



Lawyers unsatisfied with Blair's G20 report

BY [ROB LAMBERTI](#), TORONTO SUN

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TORONTO - Lawyer Clayton Ruby wants Chief Bill Blair to resign.

"I get the sense this is the police investigating the police," Ruby said Friday.

It's not unexpected that the report found police made honest mistakes and didn't find blame, he said.

"They had six months to plan how to deal with this," Ruby said, emphasizing the situation at the temporary detention centre police set up on Eastern Ave. "If the guy at the top is honest, he's going to take responsibility and resign because there were 1,000 citizens who were locked up, almost all of them for no reason."

The Eastern Ave. jail was where people were kept inhumanely, taunted, offered no phone calls and not give medical care, he said.

"That's him," Ruby said of Blair. "He did that. It's not some nameless officer, he did this.

"This is a colossal failure which he has failed to take responsibility for. They were not ungovernable. They were ungoverned. That's his responsibility," he said. "He's supposed to control his men. He failed in a huge public way."

Lawyer Julian Falconer, who's representing Adam Nobody in a lawsuit against the police, said the chief's report leaves more questions than answers.

"I have never been one who saw G20 as a reason for Chief Blair to resign," Flaconer said. "That's because it's a layered problem."

Nevertheless, he said he has expectations of Blair.

“It’s a real irony this chief disciplined officers...for removing their identification tags from their uniforms because it looks like that’s exactly what he’s done for the entire command structure in that report,” Falconer said.

“There’s not one name, there’s not even a rank of an officer, identifying anyone who is giving the orders. Some of the most egregious concerns in this case relate to the kettling.”

Falconer said the internal report is Blair’s attempt to put his “best foot forward,” outlining training issues and insufficient time to prepare.

But the lawyer wondered if beating up his client and leaving him with a broken nose and jaw was really a training issue.

“And then only one officer (of five) is identified,” Falconer said. “It’s obvious from this report, the leadership has sent the message that concealment works.”

He called the attempt “absurd” to use the report as a model of accountability.

“The report has completely lived up to my expectations of when police investigate police,” Falconer said.

But University of Ottawa Associate Professor of Criminology Michael Kempa said Blair’s report did what it was supposed to do — explain what happened operationally.

The short lead up to G20 in Toronto, and where the venue would be in the city, was a problem for police, he said.

“My concern is that there was a whole cocktail of agencies like a network of policing agencies that were involved,” Kempa said.