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Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar Make Stop in Colby as Part of Cross Country Bike Trip to Advocate for Laws to Protect Children from Predators

COLBY, KAN. – On Sunday, September 5, 2010, Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar, both parents of child abduction and abuse victims, will travel to Colby, Kansas by bicycle as part of an awareness and fundraising campaign for the Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC) child advocacy initiatives. While in Colby, Rivazfar and Smart will stop at Fike Park located at 66/800 North Franklin in Colby at 4:30 p.m., to meet guests and to share information on how to protect children. From Colby, Smart and Rivazfar will ride to Denver, Colo.

The Surviving Parents Coalition consists of 43 members, and is made up of parents of children who were abducted, sexually assaulted, murdered, recovered or are still missing. Through legislative efforts SPC aims to significantly improve public awareness about prevention as well as legislative progress, facilitate hands-on safety education in schools for children through young adults and promote best practices for law enforcement and communities in responding to predatory crimes.

During the stop in Colby, Rivazfar and Smart will be joined by SPC member, Maggie Zingman, the mother of Brittany Phillips who was a student at Tulsa Community College who was raped and murdered inside of her apartment in September 2004. After missing class one day, a friend went to Brittany's apartment looking for her and found her raped and strangled. Since then, more than 2,000 individuals have been ruled out through regional DNA analysis in South East Oklahoma, yet her murderer has still not been caught. As DNA rule outs increased, Zingman knew her story needed to be told across the U.S. To help, she created "Caravan to Catch a Killer" tours in October 2007. During 3-6 week tours, Zingman visits cities in a wrapped pink and purple SUV, covered with pictures of Brittany, facts about her murder and "Caravan to Catch a Killer" on all sides. She discusses her murder in hopes of tips, trying to raise awareness about DNA on Felony arrest and stricter sexual offender laws.

Since Brittany's murder in 2004, Zingman has driven more than 38,000 miles to conduct media interviews and meet with local homicide departments, government officials, and community leaders. She hopes that by receiving national coverage, she will help improve current rape laws and raise awareness about how DNA backlogs and justice issues related to rape affect the occurrence of murders such as Brittany's and impede investigations. Zingman credits law enforcement and volunteers in Tulsa, Okla. for having helped in her daughter's investigation and also the companies who have helped raise awareness for the cause and promote the "Caravan to Catch a Killer" such

as LAMAR Advertising and Midwest Wraps/Fellers Vinyl. Zingman remains on a mission to bring her daughter's killer to justice.

Rivazfar and Smart, who began their journey on August 21, in Rochester, N.Y., will end on September 22 in Los Angeles, Calif. Other cyclists are welcome to join in on the 3,500-mile journey, which travels through 12 states and 26 cities. The awareness campaign, “*Ride for Their Lives*,” seeks to increase public knowledge and raise \$1,000,000 to help advocate for laws that protect children and fight to eradicate predatory crimes Nation wide.

The purpose of this month-long journey is to focus on four main legislative issues surrounding child abuse and abduction cases:

1. **DNA Collection on Felony Arrest** – to lobby for DNA collection on felony arrest, not just on felony conviction. Currently, 24 states have passed some form of DNA on felony arrest legislation, but there are 26 states that should follow suit. www.dnasaves.org.
2. **Protect our Children Act of 2008** – a law that gives more resources to the investigation and interdiction of child pornography and exploitation cases.
3. **The Adam Walsh Act** – The Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, and the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act set minimum standards for a national sex offender’s registration and notification system.
4. **“Not ONE More Child”** – A Child Safety Education Initiative that educates and empowers children to recognize, avoid, resist, and escape dangerous situations and violence including bullying, assault, abuse and abduction.

The Kansas State Legislature has already acted to protect their citizens by expanding the DNA database to require DNA upon arrest for all felony crimes. Strengthening the Kansas DNA program will assist law enforcement in quickly and accurately identifying perpetrators of violent crimes. Presently, there are 24,285 known sex offenders in the state of Kansas and 20,455 personal computers that have been identified trading child pornography in a 48 hour period.

Sponsors of “*Ride for Their Lives*” include Limited Brands, Full Moon Vista Bike & Sport, Beau Productions, Brabon Justice International, LLC and Dixon Schwabl.

For more information about “*Ride for Their Lives*” and the Surviving Parents Coalition, visit www.RideforTheirLives.com.

The Surviving Parents Coalition is a parent-driven, 501c4 organization committed to saving lives. The coalition’s founding demonstrates the power of survival and how suffering can motivate people to accomplish extraordinary things. SPC lobbies for funding and legislation because they are essential to effective change. Its goal is to

ensure young people mature naturally without abuse and emotional turmoil. The SPC is determined to grow and spread out nationally one family at a time.

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