

What to do if someone you know is **planning an attack.**

Many people feel they should not try to stop a planned attack on a rival clan out of loyalty to their clan or from believing they will look weak if there isn't a payback. If attacking others increased your protection, this might be understandable, though it doesn't. It usually creates cycles of payback hurting more and more non-fighters.

Protecting your clan means reducing the risk of an attack against it and that includes stopping attacks by your wontok. You could also be saving the lives of the people about to start shooting and save their families from enormous grief and hardship.

If you are in a position to convince the planners or shooters to respond to the dispute without violence, then you should do so. There are lots of ways to approach this and you should try what you believe is most likely to work, even if it is just to buy you more time to get others involved in convincing them of a different path.

If others can help you stop the attack, then get them involved. Think about who has influence over the people about to go and shoot or who the people planning it – who might they listen to. It could be:



Members of their family



Friends



Community leaders

INTERRUPTERS



Interrupter

Anyone who can step in get them to reconsider is what we call an **Interrupter**. They are vital to community protection. The earlier you can get them involved, the better. The best Interrupters are people who close enough to see that a dispute or trigger has started and that someone they know well might be able to get violent. This is the same for domestic or family violence as it is for tribal fights and any type of deadly violence.

Non-violence is not the same as no-response, so there is no reason an effective non-violent response should be seen as weak. Gunmen and warlords are often said to be more afraid of jail than being shot, so non-violent justice can be stronger than violent payback.



Planning an attack is a serious crime under the Inter Group Fighting Act. You should also consider telling the police if that is the best way to protect your community.

ShieldPNG will be producing more resources about this shortly.