

## Kenk leaves jail with bodyguard

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*Officials linger as Igor Kenk exits the Don Jail on Aug. 2, 2008, after a two-week stay. Outside, he was met by a "hired" man, who would not identify himself.*

Freed from Don on bail, alleged bike-theft kingpin is driven away by 'hired' man in suit

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A day after Igor Kenk proclaimed "I'm a dead man" while being led in handcuffs from a courtroom, there was one rather conspicuous example that his personal security was being taken very seriously.

Yesterday morning, Kenk, whose arrest last month has resulted in the recovery of more than 2,800 bikes, was released on bail from the Don Jail. Waiting for him was a man in a black suit and sunglasses, "hired" to be there, who shepherded the silent Kenk into a waiting car.

After his release, Kenk walked at a steady pace with his hands clasped in front of him. He was wearing an orange T-shirt and black pants and appeared to have a portable reading lamp around his neck.

He did not speak to the two photographers and one reporter waiting outside. The man driving the car and woman with him would not identify themselves or comment about Kenk.

They did share words with two young men also waiting outside the Don Jail who said they were working on a documentary about Kenk.

On Friday, Kenk made the "I'm a dead man" statement as he was led in handcuffs, wearing a prison jumpsuit, from a courthouse in Old City Hall following a bail hearing.

He did not explain what he meant. Kenk also told reporters he had reservations about his future and felt "a little betrayed" by the situation.

Justice Bruce Young granted bail of \$275,000 and ordered Kenk to remain under house arrest with one of his three sureties.

Kenk's bail was set at \$250,000 for provincial charges related to bike theft, \$10,000 for federal charges including 21 drug offences and \$15,000 surety bail to be put up by three supporters.

He was also asked to surrender his passport and other travel documents.

Kenk was then escorted back to the Don Jail where he remained until his release yesterday morning.

Kenk's lawyer, Lon Rose, would not comment when reached yesterday, but on Friday he described Kenk's temporary return to incarceration as a matter of logistics, citing the complications of the case and number of parties involved in the bail process as the reason behind the delay.

In the two weeks since his arrest, the legend of Kenk – particularly if you or a friend had ever lost a bike to theft – has reached almost mythical proportions. What started out as a police sting has spiralled into one of the biggest hauls of stolen bikes the city has ever seen.

On July 16, Kenk, the owner of the Bicycle Clinic on Queen St. W., was arrested after police witnessed a man being instructed to cut a bike free from its lock with bolt cutters and take it to Kenk's store.

Following the arrest, police executed search warrants on Kenk's store, home and a cluster of garages in various locations around the city.

In addition to 2,800 bikes, the warrants resulted in the seizure of about seven kilograms of marijuana, several ounces of cocaine and a 64-centimetre-high, 80-pound bronze sculpture named The Centaur. The statue is valued at between \$12,000 and \$15,000. Kenk is facing about 58 theft- and drug-related charges.

He is scheduled to appear in court Aug. 6.

Police have put several thousand of the bikes on display at several locations across the city. Owners were invited to bring proof of ownership, a receipt, a photo of themselves with the bike or serial number to reclaim their property.

Toronto police Supt. Ruth White said yesterday afternoon that 466 of the recovered bikes have been returned to their owners. The remaining bikes are back in storage and will stay there until the matter is resolved in court, she said.

"Unless Mr. Kenk decides to forfeit those bicycles," she said.