



Written by [Staff](#) on June 5, 2017

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Exercising the Right

Family Tied Up in Home Invasion

KTRK reported out of Houston, Texas, on a terrifying story involving an entire family being tied up by burglars. The incident occurred very early in the morning on May 9, when four men broke in to a home that was occupied by a mother and father and their daughter and twin sons.

The twins, Ruben Garcia and Rene Garcia, were awakened in the middle of the night by the sounds of their mother screaming for help. "At like around 4 a.m., I woke up to the screams of my parents," Ruben told KTRK. Ruben explained that he witnessed armed burglars holding his parents at gunpoint. As Ruben stood there in shock about what was unfolding in front of him, one of the intruders pointed a gun right at his mother and threatened to murder her if Ruben did not do what the man told him. "I didn't know what was happening until I saw the man holding a gun to my mom's head.... I was like, 'what the heck is happening?'" Ruben told KTRK. Ruben and Rene complied with the intruder's demands, and the burglars tied up the two young boys along with the parents and sister.

The intruders plundered the house, stealing jewelry and other valuables stored by the family. Rene told KTRK that he thought they were doomed when, out of nowhere, his uncle, who lives next door, intervened and saved their lives. The uncle heard the screaming and came over to the home armed with his handgun. The uncle burst into the house and fired at the suspects, hitting two of the four men. Three of the four intruders fled the scene while one collapsed at the scene from a gunshot wound.

Rene told KTRK that his family will be better prepared to deal with criminals like this so they better not come back: "If they come back, we are going to be more prepared."

Daddy to the Rescue

In a similar story out of North Charleston, South Carolina, a family of three was victimized in a home invasion. ABC News 4 out of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, reported on May 9 about a home invasion involving a young family. Two men tried to break in to the house by shattering glass near the front door, but the husband retrieved a rifle and confronted the two would-be burglars. The mother and her 18-month-old daughter hid in a locked bedroom while the husband protected them from the suspects.

Montana Potts told ABC News 4 that she's grateful her husband was home and worries what might have occurred had he not been there: "So what was going to happen if they got past my husband or if my husband was not home? And I don't like shooting big guns. But if I had to I would."

Seth Potts questioned the mental state of the suspects and why they chose to burglarize a home that was clearly occupied: "You obviously see a light yet you're still going to attempt to break into a house? Doesn't seem too smart to me."

Seth told ABC News 4 that he "ran outside and said stop. One male jumped over the fence and ran. The other one turned towards me and reached into his pants like he was pulling on one. So I fired a shot. And it wasn't a warning shot. I meant to hit." Seth's shot did not hit its target, but it worked effectively to scare the suspects away. The two suspects fled the scene and are still being sought by authorities.

Seth is a veteran who served in the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division. "I work hard for what I have. Who do you think you are trying to come and take from me?... I was in the military. I'm not going to



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think twice about defending myself or my family,” Seth told ABC News 4.

Internet Sale Goes Bad

ABC13 out of Houston, Texas, reported on May 10 about a burglar who used the Internet to target his victims. Investigators say that a teenage girl was trying to buy a used cellphone from a seller off a website named “Offer Up,” which works like a local swap meet but is based online. The seller of the phone initially agreed to meet the girl’s family in a public place to sell the phone, but later changed the plans to meet them at their house. The man, later identified by police as Joshua Daniels, arrived at the victims’ house and brandished a gun at the girl and her mother in the driveway. The thug demanded money and, after pointing a gun straight at the mother’s head, grabbed her by her hair and began dragging her across the ground. Daniels demanded the terrified teen girl go get money from inside the house.

The father, Ted Webster, witnessed what the man was doing to his wife and told ABC13 that he acted instantly: “All I thought, our whole relationship, my future without her flashed before my eyes and I thought I cannot bear that thought. I had to do something.” Webster ran at full speed into the suspect and tackled him to the ground. The commotion gave both the daughter and the wife enough time to get away from the criminal. The armed man stood back up and again demanded money, so Webster told him he would go retrieve it. Webster returned into the house and grabbed his pistol instead. Webster walked back toward the suspect, who was still armed, and fired at him. “All I can remember is, I saw that hand starting to come up and I had no choice. I had to pull the trigger,” Webster told ABC13. The shot hit Daniels in the stomach. The injured suspect fled the house in a nearby getaway car, but he was discovered by authorities at a gas station 15 miles away. The seriously wounded Daniels was transported to a medical facility for treatment, but was pronounced dead.

The local police department warned consumers to never invite strangers to their houses from the Internet. The La Porte Police Department actually has parking spots open to the public in their parking lot that can be used for meeting people for sales purposes. The parking spots are under video surveillance to ensure that no criminal activity takes place. “Anytime that you’re going to attempt to meet with a stranger to exchange goods, or money, or anything like that, you’ve got to be extremely cautious and that’s why we’re always looking out for our citizens and provide such a zone for them,” said Sergeant John Kreuger of the La Porte Police Department.

— Patrick Krey



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