

Statement from Ariel Bombara

I'd like to start by saying how truly, deeply sorry I am to Liesl Petelczyc for the losses of her beautiful mother, Jenny, and sister, Gretl; losses she has suffered at the hands of my father's violence.

My mother and I fled our family home on March 28 in fear of our lives and to remove ourselves from an abusive situation.

Between March 30th and April 2nd, I spoke with police on three separate occasions to raise the alarm about my father. On each occasion I alerted officers to my father's guns, and told them my mother and I felt there was a real and imminent threat to our lives.

I specifically mentioned that there was a Glock handgun which was unaccounted for. My understanding is this ultimately would be one of the weapons my father used take the lives of two innocent women.

I also asked the police if we would be able to take out a 72 hour temporary protective order. We were told no, and that there was nothing police could do about the situation at that time.

On April 2nd, my mother and I were given a police escort to our home to collect some belongings. This was the third occasion we warned police about my father's guns. One officer said, "oh don't worry, we know all about the guns", and when he called for backup, he warned his fellow officers to wear bullet proof vests.

We were ignored by five different male officers across three occasions of reporting. By that point we felt completely helpless and I had to focus on getting mum to safety. I did everything I could to protect my mother, and when my father couldn't find us he murdered her best friend and her best friend's daughter.

The gun reforms being discussed currently are an important step, but it is my unwavering belief that even without his guns, my father would have committed a horrific act of violence which likely would have claimed lives.

What my father did was an act of domestic violence. My mother and I made clear that lives were at risk, and we were repeatedly ignored. Repeatedly failed. Those failures have cost the lives of two incredible women. My father should always be considered accountable for his actions. They were his and his alone; however, there are authorities who should have helped us to stop him, and they failed.

I want answers.