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'Angry drivers 'storm' police station, threaten to strike

By TOMMY LEWIS

ANGRY mini-bus drivers last night "stormed" the Waterfront Police Station protesting that police had assaulted one of their colleagues.

The drivers, on the Central-Aberdeen run, alleged that three traffic policemen, one of them an auxiliary police sergeant, had assaulted and pinned Mr Chan Siu-keung, 47, on the ground at the junction of Pottinger Street and Queen's Road Central following an argument over issuing him with a traffic offence ticket.

Another driver, Mr Tsang Pui-hung, 25, went to Mr Chan's assistance but he too was arrested for disorderly conduct in a public place.

Other drivers on the same route who claimed they

saw Mr Chan being beaten by policemen became rowdy and shouted abuse to traffic policemen at the scene.

The angry drivers demanded that police take Mr Chan to hospital immediately and release Mr Tsang.

Two representatives of the drivers, Mr Yiu Wai-ming and Mr Tsui Yuk-shan, later went to the police station and demanded to know why the policemen had assaulted Mr Chan.

However, while discussions were in progress, more than 50 drivers who claimed also to have witnessed an assault volunteered to give statements to the investigating officers.

Police said last night an investigation into the incident was being handled by detectives.

Mr Chan was later taken to the casualty ward of

Queen Mary Hospital, where he said he was assaulted by three policemen who had held him to the ground and kicked him on the chest with their knees.

"One of the officers also took his handcuffs and hit me on the corner of my right eye as well as on my right wrist, which is swollen," he said.

The mini-bus drivers early this morning said that unless police gave them a "reasonable" explanation, they would stage a strike later today.

"We intend to park our vehicles in the busy streets in Central which could cause traffic jams in the whole of Central District," they said.

"We are aware of the consequences but we just can't sit and ignore drivers being preyed on and assaulted by traffic policemen," they said.