# Lochore brothers charged with abduction after taking law into their own hands



In a troubling incident that unfolded in Lochore, two brothers, John and Richard Saunders, took matters into their own hands following vandalism at their parents' home. The brothers, aged 53 and 50, tracked down two boys, aged 12 and 13, who they believed were responsible for smashing a window in their parents' living room. This misguided attempt at justice resulted in both men facing charges of abduction after forcibly taking the children from a nearby shop.

At Kirkcaldy Sheriff Court, it was revealed that on the evening of September 30 of last year, the Saunders brothers seized the boys at a Co-op store. Depute fiscal Sarah Smith detailed that the brothers physically removed them from the shop, striking one child on the head before trying to detain them against their will. According to court statements, the boys expressed fear during the ordeal, with threats made against them as they were bundled into a vehicle.

The situation escalated when it was reported that one boy’s mother heard a commotion outside her home, only to find John Saunders dragging her son towards their car. He justified his actions in court, stating he was incensed by the vandalism and claimed not to have intended any harm. “I realised what I was doing was wrong,” he admitted, following an unnerving physical encounter that left the boys terrified.

This incident underscores a broader societal issue where individuals may feel justified in taking the law into their own hands, a sentiment not uncommon throughout history. Echoes of such vigilantism can be traced back to narratives of Scotland's past, where citizens took extreme measures in response to crimes, whether against property or family members. Historical accounts discuss similar phenomena, such as the activities of bandits and kidnappers, who operated with impunity, prompting desperate acts from those affected.

In earlier centuries, Scotland faced rampant lawlessness, with figures like Gilderoy and John Dugar engaging not only in theft but also in kidnapping, often targeting families for ransom. These abductions instilled a pervasive sense of fear among communities, reminiscent of the feelings reportedly experienced by the young boys in Lochore. The societal response to crime has always held significant implications, revealing complex dynamics surrounding justice, safety, and the actions individuals might pursue when feeling powerless.

As the Saunders brothers await sentencing, it becomes vital to consider the implications of vigilante justice. The familial distress stemming from this case raises questions about accountability and the methods individuals choose to seek it. The law continues to grapple with the fine line between justified anger over wrongdoing and unlawful actions that could escalate tensions within a community.

The court has called for reports before the brothers return for sentencing on June 6, highlighting the need for reflective legal measures that could address both the aggression displayed in this incident and the underlying safety concerns plaguing the local environment. Ultimately, it stands as a timely reminder that while anger over crime is understandable, the response must remain within the bounds of law to foster a safe and just society.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
2. Paragraphs 6, 7
3. Paragraph 8
4. Paragraph 8
5. Paragraph 8

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/5244800/john-richard-saunders-abducted-boys-home-vandalised/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-32707051> - Two men, Ronald Saunders and William Stewart, were jailed for a series of cheque frauds across Scotland. They used a stolen chequebook to purchase cars and a Chihuahua dog, totaling over £25,000. The cheques were dishonoured as the account holder had cancelled the chequebook upon discovering it was missing. Both men pleaded guilty to forming a fraudulent scheme, with Saunders receiving a 20-month sentence and Stewart a 34-month sentence. The court emphasized the seriousness of such fraudulent activities and the lack of sympathy for those who deceive the public.
3. <https://www.academia.edu/70195552/Forgotten_children_Scotlands_colonial_child_servants_1680_-_1760> - This academic paper explores the history of Scottish colonial child servants between 1680 and 1760. It examines the practices of agents and magistrates who formed press gangs, forcibly taking children from the streets of Aberdeen and surrounding towns. The study highlights the widespread fear among parents, as children were abducted from their homes and even from their beds. The paper delves into the mechanisms of these abductions and the broader implications for Scottish society during this period.
4. <https://www.electricscotland.com/history/aberdeen/chapter12.htm> - This historical account discusses the activities of bandits in Scotland, particularly focusing on figures like Gilderoy and John Dugar. These individuals not only engaged in cattle and horse theft but also kidnapped members of wealthy families, demanding ransoms. The text provides examples, such as the case of a relative of Dr. John Forbes of Corse, who was abducted, and the intervention of Huntly to secure their release. It also details the measures taken by central authorities to suppress these 'cattle-lifting' raids and the challenges faced in addressing such criminal activities.
5. <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/72262/72262-h/72262-h.htm> - This excerpt from the 'Domestic Annals of Scotland' provides historical accounts of various events in Scotland, including instances of abduction. It details cases where individuals were forcibly taken, such as the apprehension of certain individuals by Lord Rollo on suspicion of being accomplices to robbers. The text also describes the conditions of imprisonment and the hardships faced by those detained, highlighting the legal and social challenges of the time.
6. <https://www.queerscotland.com/2014/01/20/buggery-body-snatchers-and-bewitchings/> - This article delves into historical events in Scotland, focusing on accusations of buggery, body snatching, and bewitching. It discusses the case of Provand, who was accused of various crimes, including being involved in black magic and supplying fresh corpses to medical instructors. The article also touches upon the social dynamics and legal proceedings of the time, providing insights into the societal attitudes and legal frameworks regarding such accusations.
7. <https://www.academia.edu/126692598/Forgotten_children_Scotlands_colonial_child_servants_1680_1760> - This academic paper examines the history of Scottish colonial child servants between 1680 and 1760. It discusses the practices of agents and magistrates who formed press gangs, forcibly taking children from the streets of Aberdeen and surrounding towns. The study highlights the widespread fear among parents, as children were abducted from their homes and even from their beds. The paper delves into the mechanisms of these abductions and the broader implications for Scottish society during this period.