



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 17, 2021

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Exercising the Right

Scary Stalker Shot

Valdosta Today reported on August 23 about an incident in southern Georgia involving a man being followed home by a dangerous criminal with bad intentions. Police say that 25-year-old Lyndon Williams followed a man who left his place of employment and was returning home. Williams drove behind the victim, who was completely unaware that he was being followed. Once the victim parked in his driveway, Williams darted out of his vehicle and ran up to the man with a handgun drawn in an apparent attempt to rob him. Thankfully, the victim had his own handgun, and shot Williams before Williams was able to fire his gun. Valdosta Today reported that police had concluded their investigation and determined that the victim acted lawfully, and the shooting was a justified case of self-defense.

FBI “Terror Watch List” May Be Used to Strip Gun Rights

Prominent gun-rights advocate John Lott and Representative Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) co-authored a September 4 op-ed in the *Washington Times* that squarely took aim at the FBI and its so-called terror watch list. Lott and Massie warned the list might be used to make an end-run around the Second Amendment. The editorial was entitled “FBI abuses ‘no-fly list’ to infringe on Second Amendment rights,” and explained that the no-fly list, which had its origins in the early years of the post-9/11 “war on terror,” has grown to an astronomical two million names! Democrats have long called for banning anyone who is on the list from being able to buy guns and, if enacted, such a law could end up stripping two million Americans of their gun rights. As Lott and Massie explained, “being on the watch list doesn’t mean that you are guilty of anything. You can be on the list simply because the FBI wants to interview you about someone you might know. As of 2014, about 40 percent of people on the watch list were under ‘reasonable suspicion’ despite having ‘no affiliation with known terrorist groups.’ People can get nominated for the list by various government agencies, and no oversight agency exists to ensure that these additions are justified.”

Lott and Massie named high-profile Democrats, such as Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and former President Barack Obama, who have called for banning gun sales to people on the list. Lott and Massie also detailed many common problems with the list, including “false positives” by which a person with a similar name to someone on the list can end up in legal limbo. Lott and Massie drew parallels to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which has its own share of problems. They wrote, “Since the NICS background checks began in 1994, there have been 3.8 million initial denials. In 2017 alone, there were 112,000 initial denials for supposedly prohibited purchases. But, by June of the following year, the federal government had only prosecuted twelve people for trying to buy a gun. Almost all the cases were dropped upon further review. The simple reason for this is that they were mistakes — in other words, they weren’t real cases.”

Ultimately, Lott and Massie took issue with the fact that since there is no due process for someone who is put on the list, it’s unfair to use placement on the list as grounds for stripping the person of such a crucial right as the right to bear arms. In conclusion, Lott and Massie argued that the approach is just as foolhardy and downright dangerous as other anti-gun proposals, and wrote that the “terror watch list would likely only stop law-abiding people from purchasing guns. People shouldn’t lose their right to protect their families because some unnamed bureaucrat put their name on a list for some unknown



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reason. With Democrats in complete control of Washington for the first time since they started pushing this legislation, we'd better keep an eye on what they might try to sneak into this year's budget."

Taliban Victory Reminds Us That the Second Amendment Works

In a July speech, Joe Biden mocked Second Amendment supporters who argue that an armed citizenry can protect against government tyranny, mumbling, "If you wanted or if you think you need to have weapons to take on the government, you need F-15s and maybe some nuclear weapons." Biden was obviously trying to imply that small arms would be insufficient against a major military power such as that of the United States, but in a month's time, the exact opposite proved true when U.S. forces retreated from Afghanistan, essentially handing the Taliban a victory after nearly 20 years of war.

Much has been written about America's embarrassing defeat at the hands of the Taliban, but political pundit Michael Brendan Dougherty wrote a column back in 2017 for *National Review* in which he made the argument that the Taliban's successes against the United States proved that the Second Amendment works. By that point in the conflict, the Taliban had basically fought the United States to a standstill using nothing more than conventional firearms. "Civil society and good lawyers are all the defense you need against a non-tyrannical government. But a tyranny, an invader, or a pretender-government are more effectively resisted with guns. Sometimes people put [the anti-gun] argument more baldly. They ask something like this: 'Do you really think Bubba in camo gear hiding in the forest is going to take on the U.S. military? The U.S. military has nuclear weapons!' Who exactly do you think has stymied the U.S. in Afghanistan for 16 years? The Taliban is made up of Afghan Bubbas.... They use a mix of Kalashnikovs and WWII-era bolt-action rifles. Determined insurgencies are really difficult to fight.... With just the moral support of the society they are living in, and a number of rifles, a small group of men can make it impossible for tyrants to rule."

While the thought of America descending into a bloody insurgency that lasts for years is a terrifying one, the only thought that is more upsetting is the American government becoming a nightmarish tyranny that can't be resisted by its subjects.



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