**Audio script: Alarming surge in urban violence**

Host: Hi everybody! Welcome back to Fresh outlook. I’m T.W. Brill. Well, lately, there’s been a wave of homicides pervading America’s inner cities. So what’s causing so much violence? Let’s take a look.

Reporter: This year, Chicago saw over 40 homicides, just in January. And it’s not alone. From Philadelphia to Omaha, from Oakland to New Orleans, the urban US is in crisis.

What’s causing the violence? Why ahs carnage gone on for so long? And what can be done, beyond gun control?

Host: I’d like to introduce the panel. We have DD, and Bill, and a new guest. John, tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from?

John. Hi. I’m John Paitakes, from Seton Hall University – I’m a professor o criminal justice. I worked in the field of probation for a number of years, was on the State parole board – so I – a combination practitioner and .....

Host: yeah! So you have a lot to say on this topic. Let’s start with you. So, why this surge in violence in inner cities, since it is more than ever?

John: You know, there’s a combination of factors, I think. I don’t think you can pinpoint any one thing. School dropouts – you know, the kids drop out of school. What do you do? So right away, gang members are going to try and solicit them to join the gang. If you drop out of school, what can you do in terms of work or whatever?

The quickest way to make money may be selling drugs or whatever. So, school dropouts may be where it starts. And then, you know, the peer pressure ... the neighbourhoods they grow up in – like a high crime area, economically depressed. It kind of goes along with the theory – the broken window theory – that says when you have vacant buildings, and dilapidated buildings, and people leave the area; then gang members ... and you know, vagrants take over the area – all of a sudden, it becomes prominent for ... In big cities, that’s what has happened to some extent. In addition to that, we’ve had a lot of police layoffs, if you have notices, especially in Chicago or New York. Many police departments laid off a large segment of law enforcement people. So you have less people... So .... it’s a combination of things.