

**SAFE COMMUNITY****David Thomas****DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR CRIMINALS**

I have heard it said on occasions from one or two people that “we already know about crime measures and follow such advice”. I am very pleased of course to hear this but, unfortunately, whereas some people do take common sense crime prevention precautions, there are many others who do not. Criminals of course are wise to this and take advantage of situations where there is an “easy target”.

For a crime to take place there must be three elements: there must be a target, the desire by a person to commit the crime and the opportunity to do so. Whereas we have little control over the “desire” of a person to commit a crime, we do have control over becoming a “target” by simply reducing the “opportunity”. This is what crime prevention is all about.

This can be applied to any criminal situation but, in this article, I am going to concentrate on the handling and carrying of cash, as there have been a number of robberies recently which could have been avoided if crime prevention measures had been followed.

There is one particular recent incident which, in my mind, very clearly illustrates the outcome of the failure to take simple common sense crime prevention measures, and this should serve as a good learning point in preventing similar incidents.

**What went wrong?**

On April 15 at around 9am the victim, a Jaffas Supermarket



employee, was approached by a suspect when she parked her car near the entrance to the bank in Salir, intending to deposit the weekend takings from three branches of the supermarket chain. A man approached her, snatched her bag with €18,000 and fled in a vehicle driven by a second person.

The Commander of the GNR post located nearby heard shouts for help and chased after the escaping vehicle using his own private vehicle, which was at hand and the quickest means of response.

Whilst in pursuit he alerted other GNR patrols who conducted a high speed chase covering a distance of 32 kilometres.

During the pursuit, the criminals apparently threw objects at the GNR vehicle, including what is suspected,

but at present unconfirmed, acid. The escaping vehicle was eventually intercepted at Vale Covo, Boliqueime. One person was arrested and the money recovered – the other person escaped.

I understand from the GNR that the staff employee (victim) was by herself when the robbery occurred. Apparently the money she was carrying from the three branches of Jaffas was a higher amount than usual, due to the car rally over the weekend which drew extra visitors to the area.

In my view, the supermarket concerned showed exceptionally poor judgment in allowing one female staff member to transport such a large amount of money, disregarding all common sense crime prevention measures. This placed the staff member at risk and reflects poorly

on Jaffas' management and security procedures. Such negligence also placed the police officer at risk having to respond to a crime that could have been avoided.

Conversely is the exceptionally good work by the GNR and in particular the Salir Post Commander. Conducting high speed pursuits of escaping criminals takes a great deal of skill and bravery, I can assure you. Well done!

**The criminal mind**

Criminals can be smart. There is little point in targeting a bar, restaurant or supermarket which attracts little business as the takings will be low. So they wait for times when the takings will be high. They do this by observing the businesses concerned and learning about the closing times, the route a staff member may take afterwards and, on some occasions, gathering information about cash handling processes and banking schedules etc. The high risk times are public holidays, festivals and at major events. These are the times in particular when business owners need to take common sense crime prevention precautions.

**Crime prevention action**

Safe Communities Algarve has produced a checklist aimed at reducing the risk of becoming a victim of such crime. Cut this out and use as a reminder. Remember it may not only be cash that it is taken, it could be your staff member being injured resulting from such an incident.

**Other incidents involving the transportation of cash**

This is not the only case where criminals were clearly aware of the planned movements of staff who make deposits of money to banks, or transport cash between businesses to and from their home. In a similar case just two months ago a cashier at a petrol station in a supermarket complex in Ferreiras was robbed after taking the daily takings about 200 metres from the kiosk to the supermarket building.

There have also been at least two recent incidents where owners/staff of restaurants have been followed after closing late at night and then intercepted by robbers and relieved of their takings. Habits therefore need to change.

One of the problems I am aware of is that with the current economic situation staffing levels in many businesses have been sharply reduced. Often you can see a fairly busy bar with just one

**|| Tips to prevent cash transportation crime**

- Firstly do not place staff at risk.
- When transporting cash, if the amounts are high, what ever the distance, the cash should be carried by a group of two or three staff members distributed between them.
- It is better to make use of a vehicle from as close as possible to the starting and destination points.
- Knowledge of cash handling arrangements should only be known to those who need to know.
- Cash transportation times should be varied and routes varied as well.
- Check if you are being followed.
- Business owners need to balance the need of taking money home after closing rather than keeping the money in a safe on the premise. There have been cases where owners have been followed to their home and the robbed.
- If amounts are very high employ a security company to transport the cash safely.

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David Thomas is a former Assistant Commissioner of the Hong Kong Police, consultant to INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In October 2011 he formed Safe Communities Algarve an on-line platform here in the Algarve to help the authorities and the community prevent crime. 913 045 093 | www.facebook.com/scalgarve | www.safecommunitiesalgarve.com

**CHEMISTS May 3 to May 9**

DISCLAIMER: These chemists are open 24-hours a day, however after regular opening hours you will only be allowed to pick up prescriptions. To check for the complete list of 24-hour chemists in the Algarve please visit [www.arsalgarve.min-saude.pt](http://www.arsalgarve.min-saude.pt) and click on 'Farmácias'

**-ALBUFEIRA-** Il Santos Pinto (May 3), Urb. Quinta da Bela Vista, E1, 4/5. 289 512 901 Il Piedade (May 4 to 9), Rua João De Deus, 10. 289 512 254 **-ARMAÇÃO DE PÊRA-** Il Central Armação de Pêra (May 4), Urb. Quinta do Marquês, A10, 282 322 078 Il Sousa Coelho (May 5), Avenida D João II. 282 315 617 Il Edite (May 8), Rua D. Afonso III. 282 312 224 **-FARO-** Il Higiene (May 3), Rua José de Matos, Edifício Diamante, 21/22. 289 822 757 Il Caniné (May 4), Rua Dr. Francisco Gomes, 14/16. 289 822 277 Il Pereira Gago (May 5), Rua de Santo António, 81. 289 822 403 Il Da Penha (May 6), Estrada da Penha, 52. 289 822 342 Il Baptista (May 7), Fórum Algarve, Loja 0. 289 822 649 Il Helena (May 8), Largo Sá Carneiro, 69. 289 823 667 Il Alexandre (May 9), Rua Ivens, 31. 289 822 407 **-LAGOA-** Il José Maceta (May 3), Rua Coronel Figueiredo, 33. 282 342 678 Il Sousa Pires (May 4 to 9), Rua da Liberdade, 4C. 282 381 724 **-LAGOS-** Il Neves (May 3 / 8), Rua da Porta Pequena, 3/5. 282 769 966 Il Ribeiro Lopes (May 4 / 9), Rua Garrett, 22. 282 762 830 Il A Lacobrigense (May 5), Rua Prof Joaquim Alberto Taquim, 8. 282 762 901 Il Silva (May 6), Rua 25 de Abril, 9. 282 762 859 Il Telo (May 7), Rua Henrique Correia da Silva, 1/3. 282 760 556 **-LOULÉ-** Il Chagas (May 3 / 8), Largo Dr. Bernardo Lopes, 18. 289 462 185 Il Pinheiro (May 4 / 9), Av. da República, 55/57. 289 462 033 Il Pinto (May 5), Rua 25 De Abril, 2. 289 420 240 Il Avenida (May 6), Avenida José C Mealha, 109 A. 289 462 164 Il Martins (May 7), Rua Nossa Senhora da Piedade, 28. 289 414 859 **-MONCHIQUE-** Il Hygia (May 3 to 5), Largo 5 de Outubro, 15 B. 282 912 329 Il Moderna (May 6 to 9), Rua do Porto Fundo, 8. 282 912 323 **-OLHÃO-** Il Nobre Sousa (May 3 / 9), Rua João Augusto Saias, 4. 289 715 297 Il Brito (May 4), Avenida da República, 38. 289 703 059 Il Rocha (May 5), Rua do Comércio, 120. 289 703 085 Il Progresso (May 6), Avenida 5 de Outubro, 174 B. 289 703 131 Il Olhanense (May 7), Rua 18 de Junho, 143. 289 703 114 Il Da Ria (May 8), Ria Shopping. 289 705 555 **-PORTIMÃO-** Il Pedra Mourinha (May 3), Alto do Alfarrobal, 2 A. 282 422 909 Il Moderna (May 4), Rua Teófilo Braga, 5 r/c. 282 424 228 Il Carvalho (May 5), Largo D. João II, 28. 282 423 516 Il Rosa Nunes (May 6), Av. São João De Deus, 53. 282 422 653 Il Amparo (May 7), Quinta Do Amparo, 30 r/c. 282 430 220 Il Arade (May 8), Largo Gil Eanes, B r/c. 282 425 858 Il Guilherme F. Dias (May 9), Largo 1º de Dezembro, 31. 282 417 646 **-QUARTEIRA-** Il Algarve (May 3), Rua Dr. José Joaquim Soares, 14. 289 314 884 Il Maria Paula (May 4 to 9), Av. Carlos Mota Pinto, Loja 1. 289 313 137 **-SÃO BRÁS DE ALPORTEL-** Il Dias Neves (May 3 / 7 / 9), Largo de São Sebastião. 289 422 252 Il São Brás (May 4 / 5 / 6 / 8) Rua Boaventura Passos. 289 842 261 **-SILVES-** Il Associação Socorros Mútuos João De Deus (May 3), Rua Comendador Vilarinho, 11. 282 442 483 Il Guerreiro (May 5), Rua 5 De Outubro, 22/24. 282 442 404 Il Cruz de Portugal (May 7), Rua Cândido dos Reis, Lt. 5/6. 282 441 252 **-TAVIRA-** Il Maria Aboim (May 3 / 9), Rua Liberdade, 65. 281 322 039 Il Central (May 4 / 5), Rua da Liberdade, 13. 281 322 256 Il Felix Franco (May 6) Rua Alexandre Herculano, 24. 281 322 162 Il Sousa (May 7), Rua Jacques Pessoa, 7. 281 322 242 Il Do Montepio Artístico Tavirense (May 8), Av. Dr. Mateus Teixeira Azevedo, 1. 281 325 846 **-VILA REAL DE SANTO ANTÓNIO-** Il Carrilho (May 3), Praça Marquês de Pombal, 31. 281 543 049 Il Carmo (May 4 to 9), Rua António Capa, 17. 281 543 731