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Activist's bid to call officials rejected

BRENDAN DELFINO

A demonstrator lost his bid yesterday to have the Police Commissioner and Secretary for Justice, whom he described as politically biased, summonsed as witnesses in his forthcoming trial.

April 5th Action Group member Leung Kwok-hung told Eastern magistrate Garry Tallentire that Eddie Hui Ki-on and Elsie Leung Oi-sie should be summonsed to clear his name when he and others go on trial on Tuesday on charges of behaving in a disorderly manner.

He said the officials should be brought before the court to admit political bias against him, which he said led to his "political prosecution".

They were biased due to his actions in previous demonstrations and because he had submitted claims to the Independent Police Complaints Council, he said.

"I think Mr Hui is prejudiced against me, not personally but on the political side . . . it is a political prosecution," Leung said.

"Therefore, I think he is a key witness."

Leung, 42, and colleagues Lau Shan-ching, 45, Koo Sze-yiu, 49, and former legislator Tsang Kin-shing, 42, deny charges of behaving in a disorderly manner in Wan Chai on July 1, whereby a breach of the peace was likely to be caused.

They were among a group protesting against President Jiang Zemin.

Leung, representing himself, also issued a third application to summons incoming correctional services commissioner Benny Ng Ching-kwok, then a senior assistant police commissioner.

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Mr Tallentire rejected all three applications, saying Leung could not prove the parties could bring material evidence to the case.



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