



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 4, 2017

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Exercising the Right

Mother Defends Children From Gang

WSB-TV out of Atlanta reported on August 5 about a woman who was forced to use armed self-defense against gang members. The mother, identified as Shaquita Green, called 911 to report a shooting that occurred in the early hours of August 3. Green's husband was not home at the time of the incident, and Green said she was home with her three children when a man she knew came to her home looking for her husband. Not suspecting any foul play, Green let the man, Javarian Mitchell, into the house. Mitchell then let another man, 27-year-old Keandre Funches, into the house. Investigators believe that both Mitchell and Funches are part of a local gang and that the two men may have been planning some type of ambush on Green's husband.

Marietta Officer Chuck McPhilamy told the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* that, "at some point, Funches threatened the residents with his own hand gun." Green told WSB-TV that Funches pulled a gun on her and demanded that she and her children move to the back of the house.

Green pleaded with Funches to stop what he was doing. "That's when I stepped in front of them [her children] and said, 'You don't have to do all of that,'" she told WSB-TV. Law enforcement said that Green then grabbed a nearby loaded firearm and, out of fear for her own safety and the safety of her children, fired at Funches in self-defense. Funches was fatally wounded and died at the scene. This was not Funches' first involvement with criminal activity: The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* reported that he had been arrested multiple times over the years and was involved in a 2015 incident in which he drew his gun on a police officer and fired it, only to have the gun jam.

Green's husband soon arrived on the scene, and both parents were questioned by arriving law enforcement. Green is not expected to be charged in relation to the shooting. Authorities did arrest Mitchell, whom they charged with aggravated assault with a firearm, false imprisonment, cruelty to children, and felony murder for the death of Funches.

Green told WSB-TV that her kids were "traumatized" by the terrifying event but that they will overcome it. She expressed remorse over the loss of life, but said that she was left with no other option. "I thank God it played out the way it did. I hate that someone had to lose their life, but he shouldn't have come and brought his a** in my house, excuse my language," she said.

"That's Just Texas"

WTSP reported out of Harris County, Texas, on August 1 about a 60-year-old woman who exemplified the old saying "Don't mess with Texas!" The woman was home alone when two intruders barged into her house. The two suspects were armed when they entered the home, but the woman was able to retrieve her own pistol and open fire on the men. They had entered the house through an open garage door before being confronted by the woman.

After she fired at the suspects several times, they fled from the house. One of the men collapsed in her front yard with a serious gunshot wound. The other suspect hopped a fence and escaped, leaving his injured accomplice to die. Authorities soon arrived at the scene, where they discovered the body of the fatally wounded suspect lying in the yard.



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Neighbor Cathy Hanks told WTSP that she wasn't surprised by the woman's actions. "It's the state of Texas. If you're going to go into someone's home, you're going to get shot," she said.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office is still looking for the second suspect, and is confident he will be found soon. The female homeowner was not injured, and law enforcement officials said that her actions appeared justified.

Apartment Shootout

The *Daily Commercial* reported on July 31 that an attempted burglary at an apartment resulted in a violent shootout in Clermont, Florida. The Lake County Sheriff's Office was called to Raintree Apartments after receiving reports of multiple shots being fired. Twenty-nine-year-old Luis Robles-Carmona was home in his apartment with his wife when he was awakened by someone knocking on his door around 3 a.m. He was suspicious since it was so early in the morning, so he grabbed his loaded handgun. When he opened the door slightly, he saw a gun pointing back at him. The person on the other side of the door began to force his way into the apartment. Robles-Carmona pushed back against the door, and the would-be intruder fired his weapon, sending a bullet whizzing past Robles-Carmona's face. Robles-Carmona fired back, hitting the intruder. The intruder, later identified as 22-year-old Aswad Velazquez, collapsed to the floor and began groaning, owing to his injury. The wounded Velazquez got back to his feet, so Robles-Carmona fired at him again. Three men who were waiting outside then ran up and grabbed Velazquez and carried him down a flight of stairs. One of the accomplices fired at Robles-Carmona as he retreated. Police believe the same accomplice also fired at a neighbor who opened her door to check on the commotion. Robles-Carmona immediately called 911 to report what happened, adding that he had no clue why he was targeted or who the attackers were.

Police said that the men who had fled the apartment complex with the injured Velazquez took him to a nearby medical facility where they told hospital staff that Velazquez was injured in a drive-by shooting. A police officer at the hospital told the men that they needed to talk to authorities and ordered them to wait for the investigators to arrive. Police brought Robles-Carmona to the hospital, where he identified the three men as the same ones involved in the attack at his apartment. Velazquez was later pronounced dead from his gunshot wounds. Police eventually identified the three accomplices as Velazquez' brother, 19-year-old Isiah Velazquez; 18-year-old Tareak Ilarrez; and 22-year-old Lawrence Alexis. Authorities charged all three men with armed burglary, second-degree murder under the state's felony murder rule, and two counts of attempted murder. Alexis was also charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for allegedly shooting at the neighbor.

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