

Protecting your family from an **armed attack.**



If you or someone else is in immediate danger, contact the police or anyone who can help you.

It is hard to imagine anything more terrifying than sheltering your family during an armed attack. We hope you never have to experience that.

The ShieldPNG system can't help you during an attack, though we hope we can help your clan reduce the risk that the attack happens. To do so, a lot of work may be needed and the best time to start it is long before tensions rise, when you might be tempted to just let things stay in an uneasy peace. Please have a look through our Resources to see how best to protect your family and clan from an attack. **It is not through arming your clan that you can reduce the risk of an attack.**

Real protection is built in layers, and every layer is something your community can start on now:

- 01 Settle disputes while they are small.** Almost every armed attack grows from a dispute that was left to fester – land, compensation, an insult, a death. Communities with working dispute resolution, whether Peace and Good Order Committees, village courts or respected mediators, give people a path other than the gun. Support those structures before you need them.
- 02 Reach an understanding with your rivals.** The single most powerful protection is an agreement between rival groups to step back together. When both sides reduce the threat at the same time, both are safer – nobody has to trust the other side first.
- 03 Know your interrupters.** In every community there are people close enough to know when someone is planning violence and respected enough to talk them down – a brother, an uncle, a pastor, a former fighter. An effective interrupter saves the life of the person they stop as well as the lives that person would have taken. Know who those people are in your community, and back them. We are asking the same of people who can help in rival communities.
- 04 Make non-violent justice the deterrent.** Attacks happen when attackers believe they are unlikely to spend the rest of their lives in jail. Communities that support effective justice – including making sure there is enough evidence to lock the attackers away – make violence too costly and help make non-violence more attractive.



Every weapon your community acquires gives your rivals a reason to acquire more too, raising the stakes of every dispute, and putting your family at greater risk from an attack. Cycles of violent payback, once started, can continue for years.

Look through our resources for more on each of these layers. The best time to start is now, while there is peace to protect.

[Resources](#) →