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Exercising the Right

Intruder Wearing Only Underwear Terrorizes Family

The NBC affiliate in Houston, KPRC, reported on May 18 out of Harris County, Texas, about an intruder who broke in to a family's house wearing only his underwear. The house was occupied by a family of seven, which included three generations, with the youngest ranging in age from five to 10. The incident occurred at 2 a.m., when an intruder kicked in a glass front door to the house. The deranged suspect ran into the house, where he was confronted by the 53-year-old grandfather. The suspect punched the grandfather in his face and then punched the 53-year-old grandmother in her face, as well. A 25-year-old son came running to the aid of his parents but also ended up being physically attacked by the demented intruder. As the son scuffled with the intruder, he realized that his punches were having no effect on the burglar, who the son assumed was high on some type of illegal narcotics. A violent struggle ensued, during which the suspect threw a TV set at the son.

A son-in-law was in a nearby bedroom with his three young sons at the time of the fight. When he heard the commotion, he grabbed his gun and went to investigate. He fired a warning shot into the air to scare off the underwear-clad suspect, but it didn't work. The dangerous man continued to advance.

The son-in-law was left with no choice, and so he fired his gun again, hitting the intruder twice in the chest. The wounded attacker stumbled backward and collapsed to the floor, where his lifeless body was soon discovered by authorities. Naarai Olbera, a daughter of the husband and wife who were beaten, stated, "We are a Christian family. We don't believe in killing anybody.... But we had to do what we had to do to protect our family and to protect our little kids." Olbera also told KPRC that her father is a pastor who turned his garage into a church, and he often has people over for services. Olbera expressed regret that the man died, but she was grateful that he wasn't armed and that no one else was seriously injured. "I'm glad it turned out this way. I'm glad he didn't have a gun with him. It could've been even worse."

Armed Self-defense Requires Training

KTVE out of El Dorado, Arkansas, reported on May 15 a news story that contained some sage advice for gun owners, based on a shooting that occurred in Swartz, Louisiana, where a 32-year-old woman broke in to a house and threatened the occupants. In what police are describing as a "burglary attempt," the woman was fatally shot by a homeowner.

NBC 10 News reported on the shooting and interviewed Hunter Simmons, who was described as a "gun expert." Simmons stressed the importance of gun owners having the proper training so that they are prepared to effectively defend themselves if the need arises: "If you do get a gun and defend your home we just hope that you go and get some training. Getting a gun and throwing it on the side of the bed is not a real good practice. You want to make sure you have some training with the firearm, know how to use it, know the laws."

Gary Aycock from the assistant district attorney's office told NBC 10 News that the case in Louisiana will go before a grand jury, but the details of the shooting appear to show that the elderly homeowner fired the weapon in fear for his life. "It is alleged that the person that was killed had charged the elderly man, refused to leave and charged at him. There had been some comment made relative to being



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marked for death or something of that nature, and this gentleman believed, or at least reported to believe that his life was in danger."

Intruder Has His Seven-year-old Son Wait in Car

A sickening and tragic story out of San Antonio, Texas, involved a home intruder who broke in to a house while his seven-year-old son waited in a car parked outside.

Investigators are still piecing together all the details, but KSAT reported on May 12 about a man police say brought his son along with him for a planned burglary. Law enforcement believes the father first instructed his son to climb into the back seat of an unlocked car that was parked outside the house. With his son in the back seat of the car, the suspect then went to break in to the home. The burglar attempted to break in through a bedroom window, but the homeowner, a woman, was alerted to the burglary in progress and retrieved a firearm. The female occupant confronted the man in the midst of entering the house and fired at him, hitting him at least once, fatally wounding the suspect. Police were soon called to the scene, where they encountered the injured suspect, as well as the young child waiting in the car. Paramedics transported the wounded suspect to a nearby medical facility, but the man was pronounced dead by the coroner.

The neighbors were shocked by what occurred, and Emily Myerly, who lives nearby, told KSAT that the details of the shooting were scary: "I feel pretty bad for the child. That's going to be something that scars him for life. It made me sick to hear that, might have even seen it happen." Myerly added that crime had become an issue in the town and that she and her family had considered moving. "We've been wanting to move from this side of town, but, you know, it's expensive to move." She was shocked that the home was even targeted for a burglary since the homeowners advertised that they were armed: "They had a sign saying that they had guns in the house. I don't know if it was up when the guy went in there, but you think that would deter him, but apparently not."

Stephanie Zucha has lived in the area for seven years and spoke positively of the community, but was unsettled by what happened. "It's scary, because I have three kids. So that's like really scary someone breaking into someone's house," she told KSAT.

One common reaction from all who heard about the incident was an expression of concern over the well-being of the young child who was brought to the house by his burglar-father. "We're gonna get help for him," San Antonio Police Chief William McManus told the online San Antonio Express-News.

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