their belt, along with chalk and an eraser, to ensure school order.

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