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

**INDIANAPOLIS, IN** – On Wednesday, August 25, 2010, Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar, both parents of child abduction and abuse victims, will travel to Indianapolis, Ind., by bicycle as part of an awareness and fundraising campaign for the Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC) child advocacy initiatives. While in Indianapolis, Rivazfar and Smart will stop at Grove Public Library located at 1102 Main St. Beech Grove, Ind. at 5 p.m., to meet guests and to share information on how to protect children. From Indianapolis, Smart and Rivazfar will ride to Champaign, Ill.

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 Indianapolis Rivazfar and Smart will be joined by SPC member, Carol Ryan, the mother of Lindsey Ryan who disappeared in March 2003. Lindsey was 14 years old when she was lured by a dangerous sexual predator who used church activities and hidden Internet contact to entice and threaten her. On March 1, Lindsey left her home but was safely found 2,000 miles from home thanks to the efforts of the Amber Alert, FBI, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, California Highway Patrol and law enforcement.

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](http://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.

Currently in Indiana it is not required to collect DNA upon felony arrest. Senator Joe Zakas and Sen. Brent Waltz introduced legislation this year that would expand the DNA database by testing all people arrested for committing a serious felony. Strengthening the Indiana DNA program will assist law enforcement in quickly and accurately identifying perpetrators of violent crimes. Presently, there are 169,903 known sex offenders in the State of Indiana and 28,843 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](http://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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