



Exercising the Right

A Mother's Love

The CBS affiliate in Charlotte, North Carolina, reported on January 23 that a mother put her life on the line to save her children from a dangerous intruder. The incident unfolded when 32-year-old Phuc Hong Doan allegedly tried breaking in to a southwest Charlotte house. A woman who lived in a neighboring house saw Doan attempting to gain entry to the house and inadvertently got his attention. When Doan saw the woman watching him, he allegedly approached her and attacked her. The woman, Kim Badger, fought back, but Doan was able to overpower her. "We wrestled on the front porch. I tried keeping him from going into the house. Evidently I lost, he got in the house," Badger told WBTV. Doan forced his way into Badger's house and grabbed a knife from the kitchen. Badger tried to get the knife away but was unsuccessful.

Badger kept a loaded pistol in her house and was able to retrieve it in time to fire at Doan before he could hurt her with the knife. The shot would prove fatal, as Doan collapsed to the ground. He was later declared dead at the scene by medics. Badger was shaken from the encounter, but she said the one thing that kept her fighting was the thought of her two sons who were also in the house at the time of the shooting. "Didn't think anything but keeping the kids safe. I was keeping my sons safe," Badger told WBTV. Law enforcement is still investigating the crime, and Doan's motives remain unknown at this time.

Hot Spot for Drugs and Gang Activity

A neighborhood that recently experienced an uptick in crime in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was the scene of a shooting on January 21. The *Albuquerque Journal* reported on January 23 that an Albuquerque residence was broken in to by two masked burglars. Albuquerque Police Department spokesman Simon Drobik issued a press release that explained that the homeowner was alerted to their presence and armed himself. The armed man confronted the two masked intruders, who were dressed all in black, and ordered them to halt. When the man observed what appeared to be a "blunt object or edged weapon," he feared for his life and fired at the suspects. He injured one of the men, who collapsed in his yard, but the other suspect was able to flee the scene. The man called 911, and authorities soon arrived to discover the lifeless body of a masked man lying in front of the house. The *Albuquerque Journal* interviewed neighbors, who claimed that the area "had recently deteriorated and that nearby vacant homes had become hot spots for drug and gang activity." Some claimed that drug activity had always plagued the neighborhood, but the problem had gotten worse recently causing crime rates to skyrocket. "They're running out of stuff on the outside (of the houses) to take," the neighbor, who wished to remain nameless, said. "I'm just scared for my family," the man added.

Albuquerque Police Department spokesman Drobik did explain that the homeowner "was in fear for his life" but that the investigation is still ongoing, and the second suspect who fled the scene is still being sought.

A Good Guy With a Gun

The *Christian Science Monitor* reported on January 13 about a shooting that supported a common argument in support of gun rights.



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Anti-gun activists ridicule the argument that a “good guy with a gun” can help to save innocent lives, but an Arizona state trooper is living evidence that it’s true. The incident in question involved an armed passerby, later identified as Thomas Yoxall of Arizona, who came to the rescue of an Arizona state trooper.

Trooper Edward Andersson’s morning started out like most others when he was notified by his dispatcher that there was an assailant shooting at cars at a rural section of Interstate 10 about 50 miles west of Phoenix. Andersson drove to the scene and discovered an overturned car, with a woman who was lying nearby, presumably because she had been ejected from the vehicle. Andersson followed his training and began setting up flares around the scene of what he believed to be a routine traffic accident, but then he heard bullets being fired. Andersson was immediately shot in the shoulder and the chest and fell to the ground with serious injuries. Andersson was on the ground when the shooting suspect approached him and began violently beating him.

That is when Yoxall, the “good guy with a gun,” showed up. Yoxall was driving by and witnessed the savage beating, and he pulled over to assist the fallen trooper. Luckily, Yoxall kept a loaded firearm in his car and exited his vehicle with the weapon in his hands. Yoxall yelled for the assailant to stop his violent attack, but the suspect refused to comply.

This left Yoxall with no other option but to shoot the attacker. The suspect’s lifeless body fell to the ground near where the trooper lay. The motorist used Andersson’s radio to call for help, and more authorities soon arrived on the scene. Both the suspect and the woman whose body was near the vehicle were later determined to be deceased. The suspect was later identified as Leonard Pennelas-Escobar, who was in the country illegally at the time of the shooting. The woman, Vanessa Monique Lopez-Ruiz, who was in a romantic relationship with Escobar, later died from her injuries.

Colonel Frank Milstead of the Arizona Department of Public Safety made a statement, reported by the *Christian Science Monitor*, indicating that he was grateful for the actions of the good Samaritan: “I would just say, at this point, ‘Thank You,’ because I don’t know that my trooper would be alive today without his assistance.” Arizona does have a “defense of third person” statute that allows citizens to use deadly force in defense of others.

The *Christian Science Monitor* published an interview with National Rifle Association World Shooting Champion Dianna Muller this past September when this subject came up. Muller said, “Humans can use our brains. And we can use guns as a defense, not an offensive. It’s the ultimate defense — it levels the playing field.... Good guys with guns do make a difference.”

— Patrick Krey



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