



## G20 Police Face Legal Review On Tactics

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Mark White, Home affairs correspondent

**A group of G20 protesters, who claim they were the victims of overly aggressive police tactics, say they are considering mounting a legal challenge against Scotland Yard.**



New footage allegedly shows an officer using a police shield on a G20 protester

Lawyers acting for a group of climate camp demonstrators have put the **Metropolitan police** on notice that they may launch a Judicial Review of the tactics used to contain demonstrations.

Activists who staged the Bishopsgate climate camp want an explanation of how the Metropolitan Police handled the controversial City of London events last month.

Sky News has obtained exclusive new pictures of police attempts to break-up the climate camp on the evening of April 1.

They show one officer using his shield to hit out at demonstrators, who are sitting in the middle of the road. Another officer is seen apparently hitting out with his fist.

The climate campaigners' legal representatives are also demanding that senior officers provide a legal basis for the practice known as "kettling", where protesters are corralled into tight groups for extended periods of time.



Protesters in London

A "pre-action" legal letter is being submitted on their behalf to Commissioner Sir Paul Stephenson by solicitors at London law firm Bindmans.

A spokesman for the group said it explains they will have no option but to seek a judicial review unless the force addresses their concerns.

Protesters have singled out decisions to hold climate camp participants in one place for more than four hours and then to forcibly clear the road.

Solicitor John Halford said justification for "kettling" a peaceful demonstration remains "entirely opaque".

He said no reason has been given as to why people were held for so long and it was not clear if the force used by police was "reasonable".

Protester Hugh Morris said: "The policing of climate camp in the City was totally disproportionate and in all probability unlawful.

"Yet again we are faced with another David and Goliath battle in the courts to put this right when the real battle should be in halting climate change, after all, that's why we were in Bishopsgate."



Ian Tomlinson

Activists are busy raising £40,000 for a legal fighting fund, although it is believed many of those bringing cases are entitled to legal aid.

Several reviews and inquiries are already under way after a barrage of complaints of police brutality during the demonstrations.

The **Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC)** is probing four allegations of violence by police officers and claims the media were misled by the Met.

The most high-profile complaint followed the death of newspaper seller Ian Tomlinson after he was hit with a baton and pushed to the ground.

PICTURE GALLERY  
**G20 Protests**

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Protesters demonstrate outside New Scotland Yard in central London, on April 16, 2009. British police announced Wednesday a review of their rules on handling protests, after a second officer was suspended over alleged assaults during G20 demonstrations this month, in which one man died. The Scotland Yard announcement came as a woman filmed being

**COMMENTS TO THE STORY**

Its hardly surprising more footage has surfaced of the event seeing as 1/3 of those in

attendance were members of "the media". I am surprised however that its taken a while to be made public, I can only assume a certain amount of "editing" has taken place to "get across the appropriate message".

*Posted By :Steve* [Report This](#)

Seems a lot of the comments here are from a position of ignorance. the protesters in question were from the climate camp so speaking of 'who did the damage' is misleading. Likewise, guessing that most of the protesters are on benefits is just demonstrating a ridiculous and baseless prejudice not supported by any facts. On the question of what the police should have done - that's fairly simple. The police should stick to the law, arrest those who break it, and not use violence and intimidation to attack those protesting about important social issues. When the police break the law they should be made accountable - simple.

*Posted By :gary holt* [Report This](#)

I'd rather be a do-gooder than one of you do-badders who seem to think you`re so correct! Silencing criticism won`t improve society.

*Posted By :davey* [Report This](#)

"New and exclusive claims and evidence by protesters" is getting boring. And we don't generally care much about these new ones all the time. They're just looking for payouts... Get over it people. this was 6 weeks ago.

*Posted By :Maurits* [Report This](#)

Here we go again - the do-gooders having a field-day! The police have no problem with peaceful protesters but this protest was taken over by a rabble - look at the damage done & who pays for it - the ordinary tax payer. Those people who did the damage are to blame and you can bet the majority of them are not tax payers - they are against society but I bet have no problem claiming benefits - they make me sick!

*Posted By :TLC* [Report This](#)

I agree with Lee, any other country in the world would have used, pepper/cs gas sprayed, water cannon, horse charges, stun guns and plastic bullets on ths lot. What is it we expect our police to do? Perhaps ask them very nicely to not be nasty or read them the, extracts from the good behaviour book? We live in a world were criminals are getting far to short sentences, burglars suing homeowners and police not being able to do there jobs because of politics. THIS IS A JOKE! WAKE UP UK we are going to the dogs...

*Posted By :Simon* [Report This](#)

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