

Street thugs destroy crimefighter's home

By Neil Keene | The Daily Telegraph | September 18, 2009 9:13AM | 21 comments [Print](#) [Email](#) [Share](#)

SICK of vandalism and violence in his home town, John Genetzakis waged a one-man war to wipe out the thugs.

Now the business owner has paid the price, losing his house and everything in it in a frightening arson attack.

Mr Genetzakis, 37, who lives in the Hunter Valley town of Cessnock, said yesterday he had no doubt the blaze was started by youths seeking retribution.

For more than two years he has called for a police crackdown on youth gangs who smash shop windows, wreck public spaces with graffiti and harass residents in Cessnock's business centre. Mr Genetzakis' cinema is a constant target of the thugs.

Youths have also broken into his house three times this year and vandalised his beloved car collection .

Just hours before the blaze broke out at 12.10am, Mr Genetzakis confronted youths who had been threatening him.



Gutless attack ... the remains of John Genetzakis' home in Cessnock. Source: The Daily Telegraph

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The fire was thought to have been lit under a car outside his two-storey house, quickly spreading to the vehicle's LPG tank.

It exploded in a blast so powerful it threw a neighbour's baby son out of bed.

Mr Genetzakis had no time to save anything except his pet dog.

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