



For Immediate Release:

August 26, 2010

Media Contact:

Kathy Phelps, Dixon Schwabl

585-899-3238

Kathy_Phelps@dixonschwabl.com

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

MOAB, UTAH – On Thursday, September 9, 2010, Ed Smart and Ahmad Rivazfar, both parents of child abduction and abuse victims, will travel to Moab, Utah by bicycle as part of an awareness and fundraising campaign for the Surviving Parents Coalition (SPC) child advocacy initiatives. While in Moab, Rivazfar and Smart will stop at Swanny City Park located at 181 West 400 North at 4 p.m., to meet guests and to share information on how to protect children. From Moab, Smart and Rivazfar will ride to Salt Lake City, Utah.

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 Moab, Rivazfar and Smart will be joined by SPC member Stayce Pead, mother of Kala Welch. In 2001, Kala was lured away by a 48 year-old convicted sex offender. She was recovered safely several months later. Several counts of kidnap and sexual assault were filed against her attacker then later dropped due to a technicality. However, Stayce has never given up the fight to see him put behind bars so he can never harm another child. In 2002, Stayce became a volunteer for Team H.O.P.E., a program of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. She has also volunteered for The Turning Point Domestic Violence Shelter. Her goal is to see stronger penalties and tracking procedures for sex offenders to ensure the safety of children.

Rivazfar and Smart, who begin 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.

In 2010, the Utah State Legislature enacted a law to require DNA collection upon arrest for serious felony crimes. Strengthening Utah’s DNA program will assist law enforcement in quickly and accurately identifying perpetrators of violent crimes. Presently, there are 17,801 known sex offenders in the state of Utah and 14,655 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.

###