



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on December 21, 2015

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Exercising the Right

Thirteen-year-old Shoots Intruder

The *Post and Courier* reported out of South Carolina on November 10 about a 13-year-old boy who was forced to use his mother's gun to defend himself. The boy was home alone around 2 p.m. when he saw a suspicious vehicle pull up behind his house. Two men exited the vehicle and began trying to break in. The quick-thinking boy hurriedly ran to his mother's bedroom and retrieved her pistol. As the men were beating on the door to gain access to the home, the boy opened fire. One of the suspects returned fire at the boy but did not hit him. The two men fled back to their car while still exchanging shots with the boy. Authorities later said the vehicle the two suspects were driving had bullet holes.

After the uninjured suspect dropped the injured suspect off at a nearby medical facility, he then drove off in the vehicle. The injured suspect, 31-year-old Lamar Brown, was soon pronounced dead as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. His accomplice was identified as 28-year-old Ira Bennett, who was also apprehended.

Investigators located a .45 pistol in the backyard of the home where the crime occurred, and police believe that it may have belonged to Brown, who dropped it after getting shot. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office has said Bennett has been charged with first-degree burglary and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime. A review of the rap sheet of the two suspects reveals extensive criminal histories. Bennett had previously been convicted of assault with intent to kill, pointing a firearm at a person, and third-degree burglary, as well as possession of a controlled substance, manufacturing and distributing a controlled substance, and possession of marijuana. Brown's convictions included six felony drug charges, as well as a conviction for the unlawful carrying of a weapon and disorderly conduct and trespassing.

The boy's mother was shocked about what happened and told the *Post and Courier* that she did have the pistol in the house but never taught her son how to use it. "I tell my kids that if anything ever happens to call 911, but I also tell them to protect themselves if they have to.... I never would have dreamed that this would have been a part of our day." The boy's mother described her son as a well-behaved child "who is quiet and listens well." She said that he told her he wished the shooting never happened. The mother also said that this incident makes her want to move from Charleston but she didn't want to make any rash decisions. "I'm always scared; there's so much going on all the time in Charleston.... All I can do is continue to pray and hope it gets better."

Neighbors said that they were shocked by the shooting. Debbie Griffin told the *Post and Courier* that she called police after hearing shots ring out. Griffin also said her son was outside at the time and actually witnessed the attempted burglary. "I don't know really what happened, but it kind of scared me.... It was a little close," she said.

Breastfeeding Mom Shoots at Intruder

WSOC reported on November 10 about a North Carolina mom who was in the midst of breastfeeding her infant son when she was the victim of a violent home invasion. Multiple men approached the home in Charlotte and began knocking on her door. When the mother, 21-year-old Semantha Bunce, who was home with just her son, did not answer, one of the men began pounding on the door in an effort to



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break it down. Bunce, a combat medic in the U.S. Army's 105th Engineer Battalion, grabbed her pistol and went to her bedroom door. The man barged into the house and approached the stairwell, whereupon Bunce fired at him. The man returned fire, and in the exchange of gunfire Bunce was struck twice. Police did not say whether any of the intruders were hit.

Her husband, Paul Bunce, believed that his wife's National Guard training helped prepare her for this and later told WSOC, "I think it was a shock to the intruders just as much as it was to her!" Thankfully, the baby was unharmed in the shooting. Semantha Bunce remains in the medical center recovering from her injuries and has undergone multiple surgeries.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police later arrested Reco Latur Dawkins, Jr., 23, and charged him with attempted first-degree murder, felony breaking and entering, and conspiracy in connection to the incident. Police believe Dawkins targeted the home in a random act of crime. Sunday's arrest was Dawkins' seventh in the past three years, including several on charges of breaking and entering, according to the Mecklenburg Sheriff's Office. Dawkins has a long criminal history stretching back almost a decade. Police initially said there was more than one intruder, but did not reveal whether investigators were looking for anyone else in connection with the shooting.

Psycho Attack

A story out of Tomball, Texas, resembled something out of a horror movie. KHOU reported on November 2 that 21-year-old Pedro Sanchez snuck into the house of a young man he knew and repeatedly stabbed the man while he showered. The Harris County Sheriff's Office said Sanchez was wearing latex gloves and carrying a baseball bat when he entered the house through an unlocked door. He then walked upstairs, where he found 17-year-old Tyler Wade showering and began stabbing him to death. The victim's 12-year-old sister witnessed this horrifying scene and ran to get help from a neighbor. The neighbor, an off-duty Houston firefighter, quickly grabbed his shotgun and went to investigate. The firefighter found Sanchez upstairs standing over the bloodied boy's body. The neighbor told Sanchez multiple times to drop the knife. Instead, Sanchez lunged at the firefighter, who fired a single shot, killing the knife-wielding attacker. The entire community was in shock over the brutal killing. While a motive for the attack is still not known, family members say the victim knew his attacker. The deceased teen was remembered by his peers as a popular football player and a "fun-loving guy that could put a smile on anyone's face."



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