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NATIONAL POST

## Igor Kenk wins bail in bike thefts

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By Melissa Leong, National Post

Igor Kenk, the notorious bike store owner facing 58 drug and bike-theft related charges, was released on bail on \$275,000 this morning.

Upon the news of his release, Mr. Kenk, 49, who looked dishevelled and was dressed in an orange suit, had no expression. He only nodded gently at the detailing of some of his conditions.

As he left the courtroom, he told reporters that he felt "a little betrayed."

When asked what his plans were now, he said: "I'm a dead man."

Justice Bruce Young ordered him to surrender his travel documents and remain at the home of one of his sureties. He is not allowed to leave unless in their company.

His conditions also prohibit him from attending his Queen Street West store and possessing bikes and non-prescription drugs.

He is to cooperate with an assessment to see whether he needs psychological or substance abuse treatment. Also, he is not to have any contact with Jean Laveau, 47, who is also accused of bike theft.

Mr. Kenk signed his own bail on the bike-theft charges in the amount of \$250,000. He put an additional \$10,000, on top of \$15,000 from his sureties, for bail on the drug charges.

His lawyer, Lon Rose, called the conditions "strict."

"It has been an extremely trying experience for him and he hasn't had an easy time at the Don Jail," Mr. Rose told reporters outside the court.

He said the public response "overblown."

"It seems that in the media, to some extent, that he's basically being blamed for every bicycle that has disappeared over many, many years in Toronto."

Mr. Kenk who owns The Bicycle Clinic at 927 Queen St. W., has been in jail since being arrested on July 16. Police say they observed Mr. Kenk directing another man to steal a bicycle near his store by cutting a lock with bolt cutters.

In the weeks that followed his arrest, officers raided 12 locations including his home, his used-bike shop and several rented garages. They seized more than 3,000 bicycles, more than 15 pounds of marijuana, crack cocaine and powdered cocaine. The drugs, Const. Aaron Dennis said, were worth about \$70,000.

Mr. Kenk is also accused of possessing a stolen computer and proceeds obtained through crime, police said.

Police invited the public to view the bicycles at two warehouses. People had until yesterday to visit the warehouses to claim their bicycles. More than 400 people had been reunited with their bicycles.