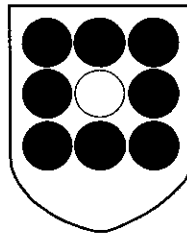


# CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

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# ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES LIBERTÉS CIVILES

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September 8, 2010

By mail and email

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Chief William Blair  
Toronto Police Service  
40 College Street  
Toronto, ON M5G 2J1  
william.blair@torontopolice.on.ca

Dear Chief Blair:

## Re: Police records pertaining to persons arrested during the G20 Summit

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association with respect to the many people arrested during the G20 Summit who were either not charged, have since had their charges withdrawn or will have their charges withdrawn or dismissed. The CCLA is concerned that these individuals' contact with police during the G20 Summit may unduly prejudice their future endeavors. We call upon the Toronto Police Service to expunge all G20-related withdrawn charges and police contact information from their records.

The CCLA is regularly contacted by persons who are troubled when past non-conviction or police contact information surfaces in the context of "Police Reference Check" or "Vulnerable Sector Screening" processes. Affected persons are often surprised to learn that such information may be included in police reports that are routinely requested by certain employers or volunteer agencies. Such individuals frequently suffer significant anxiety about how these records will be treated by potential employers. In some cases, they feel as if they may have been deprived of an employment opportunity because of a non-conviction disposition or other police record.

In the CCLA's view, it is inappropriate to disclose information about G20-related police contact or charges in the absence of a subsequent conviction. In the context of the G20, more than 1100 people were arrested – including five of the CCLA's independent monitors – and over 800 of them were never charged with an offence. Moreover, of the close to 300 people that were charged, at least 58 have since had their charges withdrawn.

Ottawa Office

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In the CCLA's view, it would be appropriate to remove all G20-related arrest, charge or other information, as well as related photographs and finger prints, from the police records of all G20 arrestees not subsequently convicted of an offence. This would ensure that the many innocent protesters and by-standers detained during the G20 are not further penalized in their future endeavors. Accordingly, the CCLA asks that the Toronto Police Service promptly expunge all G20-related information from the police records of those arrested during the G20 who were not charged or have since had or will have their charges withdrawn or dismissed.

We would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Des Rosiers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathalie Des Rosiers  
General Counsel  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association