

EASTERN EXPRESS

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Actions queried

If the Attorney-General is supposed to act as the conscience of the government, then ours seems to be rotten. The Attorney-General failed to bring charges against those responsible for the assaults on refugees during the April 7 raid on the Whitehead detention camp. He dropped the charges in the Wilkinson domestic abuse case. When a shop assistant was seriously beaten, the assailants were only bound over, and when a Filipina had her foot run over and was allegedly kicked and beaten by a taxi driver, *she* was arrested.

The Attorney-General has told legislators and the public that we must trust him to determine if and when a prosecution is to be made from the facts that only he has to go on. It would appear, however, that

such trust would be misplaced. In the case of the Whitehead raid, the two justices of the peace who conducted the inquiry concluded from videotapes that many inmates had been beaten by prison guards. Until now, however, no charges have been made against those responsible despite the existence of evidence on videotape. Why haven't these tapes been released to the public?

The Attorney-General seems to be telling us, "trust me, I know what's best for you". If justice is not done in these cases, then people will cease to believe that the rule of law thrives in Hong Kong's institutions.

JIM RICE
Lecturer
Lingnan College