



Exercising the Right

AK-47 to the Rescue

The *Panama City News Herald* reported out of Florida on August 16 about a homeowner who was forced to fire an AK-47 in self-defense at three burglary suspects. The incident began when the suspects broke in to vehicles parked outside a house. The female occupant of the house heard a loud noise and woke her husband. The husband grabbed his loaded AK-47 and ran out to investigate the noises.

The wife dialed 911 while the husband exited the house and discovered three men breaking in to their vehicles. The husband feared for his life because he knew that he had stored a firearm in one of those vehicles, and he thought these criminals might now have it in their possession. The husband yelled for the three suspects to halt their actions. It was at that moment that one of the suspects turned toward the husband in a menacing manner, which made the husband fire his AK-47 in fear for his life, striking one of the suspects.

The burglars rushed from the scene into a nearby vehicle and sped off. The husband ran over to the car where he knew he had stored a firearm and discovered that it was missing. The husband told the wife what had happened, and she relayed the information to the 911 operator.

Washington County sheriff's deputies soon pulled over a vehicle matching the description of the suspects' escape car given by the husband. The police ordered the suspects to exit the vehicle, and one of the suspects dropped a small bag of marijuana to the ground. The deputies reported that they suspected that the suspects "were all under the influence of either alcohol or drugs" because they were experiencing difficulty in following the deputy's commands. One of the suspects told the deputies that he had been shot.

EMS was called to the scene and transported the injured suspect to a nearby medical facility for treatment of a gunshot wound to his leg. Law enforcement also discovered a loaded 9 mm handgun inside the suspects' vehicle, as well as the stolen homeowner's handgun in the woods near where the car was stopped.

The three suspects were all charged with grand theft of a firearm; two counts of burglary of a dwelling, structure or conveyance; and obstructing justice/tampering in a felony first-degree proceeding for trying to hide the stolen gun in the woods. The injured suspect was also charged with possession of marijuana less than 20 grams.

Washington County Sheriff Kevin Crews released a statement in which he said that the "safety of our community is our priority and we are thankful that this did not end worse than it did.... We will not tolerate homes or property being burglarized or the danger that comes with it in this county. We are thankful the homeowners are safe after this incident and the perpetrators are behind bars."

Road Rage Ends in Shooting

The CBS affiliate out of Glendale, Arizona, reported on a story that shows what might result when people let their tempers flare out of control.

Sergeant Scott Waite with the Glendale Police Department explained that an incident involving an argument between two motorists quickly escalated into violence. The whole thing started when one



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driver allegedly cut off another in traffic. The driver who was cut off then followed the other vehicle until it stopped at an intersection. The details are sketchy, but Sergeant Waite said that the driver who was cut off got into a verbal altercation with the passenger of the other vehicle. All of the people involved in this road-rage incident were women.

After exchanging words, the driver who was cut off allegedly punched a passenger who was in the other vehicle. The driver of that vehicle witnessed the passenger getting hit and got out of the vehicle to warn the suspect that she was armed with a handgun. The suspect ignored the warning and actually punched the armed woman in the face. A struggle between the two ensued, and the suspect tried putting the woman into a headlock. The armed driver yelled at the attacker to stop the assault, but the woman refused to comply.

Lacking good options, the woman fired her gun, hitting the suspect. The wounded suspect was taken to a hospital with serious injuries, but she is expected to survive. Arriving police said the armed driver who fired the weapon complied with their orders, and the investigation is ongoing.

Local Gun-control Group Smears Gun-advocacy Groups

Alpha News reported out of Minneapolis on August 10 about a familiar tactic used by leftists to unfairly smear and defame their opposition. AlphaNewsMn.com reported that a Twin Cities gun-control advocacy group posted a statement on Facebook that seemed to imply that local pro-Second Amendment groups were somehow involved in the Dar Al Farooq mosque bombing in Bloomington, Minnesota.

The group, named Protect Minnesota, wrote, "Violence based on fear is the root cause of this bombing incident.... We hope that groups like Minnesota Gun Rights, Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, and Gun Owners Civil Rights Alliance can provide good information to the FBI to find and arrest the people responsible."

A reader of this post is left with the impression that the named groups have some inside information on who was behind the bombing, most likely because someone affiliated with one of them was involved. This libel was not taken lightly, and Bryan Strawser, chair of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, released a statement, saying, "We are outraged by these libelous, defamatory, and false accusations made by Protect Minnesota.... Our organization is committed to the defense of civil rights. This statement and its implications are baseless and offensive. Needless to say, we have no information on this tragic attack."

Protect Minnesota soon edited its posting to remove any references to specifically named gun rights groups but, as is also common from the Left, an apology or formal retraction was never issued.

— Patrick Krey



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