



## Exercising The Right Guns Don't Discriminate

The riots occurring all over our country are allegedly in response to discrimination, but one obvious fact that can be drawn from the following story is that guns don't discriminate when it comes to self-defense. Twitter account @ZoomerClips shared a video on May 28 showing heavily armed black men standing outside a business in an area plagued by riots that had a sign placed on it which read "black-owned." The video was only 12 seconds long and has already been viewed 6.4 million times as of the writing of this column. The man doing the recording walked along the group showing how well-guarded the business was and dared looters to target the business. "Run up in here and see what happens," the man says while laughing.

And it isn't just black Americans who are demonstrating that being armed can mean the difference between destruction and safety; there are also immigrants who are exercising their Second Amendment rights. Thirty-six-year-old Ike Gazaryanan, who emigrated from Russia to the United States in 1998, told the *San Diego Union Tribune* on June 4 that he needed to do something to defend his business.

Gazaryanan is a co-owner of Pushkin Russian Restaurant in downtown San Diego, and he said his business already had been hurt by the coronavirus lockdown. The business had innovatively transitioned into a "grocery delivery business" after the 12-week lockdown prevented them from operating as a restaurant, but they were grateful to finally begin opening again.

Then came the riots, and Gazaryanan had concerns that his business would be harmed in the resulting chaos. He told the *Tribune* that "it took me a while to get to where I am and losing everything to someone else is not something I'm going to do."

Gazaryanan recounted the turmoil he experienced in his youth in Azerbaijan, when his family had to flee to Russia: "I've seen a lot of things in my life that made me the person I am.... I'm not easily scared. And I will protect what's mine." He explained how he contacted friends who likewise were immigrants from all parts of the former Soviet Union, and they voluntarily joined together to defend his business with their firearms.

The men accomplished their goal, as the Pushkin Russian restaurant sustained no damage due to the riots, but Gazaryanan complained that the economic damage might linger. "Buildings are boarded up all around me.... Locals see this walking around, and they don't want to go out. There are no tourists, no conventions, and no appeal to downtown. It looks like Baghdad in 2003.... I'm right back to where I was with the coronavirus."

## Media & Politicians Who Defend Looters Attack Gun Owners

As our country descended into chaos during the Black Lives Matter riots, an incident on May 31 in the city of Snohomish, Washington, reminds us all how quickly the media and left-wing activists will demonize gun owners, even as the same media defend looters.

The *Daily Herald* reported on June 6 what should have been a positive story about armed citizens standing up and sending a message that they won't let their city be terrorized by anarchists and racial agitators, but the media instead twisted it into a hit piece on lawful gun owners.



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The underlying details involved protesters who had gathered in the city to partake in the national Black Lives Matter rallies, and some local citizens who wanted to prevent the wanton destruction they saw occurring in other cities. The May 31 event went off without any violence, as the two sides peacefully coexisted. The pro-law-and-order side featured many men carrying their guns, which is completely legal under state law as Washington is an open-carry state.

Snohomish Police Chief Keith Rogers described the event to the *Daily Herald* as “a festive night of tailgating and celebratory pleasantries.”

But left-wing activists did not agree and disingenuously cried that it was an act of intimidation. In a Zoom meeting that was held online by the city council the following week, local left-wing activists called in to whine about how horrible it was seeing armed men and women standing in public. Local teacher Rochelle Feil Adamowsky went on a tear-filled diatribe in which she said, “I went ... for a walk, and I was scared, honestly.... I saw what was going on downtown, and I was scared. I live here, I teach here, and I thought, ‘What mistake did I make moving to Snoho-mish?’ I bought a house here. I’ve started a life here, and I’m afraid to live here.... I was afraid one of us was going to get shot, because somebody was trigger-happy and wanted to just shoot somebody.... And I stood across from people blocking the sidewalk with their guns.”

It’s not clear what brought this woman to tears so easily, but other leftists made accusations that “white supremacists” were among the gun owners, even though no evidence was provided other than people possibly making the okay hand gesture and one man displaying a confederate flag. This smear was rejected by Snohomish County Sheriff Adam Fortney, who interacted with the armed locals and said they were Snohomish parents and business owners and definitely “not white nationalists, they were not extremists.”

Mayor John Kartak supported the demonstration by armed residents in a letter: “The men and women of our community came together to protect the city they love.” He later decried what he said was a coordinated effort by left-wing activists to vilify both him and the city’s chief of police. In a Facebook post on June 6, he wrote, “I have recently listened to an organized and focused attack on our community, on our police chief, and on myself during the last two Snohomish City Council meetings and have seen the very same campaign continue to be launched all across Facebook.... If 50 to 100 people in and around this community wish to paint me as disrespectful, a hater, a bully, and a racist, then so be it.”

Karnak acknowledged there was some drinking among the armed counterprotesters and that the local police force reacted quickly to quell it, but he was adamant that those claiming outrage were part of a coordinated campaign.

This is a common left-wing tactic: to act like a vulnerable victim in an effort to suppress opposition. It’s clear that the leftists’ goal is to make it so only their ideological fellow travelers are allowed in the streets, and anyone who disagrees with them will be smeared as “white nationalists” or “far-right extremists,” which then will be amplified by a complicit media and reported as fact for a gullible public. The intended consequence is to scare people away from opposing them and also to make politicians so terrified that they cater to the leftists’ every whim. This type of tactic and biased media reporting is being repeated throughout the country, which is laughable when you consider how these same leftists go to great lengths to excuse the violent actions of rioters. Time will only tell if the public eventually



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sees through this totalitarian plan to eliminate all dissent to a far-left agenda, but their tactics have already claimed one scalp. The Daily Beast reported on June 9 that the police chief was demoted and is now only a lieutenant with the sheriff's office.

## **Second Amendment Supporters Scare Away Looters**

One positive story where the media didn't rush in to smear patriots was reported on by The New American on June 3 in an online article entitled "Armed Citizens Defend Town: 'Rioters, Looters KEEP OUT!'" TNA reported that a group of armed patriots organized to defend Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The group came together after receiving credible intelligence that left-wing radicals were targeting their area for the same type of violence and rioting they inflicted in nearby Spokane, Washington. The violence never arrived, as the large presence of Second Amendment-supporting residents made it known that such behavior would not be tolerated on their watch.

A person who witnessed their presence told TNA that "It was incredible.... After seeing all the terrible destruction in Spokane, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and everywhere else, it's so reassuring and refreshing to see all these people coming out peacefully — but armed — to tell these thugs, 'NOT IN OUR TOWN!'... There were HUNDREDS of people, men and women, patrolling the streets, and none of them were bothering the 'protesters' but they let it be known they weren't going to let things get out of hand. The police were cool and didn't get uptight with either side and everything remained peaceful." It is reassuring to see there are still some places in this country where people can exercise their Second Amendment rights and protect their hometown without being smeared by a biased media with a far-left agenda.

## **Riots Illustrate the Case for an Armed Citizenry**

Amidst the looting and criminal violence engulfing our nation, Americans are witnessing in vivid detail exactly why people need to be armed in order to be safe. As cops were spread thin and mob violence took control, it was up to armed private citizens to protect their own stores and communities when police couldn't be there to help.

The CBS affiliate in Los Angeles reported on June 1 about an incident in Santa Monica in which a liquor store owner and some of his closest friends defended his store with guns. The owner of the store carried his AR-15 outside the business, which he said was a strong deterrent for potential looters and kept his business safe. The owner, who went by the name Joe, told CBS that it "was a good thing I had my customers and friends by my side, because it was pretty scary," and he even said that he and his friends were able to protect nearby businesses as well.

While that story showed that being armed with the appropriate type of firearm can actually prevent violence and crime, an upsetting incident in Texas showed that trying to defend a business without a firearm is just not that effective and can be extremely dangerous. The *Daily Mail* reported on May 31 that a man armed only with a sword tried to scare off looters from a local business, but he was quickly overwhelmed and brutally beaten. Dallas Police did an investigation afterward and stated that the man was trying to defend businesses in the area. The crowd surrounded the man, stomped on him, and ruthlessly beat him, leaving him in a bloody heap. The man was later taken in an ambulance to a nearby hospital for treatment.



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On the night that the video of the savage beating went viral, radio personality Mancow Muller tweeted out, "The question of 'why would anyone need an AR-15?' is being answered in every city tonight!" One of Mancow's followers immediately commented that these riots show exactly why people need 30-round magazines.

The truth of the matter is that if you're dealing with multiple assailants in close quarters, you should have a good amount of ammunition at the ready and a higher-caliber firearm such as an AR-15 to scatter the crowd; otherwise, you might end up lying in a bloody pile like that poor gentleman with the sword.

Observers of the violence are realizing that this is why we have the Second Amendment, and many are now flocking to gun stores to stock up. The ABC affiliate out of Philadelphia reported on June 2 that residents lined up outside the Founding Fathers Outfitters off Ridge Pike in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

ABC interviewed Sal Salhiah of North Philadelphia about why he was there, and he explained that rioters broke in to homes in his neighborhood. "If somebody walks into my house, he's done. That's the only thing I can say." "My daughter is sleeping upstairs in the next room. It's not about watching. Anything that you see on the TV is a mess but when you see it in real life, that's scary," Salhiah told ABC.

Another man who works in private security was interviewed, and he told ABC that he was stocking up on more guns and ammunition, saying, "It's definitely because of what I witnessed the last couple days, the more the better."

Indeed, if the Left gets its way and police departments across the country are disbanded, Americans all over the country must be armed and ready to defend themselves when the inevitable crime wave comes their way.



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