

# Bike-theft suspect sent back to jail

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Igor Kenk, the accused thief whose hoard of 2,865 bicycles stunned a cycle-friendly city last summer, was sent back to the unfriendly Toronto Don Jail yesterday, when a judge ruled he no longer deserved to be free on bail.

Mr. Kenk, who had been bailed last summer on 58 charges related to stolen bicycles and a large quantity of illegal drugs found in police raids of more than a dozen properties, will now await justice from behind bars, after a visit to one of his storage garages last weekend ended in a confrontation and three fresh charges.

The old and notoriously crowded Don Jail seems to have been less than kind to Mr. Kenk since he was brought there on Sunday to await this latest bail hearing, which took three days to conduct at the Old City Hall courts. Yesterday, the 50-year-old used-bicycle dealer was escorted into court sporting a prominent wound on his face and looking more beleaguered and unkempt than he had at previous appearances.

"He looks like somebody hit him," a friend of Mr. Kenk said before the proceeding, as he was led towards the courtroom in handcuffs.

When Mr. Kenk moved to approach the friend, his police escort steered him forward and told him to "keep walking."

Outside court after the 15-minute hearing, Mr. Kenk's lawyer, Lon Rose, refused to say whether his client had been beaten up. Mr. Rose said he was, however, "concerned about his physical well-being" and that he had asked Judge Bruno Cavion of the Ontario Court of Justice to have Mr. Kenk tended by a doctor "as soon as possible."

Mr. Rose voiced similar concerns last July during the 16 days Mr. Kenk spent in the Don Jail after his initial arrest. He was released on Aug. 1 on \$275,000 bail that included a strict set of conditions, including a ban on owning bicycles and promises from three sureties, who pledged a combined \$15,000 of the bail total, to accompany him every time he left home.

"It was the strictest bail I'd ever heard in my life," Constable Aaron Dennis, a 19-year Toronto police veteran who led last summer's investigation, said outside court this week.

On Sunday, Constable Dennis happened to be working a patrol shift when he heard officers being sent to an altercation at a Dufferin Street home. Mr. Kenk had allegedly swung a pipe in the direction of family members he had encountered in the garage behind the home, which he had previously rented for storage.

Last July 28, the same garage was raided by Constable Dennis and a team of officers who found dozens of bicycles and more than three kilograms of marijuana amid a tangle of junk. Based on information relayed from the scene on Sunday, Constable Dennis and his partner made their way to Mr. Kenk's rented home on Berryman Street in the tony Yorkville area, where they arrested him without incident after he pulled up in his pickup truck.

The Berryman Street home, the Dufferin Street garage and several others Mr. Kenk had rented from homeowners throughout the west end were the subject of 15 search warrants last summer. In total, the

searches yielded 2,865 bicycles, eight kilograms of marijuana and three to four ounces of cocaine, Constable Dennis said.

"That's a lot of drugs," he said, reminding reporters that the resulting trafficking charges against Mr. Kenk are more serious than the bicycle-related counts with which he is more prominently associated. "We figure it's \$70,000 worth of drugs, and that's at the low end," before factoring in the price markup if the drugs were broken down and sold in smaller quantities.

Mr. Kenk now faces 91 charges, including 21 federal drug counts, 65 charges related to bicycle theft and others.

He is expected to appear in court by video link on Dec. 23.