



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on July 24, 2017

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Exercising the Right

“You Have to Defend Yourself. We Have Laws for That”

A mother refused to let any harm come to her children in Indianapolis, Indiana. Fox59 reported on June 7 about the brave woman’s actions after an intruder tried breaking in to her house on the city’s east side. The woman was at home with her small children in her apartment on White Knight Boulevard when she heard the sound of glass breaking. The woman was prepared and had a loaded firearm readily accessible. She grabbed her pistol and went to investigate, coming face to face with the armed suspect, 19-year-old Michael Hawkins.

The mother was in fear for her life and the life of her little ones, and so she opened fire on the suspect. The suspect collapsed inside the doorway, where arriving officers discovered his body. Police say Hawkins was pronounced dead at the scene. Neighbors are used to a fair amount of crime in their neighborhood, and they expressed gratitude for the woman’s actions, even though they acknowledged that it was unfortunate that a life had to be taken.

Neighbor Julius Radcliff told Fox59, “I hate to see that it happened, but that’s what happens when you go into people’s home[s] trying to take their stuff.” Radcliff told investigators that he believed the suspect did not act alone because he witnessed one man run from the apartment after the sound of gunfire, and he also witnessed another person quickly drive away.

Fox59 reported that this was actually the second incident of a parent shooting a young suspect in a home invasion within a two-day period. Just the day before, a father was forced to shoot an 18-year-old suspect during a home invasion on the city’s northeast side.

Neighbor Janice Taylor told Fox59, “You have to defend yourself. We have laws for that.” Taylor also expressed hope that these high-profile incidents would discourage similar crimes in the future. “I hate that this is happening in our community like this. It’s sad. It’s sad,” Taylor told Fox59.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department Detective Aaron Hamer expressed similar sentiments when he told Fox59, “It is disheartening that we see burglaries resulting in death, but we live in Indiana and it’s legal for people to have guns to protect themselves.”

Owner of “Canine Camp” Fights Back

NBC reported out of Los Angeles on Monday, June 26, about a burglary in which a female occupant in Santa Clarita was forced to defend herself. The incident occurred around 2 a.m. at the Castaic Canine Camp where the woman, who is the owner of the business, also lives.

The woman heard the sounds of someone trying to break in, and she immediately called 911. As she spoke with dispatchers, she knew that she was at least 12 miles away from the nearest police station, so she fetched her rifle. The woman stayed on the line with the 911 operator. As she did so, she apparently yelled to the intruder and warned him that she had dogs on the property and was armed, but that did not stop the suspect from proceeding with his crime. The burglar then went around the rear of the business and began forcing open the back door. The woman took her rifle and went to confront the burglar. Deputy Chris Craft of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department told NBC that the “female victim retrieved a firearm from the bedroom and, as the suspect made entry to the house, she shot the



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suspect in the chest.”

The suspect suffered a serious chest wound and was taken by arriving paramedics to the intensive care unit at a nearby medical facility. The suspect is currently undergoing treatment but is expected to survive.

Neighbors in the area were not surprised that the woman had to deal with the criminal herself, due to the poor response times of police. KHTS interviewed neighbors who wished to remain anonymous, and they said that the police response times in the remote canyon were not as quick as the response times in other regions and, due to that fact, the people who live in the canyon typically are prepared to defend themselves.

Fox 11 later identified the suspect as 42-year-old John Velasquez, and the Santa Clarita Sheriff’s Department told Fox11 that had the woman, who is in her 60s, not been armed, the outcome might have been much worse for her.

Creatures of Habit

Criminals sometimes return to the scene of an earlier crime, hoping to re-create a past successful heist. That might have been what occurred in a case reported by the *Piqua Daily Call* out of Piqua, Ohio, on May 29.

A house in West Milton, Ohio, that had been broken in to a few months earlier was once again the target of a burglar.

But unlike the first incident, the outcome did not turn out well for the intruder.

Police were called around 5 a.m. by a female homeowner, who said she believed an intruder was in her house. Her husband, who was armed, went to investigate and discovered a man in their garage. The homeowner ordered the burglar to halt, but the man refused to comply, so the homeowner fired his weapon. The burglary suspect was shot in the leg and the hand and was apprehended by authorities responding to the 911 call. The suspect was sent to a nearby medical facility for treatment and is expected to survive.

Investigators say there were no signs of forced entry and that they believe the suspect was able to gain entry to the house through a doggie door. Police are investigating whether the suspect was involved in the earlier break-in at the house, as well as a string of similar crimes in the area.

Local police have received numerous reports in the surrounding area of suspicious activity, including home and car break-ins as well as people “lurking.” Police are hopeful that those incidents will now come to an end with this man in custody.

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