

C U S J

Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values

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President, Katherine Im-Jenkins

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Mayor David Miller,
Toronto City Hall,
2nd Floor, 100 Queen St. West,
Toronto ON M5H 2N2

January 11, 2009

Dear Mayor Miller;

Re: the Case of David Chen

We, the members of the association "Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice" (CUSJ)* were shocked by the laying of charges against shopkeeper David Chen, -the victim of theft by an acknowledged repeat offender, with a 30-year criminal record, named Anthony Bennett, in what appears to be a blatant example of injustice. Based on what we have been able to learn from news reports, including 2 articles in the November 5, 2009 issue of the Globe and Mail, Mr. Chen and his employees did not shoot, or stab, or beat up Mr. Bennett, they merely caught him, tied him up and called the police. Yet we find Mr. Chen being charged with assault and with unlawful confinement, while the thief had his 90-day sentence reduced to 30 days because he agreed to testify against his victim, David Chen.

We see here what is apparently a grave injustice, and others will too. We do not want to blame anybody for anything, without having access to all the facts. However if an apparent injustice is allowed to stand without explanation, or a change somewhere in the justice system, then law-abiding people will start to lose faith in our justice system. They will then tend to give up and "surrender" to the criminal element until life becomes unbearable, whereupon in desperation they will start to take matters into their own hands, -- an outcome we definitely don't want.

Since this action was initiated by the Toronto Police Department, which ultimately answers to you as Mayor, we ask you to look into this, and either provide a public explanation, or set the apparent injustice straight.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours Truly,

Katharine Im-Jenkins,
President, Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice

**CUSJ is a nation-wide association of members of the Unitarian Church in Canada, concerned with justice-related issues both in Canada and around the world.*