



Statement of Esta Soler,  
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August 23, 2023  
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## **Domestic Violence Leader Warns: Many More Women, Children Will Be Harmed If SCOTUS Fails to Reverse Lower Court in *United States v. Rahimi***

*Futures Without Violence Signs Onto Amicus Brief in Critically Important Gun Case  
That SCOTUS Will Consider This Fall; Has Experts Available for Interviews*

“There is broad consensus that keeping guns out of the hands of abusers is a common-sense safety measure that makes women and children, who are most often harmed by domestic violence, as well as families and communities, safer. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *United States v. Rahimi*, allowing those who have demonstrated they are violent to have firearms, was dangerous and irresponsible and would have devastating consequences if it were allowed to stand.

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Rahimi* will have life and death consequences, both for adults and children facing domestic violence and for our communities. That’s why Futures Without Violence joined [an amicus brief](#), filed Monday, urging the Court to reverse the lower court ruling in this case. The *Rahimi* case offers an opportunity to continue our long tradition of developing policies to reduce danger, giving the Court another chance to increase safety and save lives by reversing the dangerous 5th Circuit ruling.

Domestic violence is a grave and pervasive problem in our country. Tragically, more children are killed by domestic violence in their homes than by shootings in their schools, and domestic violence-related homicides are now increasing. The preponderance of guns is one reason; when there is a firearm in the home, the likelihood someone facing domestic violence will be killed [jumps 500 percent](#).

Zackey Rahimi’s case is a cautionary tale about what can happen when domestic abusers can access firearms. He assaulted his girlfriend and threatened to shoot her if she told anyone, leading to a Texas court issuing a domestic violence restraining order that included prohibiting him from having firearms. Subsequently, he threatened another woman with a gun and was charged with assault with a deadly weapon. During that same period, Rahimi opened fire in public five times. Allowing people like Zackey Rahimi, who have a protective order against them or have been convicted of a domestic violence crime, to access firearms would exacerbate the dangers for families and make our communities more dangerous.

As a nation, we have seen the wisdom in trying to protect children from gun violence at school. SCOTUS should apply the same common sense to protecting children, and everyone, at home. The U.S. Supreme Court must rule to keep firearms away from domestic abusers.”

**\*\* FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE has experts available to discuss *United States v. Rahimi*. To interview Esta Soler, our founder and president, or Kiersten Stewart, our director of public policy and advocacy, contact [Lisa Lederer](#) at 202/371-1997.**

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**ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:**

For more than 35 years, FUTURES has been providing groundbreaking programs, policies and campaigns that empower individuals and organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policymakers and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships. More information is available at [www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org).