# Woman fights off armed intruder who broke into her Manchester home



A shocking incident unfolded in Newton Heath, Manchester, where a woman found herself facing a terrifying confrontation with an uninvited intruder. Dr Raisah Sawati, 37, was at home when a topless man allegedly broke into her kitchen through the window, brandishing a knife, a frying pan, and a pair of scissors. The incident, which took place around 11 p.m. on a seemingly ordinary Friday night, escalated quickly, thrusting Dr Sawati into a fight for her safety.

Dr Sawati recounted her experience, describing the moment she heard disruptive noises, including clattering and the sound of falling dishes, before she encountered the intruder in her kitchen. "He was a big six-foot man. I was terrified," she said. Although she attempted to communicate with him in hopes of diffusing the situation, his grip on the weapons proved formidable. “He was talking all sorts of gibberish,” she recalled, visibly shaken by his erratic behaviour, which left her fearing for her life.

In a desperate bid to protect herself, Dr Sawati tried to escape upstairs while the intruder followed closely, brandishing the scissors. Knowing she needed help, she locked herself in her bedroom and managed to call emergency services. “I didn’t know what else to do,” she explained, recounting the haunting moments of feeling trapped in her own home, a sanctuary that should have provided her safety.

Within minutes, armed officers arrived, apprehending the suspect on suspicion of aggravated burglary. Video footage taken by Dr Sawati shows the police confronting the intruder and her panicked cries for help echoing through the recording. The presence of law enforcement provided a sense of relief, although the psychological impact of such a break-in can linger far beyond the immediate physical threat.

Incidents of home invasions are a growing concern, with similar cases highlighting the unpredictable nature of such encounters. In February 2024, for instance, a homeowner in Virginia was forced into a life-threatening situation when a naked woman infiltrated his home armed with a frying pan. The homeowner, feeling threatened, shot her in self-defence. The contrasting responses to these traumatic experiences illustrate the fine line between vulnerability and the drastic measures individuals may resort to for self-protection.

Dr Sawati’s experience underscores a broader conversation about personal safety in one's home. She expressed her disbelief, saying, “The last thing you expect is to not feel safe in your own home.” This sentiment resonates with many, instigating a dialogue on community safety measures and the effectiveness of policing in addressing such incidents.

Following the intrusion, forensic teams from Greater Manchester Police collected evidence from the scene, including the knife and frying pan used by the intruder—a reminder of the potential for everyday items to become tools of violence in moments of desperation or madness.

As society grapples with the rising incidents of home invasions and the essential need for safety, stories like Dr Sawati's serve as stark reminders of the precariousness of security in familiar spaces. While the police responded rapidly, the emotional aftermath of such encounters necessitates community discussion on preventative measures and the importance of empowering individuals facing sudden threats to their safety.

Dr Sawati's ordeal is not just about a singular incident; it reflects an ongoing challenge faced by many in ensuring their homes remain sanctuaries of peace rather than sites of fear.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
2. Paragraphs 7, 8 4. Paragraph 9

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14725281/man-arrested-breaking-womans-home-threatening-knife-scissors.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.westernjournal.com/homeowner-shoots-naked-woman-leg-allegedly-broke-home-armed-frying-pan/> - In February 2024, a Virginia homeowner shot a naked woman in the leg after she allegedly broke into his home and attacked him with a frying pan. The incident occurred in Austinsville, where the woman, identified as Paula Michelle Locklear, 35, was confronted by the homeowner after entering through the rear door and assaulting him. After being shot, Locklear was treated at a hospital and then arrested. The homeowner was not charged, as the shooting was deemed self-defense.
3. <https://daveandchuckthefreak.com/2023/03/08/naked-virginia-woman-shows-up-and-attacks-a-homeowner-with-a-frying-pan/> - In February 2024, a Virginia homeowner shot a naked woman in the leg after she allegedly broke into his home and attacked him with a frying pan. The incident occurred in Austinsville, where the woman, identified as Paula Michelle Locklear, 35, was confronted by the homeowner after entering through the rear door and assaulting him. After being shot, Locklear was treated at a hospital and then arrested. The homeowner was not charged, as the shooting was deemed self-defense.
4. <https://totalnews.com/tag/frying/> - A Chicago man defended his home against an intruder using a large frying pan. The incident occurred when Jason Williams returned home to find a man attempting to break in. Williams confronted the intruder, and during the struggle, he struck the man with the frying pan. The altercation was captured on security footage, and the intruder was later arrested. Williams stated, "Almost killed him!" in reference to the incident.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-42568078> - In December 2017, a couple in Batley, West Yorkshire, were forced to sit on their bed at knifepoint while robbers searched their house. Three men broke into their home on Howley Mill Lane just after midnight, threatened the couple with knives, and demanded valuables. The robbers took mobile phones, jewelry, and car keys before fleeing. Police released CCTV images to identify the suspects and recover the stolen items.
6. <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-england-leeds-42443563> - In December 2017, a man was badly burned in an explosion at a house in Leeds. The blast occurred at about 14:50 on Silk Mill Drive in Tinshill. Neighbors who provided first aid reported that the man opened the kitchen door just as the explosion happened. The cause of the explosion is under investigation, but police have stated it is not terrorism-related. Emergency services are working at the scene to make the area safe.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/feb/15/all> - In February 2018, a 23-year-old man was arrested over the attempted rape of a 10-year-old girl in Manchester. Greater Manchester police detained the suspect on suspicion of kidnap and attempted rape. The incident highlights ongoing concerns about child safety and the effectiveness of protective measures in the region.