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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

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Pregnancy is a risk factor for deadly assaults on women and their pre-born children

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OTTAWA – Legislation such as the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (Bill C-484) protects women. Bill C-484 will give the government another tool to prosecute those who assault and kill pregnant women, often for the primary purpose of killing the pre-born baby the woman is carrying. Following is a list of women who have been murdered and maimed by those who wanted to end the lives of the babies they were carrying.

1. In 1981, Manitoba resident Bernice Daniels was stabbed in the abdomen, resulting in the premature birth of her child who lived for 19 minutes before dying from injuries suffered during the attack. Sandra Prince was eventually convicted of the child's manslaughter.
2. In July 2005, pregnant Edmonton woman, Liana White, was 29 years old and was 4 months pregnant with their second child. Both were slain by her husband. She was stabbed in the lower back and the upper left buttock, while she was alive. Cuts on two of her left fingers suggest she tried to defend herself. Michael White her husband is charged with her murder only.
3. In November 2005, Olivia Talbot, 19 years old, of Edmonton, was 27 weeks (7 months) pregnant with her first child, son, Lane Jr. She was shot three times in the abdomen and twice in the head by a long-time friend. Both died, no charge could be laid in the death of Baby Lane. Every night that he could, Lane Griffith talked to the belly of his pregnant fiancée Olivia Talbot and told their pre-born son how much "Daddy loves him."
4. Dec. 10, 2006, Kelly Morrisseau, 27 years old, mother of three and seven months pregnant with her fourth baby was found naked, bleeding and left to die in a Gatineau parking lot. Morrisseau, a pregnant mother of three children, was stabbed over a dozen times and died within an hour of being found, her seven month old baby did not survive the attack. The police are still looking for her killer.
5. Manjit Panghali, was last seen alive on Oct. 18, 2006, when she left her home to attend a local pre-natal yoga class. She was the mother of a 3 year old daughter, and was pregnant again. The Surrey teacher never arrived at her destination. The victim was a mother, four months pregnant, and a young teacher. Neither survived this brutal attack. In March 2007, Mukhtiar Panghali was charged with second-degree murder in the death of his wife.

6. In February 2007, Winnipeg's Roxanne Fernando, 24 years old, was pregnant with her first baby. She and her pre-born baby were savagely beaten to death by youth because she refused to have an abortion. She was pregnant, and her "pro-choice" boyfriend, Nathaniel Mark Plourde, had demanded that she have an abortion, but she refused, so he arranged to have her and the baby killed.

7. On Oct. 2, 2007, 25 year old Aysun Sesen from Toronto was seven months pregnant when she was repeatedly stabbed in the abdomen. Neither she nor her baby survived the brutal attack. Her boyfriend has been charged with only her murder. Again there were no repercussions for killing her wanted pre-born child.

In all of these cases, there has been no recognition of a crime against these women's pre-born children – even though their babies were wanted and the mothers intended to bring them to full term.

"I hope all Canadians are concerned about violence against women. Fellow MP Ken Epp's Bill C-484 is an important piece of legislation to protect women and their wanted pre-born children from assault and murder," said MP Maurice Vellacott (Saskatoon-Wanuskewin).

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For further comment, call (613) 992-1966 or 297-2249