



## BC Crime Prevention Association

#275 - 6450 Roberts Street, Burnaby, BC V5G 4E1

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question:

I'm a witness to threats of violence and I don't know what to do. It's not a crime to report, at least not that I know of, but I don't want to just ignore it and I'd be prepared to act as a witness if any crime was to follow. I've sent this message to the RCMP using their contact form.

Threats of violence were directed at another passenger on the #159 bus traveling from PoCo station at 4:44 pm. I boarded at PoCo station and I sat as usual in the side-facing rear seats and did some reading on my laptop. 4 youths boarded in downtown PoCo and 3 sat in the rear seat and 1 sat across from me. They proceeded to offer me a bottle that was marked as some form of energy drink. They later referred to it as D-HEAD and occasionally suggested that it contained piss. They made remarks toward me designed to get a reaction. I managed to largely ignore them.

At the last stop in the industrial section another gentleman sat beside me and they directed their taunts at him and he made light of it. Then another gentleman sat in the 2nd to last seat, essentially between the rear seat and the side seats, and they directed their taunts at him. After a while he called them on their actions in a not-too-serious way but they then decided that they had their target. The ring-leader was in the rear right-side and the youth across from me was very submissive toward the leader but made direct and indirect threats of violence toward their target for the rest of the trip.

As we approached Braid station the targeted gentleman went to talk to the driver and stayed at the front of the bus. At the station the youths promptly left the bus and hung out in the centre of the loop. Another large gentleman was sticking with the targeted gentleman.

I didn't see that I could do anything to help so I continued home. I dropped by the community police office at Lougheed Mall but it was closed.

I found all of this quite disturbing and I'd like to be able to do more to defuse situations like these. Thus I'm looking for a source of advice.

answer:

In the majority of criminal investigations it is necessary that the victim file a complaint with the police department in whose jurisdiction the event occurred. A victim cannot be forced to file such a complaint but that does not and should not discourage you as a responsible citizen from reporting what you saw and heard to police. Should the victim subsequently file a complaint, your evidence will be critical to the investigation.



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In our opinion, you have done the right thing by sending your information to the RCMP. The only other action that could be taken in a situation like this would be to alert the bus driver who could, in turn, alert his dispatcher and summon police assistance.