

Article 1:

Victims of Las Vegas massacre – the deadliest US shooting

– could get up to \$800M from MGM

John BaconEd Komenda

USA TODAY, Oct 3, 2019

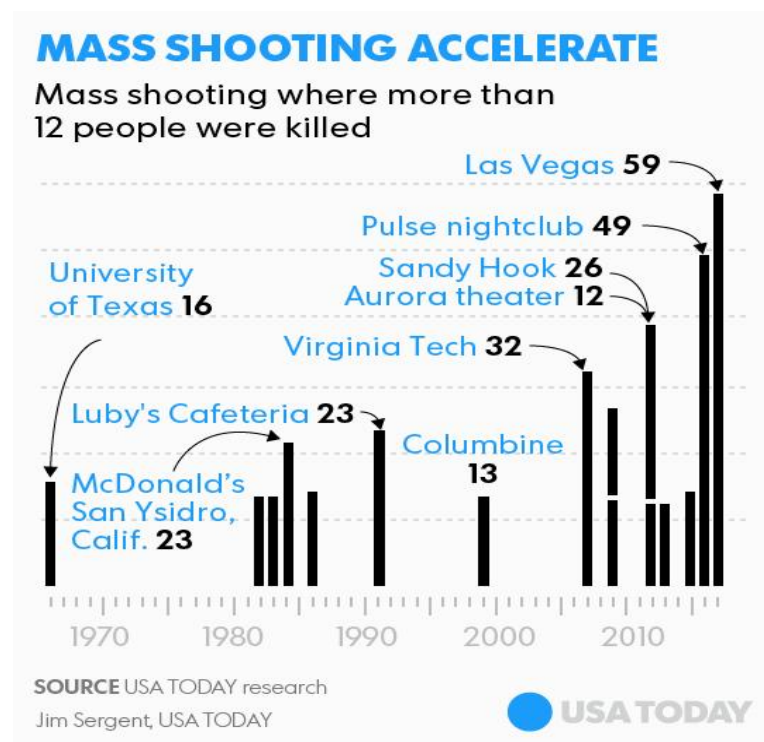
LAS VEGAS – MGM Resorts International and lawyers representing victims and families in the Las Vegas shooting rampage¹ that killed 58 people and wounded hundreds in 2017 reached a settlement deal that could total \$800 million.

The hotel giant and lawyers for the plaintiffs issued a statement saying the total settlement amount is expected to be \$735 million to \$800 million, depending on the number of people who elect to participate. Lawyers hope to complete the deal, which could involve thousands of people, by late 2020.

Tuesday marked two years since Stephen Paddock fired into the crowd of 22,000 from the 32nd floor of Mandalay Bay hotel, owned by MGM, for more than 10 minutes before taking his own life. Investigators never determined a motive for the attack, the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history.

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¹ rampage: a course of violent, riotous, or reckless action



Article 2:

Guns Aren't a Bulwark¹ Against Tyranny.

The Rule of Law Is.

By MICHAEL SHERMER

The New York Times, Dec 1, 2017

In the wake of the Las Vegas massacre — the worst in modern American history, with 58 dead and some 500 wounded — the onus² falls once again to those against gun control to make their case. The two most common arguments made in defense of broad gun ownership are a) self protection and b) as a bulwark against tyranny. Let's consider each one.

¹ bulwark: safeguard, protective structure

² onus: duty, responsibility



Guns on exhibit at the National Rifle Association convention in Kentucky in 2016. Ty Wright

Stories about the use of guns in self-defense — a good guy with a gun dispensing with a bad guy with a gun — are legion among gun enthusiasts and conservative talk radio hosts. But a 1998 study in *The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, to take one of many examples, found that “every time a gun in the

home was used in a self-defense or legally justifiable shooting, there were four unintentional shootings, seven criminal assaults or homicides and 11 attempted or completed suicides.” That means a gun is 22 times more likely to be used in a criminal assault, an accidental death or injury, a suicide attempt or a homicide than it is for self-defense.

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Gun-rights advocates also make the grandiose claim that gun ownership is a deterrent against tyrannical governments. Indeed, the wording of the Second Amendment makes this point explicitly: “A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

...

There’s no question that tyrannical states have abused the freedom of their citizens. But it is no longer realistic to think that arming citizens to the teeth is going to stop tyranny should it arise. Far superior are nonviolent democratic checks and balances on power, constitutional guardians of civil rights and legal protections of liberties.