



Drop G20 review, police board told

Inquiry could look like PR exercise, lawyer says

By [IAN ROBERTSON](#), TORONTO SUN

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A high-profile lawyer called Thursday for Toronto's police overseers to drop a proposed public review of G20 security.

Julian Falconer said too many investigations are being held, suggesting they be relied on instead of a review the lawyer said could give a "dangerous perception" of a public relations exercise.

"Why have a separate review?" he told reporters before making one of more than a dozen oral presentations to the Toronto Police Services Board.

"Peaceful protesters were arrested, protesters were detained" and denied due process, Falconer, who represents the Free Press Four — a group of independent journalists arrested during last month's summit, told the board.

"Why was the police services board asleep at the switch?" he asked the commissioners, referring to complaints of officers abusing their arrest powers..

Falconer recommended the board let the province's independent police review director — appointed nine months ago — investigate complaints about the multi-force G20 security.

Provincially appointed member Hamlin Grange bristled at Falconer's suggestion the board has too "cosy" a relationship with Chief Bill Blair.

"Do you want us to wait and do nothing while no one else is doing anything?" he asked.

p>The board on July 6 decided to hold any independent civilian review this fall but will limit it to studying its oversight role, governance and accountability.

Earlier in the meeting, Nathalie Des Rosiers, general counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, told the board it filed 78 complaints Thursday with the independent police review director.

The 78 complaints cover mass arrests, police use of excessive force, inadequate holding facilities for those arrested, searches and arrests especially of women and francophones from Quebec, and some officers not wearing name tags or badges.