

SIU seeks witnesses who saw police beat protester

Published On Tue Dec 7 2010



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.

Jayne Poisson Staff Reporter

The province's Special Investigations Unit said Tuesday that it's looking for two people armed with cameras who witnessed the police beating of G20 protester Adam Nobody.

Images of the two men were captured from a [YouTube 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, another man wearing a baseball cap. Both are walking with bicycles.

The *Star* has obtained [another video that shows the face of a police officer who beats Nobody](#) with what appears to be a baton.

Neither of the bystanders sought by the SIU is the individual who shot the new video obtained by the *Star*. That young man, a 23-year-old political science student, did not wish to be identified.

Last month, the SIU said no officers would be charged for civilian injuries during the G20. However, it also concluded that excessive force was probably used in two cases, and cited the video shot by Bridge.

In response, Toronto police Chief Bill Blair criticized the SIU for relying on the video, which he said had been “tampered with.” Blair also said the officers were likely arresting an armed and violent offender.

Bridge later signed an affidavit saying the video was spliced from two clips with a four-second gap. He swore that Nobody was not resisting arrest and wasn’t violent.

The SIU then reopened its investigation and, on Friday, Blair issued a statement offering a public apology to Nobody.

In the statement, Blair wrote that “Police officers will be held accountable where there is evidence of misconduct.”

On Tuesday, Toronto Police Services Board chair Alok Mukherjee told CBC that it is within Blair’s power to compel his officers to bring evidence of misconduct to him.

Nobody’s lawyer, Julian Falconer, has been calling on Blair to make this order and turn any evidence over to the SIU.

“This case is a perfect example how members of the public can rally around to get the truth out,” said Falconer.

“The Toronto Police Service is trying to extradite people from the U.S. because of black bloc tactics, why is it that the public have to do all the work to identify police officers?”

Referring to the video obtained by the Star, SIU spokesperson Frank Phillips said, “This is certainly of value to us in the investigation. The video was certainly taken at a different angle and provides us with a different perspective of what occurred.”

The SIU is asking anyone with information to call 416-622-1806 or 1-800-787-8529 extension #1806.