

THE NEW ZEALAND BRAVERY DECORATION (N.Z.B.D.)

Young Person N

Date of action: 17 September 2024

Date of award: 13 December 2025

Citation

On the afternoon of 17 September 2024, Young Person N (then aged 12) was at home with his father in Auckland, when their male neighbour approached their house. Young Person N's father answered the front door, at which point the man punched the father and accused him of spying. Young Person N was told to run to the back door by his father. The man grabbed the father by the collar and then pushed both the father and Young Person N into the back door, breaking the glass pane and causing cuts to Young Person N's knee. Young Person N was pushed against the wall by the man, before the man attacked the father, rendering him unconscious.

The man moved the father to a couch in the living room, forcing Young Person N to also sit on the couch. The man questioned the father and struck him unconscious a second time. The man then began filming an "interrogation" and retrieved a knife from the adjoining kitchen. The man continued trying to question the father, who was dazed, and stabbed the father in the leg, punched or kicked him when he thought the father was not answering truthfully. Young Person N attempted to pull the man away from his father at one point.

When Young Person N went to get a towel for his father's bleeding, the man threatened to further harm the father if Young Person N tried to leave. When the father was unable to satisfactorily answer the man's questions, Young Person N began interceding for his father, telling the man his father was unable to hear, prompting his father to answer with limited success due to his condition, and making up answers he thought would placate the man.

During the assault, which lasted close to two hours, the father noted that Young Person N's younger sister would be coming home soon. Young Person N asked the man to let him phone a friend to pick up his sister, which the man allowed.

Young Person N continued to intercede for his father while the man tried to unlock the father's phone and asked further questions. The man threatened that if the father was not more forthcoming in unlocking the phone, he would harm Young Person N.

When the man realised the father's condition was deteriorating, he allowed Young Person N to call an ambulance, which led to Police arriving and arresting the man. The father was taken to hospital in critical condition and survived with a long recovery. Young Person N demonstrated exceptional composure throughout the event, distracting the man and placating him to draw attention from his father.