

## Beaten protester urges chief to seek out responsible officers

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Ontario's Special Investigations Unit is trying to identify the man with the bicycle in this image from a video of police officers subduing Adam Nobody on June 26, 2010 during the G20 protests in Toronto.

SUPPLIED PHOTO

**Jayne Poisson** Staff Reporter

Last week, a quirky G20 protester with the last name Nobody accepted an apology from Toronto's top cop.

"Now that he's apologized is he going to look for the people who did this?" said Adam Nobody, referring to Police Chief Bill Blair.

"Police officers will be held accountable where there is evidence of misconduct," Blair had said earlier that day.

On the front page of the *Star* Tuesday, an officer's face peeks through a raised visor. The image came from newly obtained video footage that shows the same officer repeatedly beating Nobody with a baton.

Later that day, an image found in the *Star's* photo archive shows the same officer, again wielding his baton while taking down *National Post* photographer Colin O'Connor.

"Anything that helps us get close to the truth is something that we welcome," police spokesman Mark Pugash said Tuesday, adding that investigators were already looking into the video.

"If it's a Toronto officer, that officer will be held accountable," he said. "I would welcome anyone else who has any other evidence to please come forward."

Pugash cautioned that, from the video, it was impossible to tell whether the officer in question was part of the Toronto force. To say so would be an "assumption," he said.

That's true of the video. But a close examination of the latest picture — which Pugash had not seen at press time — shows the same officer wearing a Toronto Police crest on his arm. His nametag and badge number are missing.

Frank Phillips, spokesman for the Special Investigations Unit, said the new video and any additional evidence adds value to the police watchdog's new probe into Nobody's injuries.

When asked whether SIU director Ian Scott has asked Blair to identify the officer in the video, Phillips said police are obliged to cooperate. He added the SIU was still gathering evidence.

"We'll be making a request to the Toronto Police as part of our investigation for anything we need," he added.

The SIU also said Tuesday it's looking for two people bearing cameras who witnessed the police beating of Nobody. Images of the two men were captured from a video shot by web developer John Bridge.

In one frame, the SIU has singled out a young man wearing a bicycle helmet. In the other, a man wearing a baseball cap. Both are walking with bicycles.

For Julian Falconer, the lawyer representing Nobody, recent events are "becoming an extremely bizarre exercise."

"In the game of cat and mouse it's becoming the public's job to identify the police," he added.

Falconer has been calling on Blair to compel the men and women under him to come forward with any evidence of misconduct. He then wants the chief to turn it over to the SIU.

The Toronto Police has steadfastly maintained it has a track record of holding its own accountable.

“Ultimately, people will judge the Toronto Police Service by the actions we take, not by hurling assumptions and comments,” said Pugash.

“The service and the chief are absolutely content to be judged by that.”