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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LARGEST SEIZURE OF ILLEGAL GUNS IN NYC HISTORY UNDERSCORES NEED  
FOR STRONG FEDERAL GUN SAFETY LAWS**

*New York City, NY – August 19, 2013*—Today’s announcement that the NYPD has seized 250 illegal guns, the largest cache in the city’s history, highlights the need for strong federal gun safety laws starting with background checks on all gun sales and tougher penalties for gun trafficking. Shamefully, these common sense measures failed in the Senate last April despite overwhelming support from the American people.

A staggering 90% of crime guns recovered in New York City originates from states with weak gun laws. The indictment announced today identifies the seized guns as coming from North and South Carolina, two states with some of the weakest gun laws in the country and, not surprisingly, the second and third largest suppliers of crime guns into New York. In addition to exporting guns to New York, these two states suffer from higher gun death rates than New York.

Criminals like those indicted today know that weak state laws allow them to peddle guns for cash into states like NY. Until Congress acts, New Yorkers are at the mercy of criminals who will flood our streets with weapons that end up killing and injuring our citizens. Leah Gunn Barrett, Executive Director of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence said, “Weak federal gun laws have a direct and dangerous impact on New Yorkers. But New Yorkers are not the only victims. Citizens in states with weak gun laws suffer at even higher rates from gun violence. Congress needs to do its job, and not continue to pander to the gun lobby, to protect all Americans from gun violence by enacting common sense gun safety laws now.”

*About New Yorkers Against Gun Violence*

*New Yorkers Against Gun Violence (NYAGV) is a statewide advocacy group working to reduce gun violence through advocacy and education designed to encourage action, influence public opinion and lead to policy change. With a primary focus on New York State, the organization also advocates at the local and national levels for sensible laws, policies and practices that protect New York State residents from gun violence. There are solutions to gun violence and citizens can make their voices heard by signing up to become a member of NYAGV at [www.nyagv.org](http://www.nyagv.org).*

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