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**KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA I WAI 3060  
TE TIRITI O WAITANGI WAI 2925  
BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL**

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**IN THE MATTER OF** The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975.

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** claims concerning Te Rau o Te Tika – The Justice Inquiry (Wai 3060)

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF** The NZMC Justice and Mana Wahine Claim. (Wai 2925)

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**BRIEF OF EVIDENCE: RAYMOND GARY GORDON**

19 June 2025

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**WOODWARD LAW OFFICE**

**Counsel Acting:**

Donna Hall

Bryn Singers

PO Box 30411

Lower Hutt 5010

+64 (04) 560 3680

[info@mokoia.co.nz](mailto:info@mokoia.co.nz)

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Waitangi Tribunal

**23 Jun 25**

Ministry of Justice  
WELLINGTON

## **E TE KAIWHAKAWĀ, TĒNĀ KOE**

### **MAY IT PLEASE THE TRIBUNAL**

1. My name is Raymond Gary Gordon of the hapū Kanohi, Oneone, Iritekura and Hinerupe of Ngāti Porou of Tai Rāwhiti and Ngati Maru, Tawhiri, Ruapani, Rongowhakaata, Aitanga-a-Māhaki and Te Whanau A Kai, of Tūranganui a Kiwa. I was raised on a farm in the Tūranganui a Kiwa district while maintaining close associations with our wider whānau of Ngāti Porou, especially those associated with Waihau Bay, Te Araroa, Waipiro Bay and Manutuke.
2. In 1999, I received a traumatic brain injury while attending a Tangi in Gisborne. I was assaulted by six gang members, which left me severely injured and has had a lifelong impact on me and my whanau.
3. The police did very little to respond to this incident, as the gang members were protected despite the injuries I had suffered.
4. My first incident with police violence was in 2009. I had arrived at my partner's place of work. We were arguing in the car park, and I forget what it was about. My partner entered the store, and one of her co-workers called the police.
5. Later on, I found out that she thought I was acting threatening, but I would not hurt anyone; it is not in my nature. I did raise my voice, but that is how I convey my opinion.
6. A side effect of injury is that I tend to be loud when I am emotional, but that is all I am—loud. I am not violent, and I am certainly not dangerous.
7. I realised that it was best to leave at this stage, so I went to my car to roll a cigarette before I left. At this stage, a police officer arrived. He parked his car behind mine and got out of his car.
8. He yelled at me to get out of my car. From the very start, he was aggressive and swore at me.
9. I had not done anything wrong, so I continued to roll my cigarette and told him to leave me alone. That is when the officer came up to the driver's side door and started to drag me out of the car violently. He had grabbed me by the only thing I had available: my neck brace.

10. I was shocked at what was happening as the officer slammed me up against the car hard, he held me there for a moment, then, still holding me by my brace, swung me around and threw me to the ground. He then placed a knee into the back of my neck.
11. The pain at this time was unbearable, and I called out for the officer to get off me, but he stayed there with his knee in my neck the whole time.
12. By this stage, there were many onlookers, including my partner at the time, who were telling the officer to get off me; they could all clearly see that the officer was hurting me.
13. Eventually, the pain became too much for me to sit there, so I threw the police officer off me, and he responded by putting me in a headlock and trying to choke me.
14. By this time, another officer had arrived, while I was still on the ground, in a headlock, and the new officer pepper-sprayed me. They continued to pepper-spray me during the incident.
15. After a while, they dragged me to my feet using the neck brace and handcuffed me, shoving me against the car. They then loaded me into the back of the police car and took me to the Rotorua police station.
16. While I was in the cells, I was denied medical attention even though I had been hurt quite badly and was bleeding. I also had an asthma attack in the cells, which eventually became a seizure. It was only after I was found passed out post-seizure that they let a doctor see me.
17. I was charged 5 times with disturbing public order and released. Only one of these charges even made it to court.
18. After the incident, I could see how police started to manipulate events to form a story that suited them and their purposes better; they lied on their affidavits and intimidated witnesses into not giving evidence. I cannot blame those people for not speaking out, given the violence that they saw.
19. There were also significant issues in getting access to justice. I tried to take a case against the police for the assault that they had committed. When they found out I was taking a case against the police, many firms would turn me away; the court system was unhelpful in helping me find someone who would represent me.

20. When I did eventually get a firm in place to help me, the police failed to even show up at the trial. Three times I tried to have my day in court, and when the police failed to appear the third time, the judge dismissed the case. There was no outcome for my case; I had to deal with the fact that the issue would remain unresolved.
21. I attempted to have the IPCA investigate the issue, but they were only interested in justifying the police officers' actions and protecting the officers involved.
22. I was given weak excuses as to why the IPCA could not investigate and was given no insight into how they made their decision. They refused to give me my files as they were "only for my lawyer", so I was denied access to them. When I eventually obtained these documents, they were mainly blacked out, leaving me with more questions than answers.
23. This left me feeling like the system that was meant to help protect all of New Zealand was instead designed only to protect the police officers that enforced it; it made me feel like I did not matter.
24. Unfortunately, this was not my only major incident with police. In 2019, I was doing possum trapping in the bush near Rotorua when my car slid off the road and ended up next to a tree. After a few minutes, officers arrived at the scene and boxed my car in with their car.
25. They immediately surrounded the car and started yelling abuse at me, telling me to "get out of the F\*\*\*ing car" and "get on the f\*\*\*ing ground". I stayed in the car once again because I had done nothing wrong; I was intimidated by the police's tactics from the start.
26. One of the officers there said that I smelled of alcohol, which was untrue; I had not been drinking, and when I told them that they were wrong and that they must be smelling something else, the police used that as an excuse to escalate the situation and attack me.
27. Once again, I was ripped from my car and forced on the ground with no regard for my safety; this was a Déjà vu of the first incident. I was pepper-sprayed and put into the "chicken wing position", which, on account of my injuries, is incredibly painful and not something that I can do without risking long-term damage to my body.

28. When I was lying down with police all over me, one of the officers grabbed my pounamu from around my neck asked, “what the fuck is this” and ripped it off, cutting into my neck.
29. This felt like a personal attack directed at me; it not only physically harmed me but also harmed my Mana. They later claimed that they did not know what a pounamu was and did not understand its significance. I find this hard to believe, as I think you would be hard pressed to find a New Zealander who did not know what a pounamu was, and they certainly should not be a member of our police force if they are ignorant of New Zealand culture.
30. I was beaten and bleeding when they stood me up and forced me to do a breath test. The officer said it came back positive, but I never saw the results on the screen. When I was taken back to the station, my blood tests revealed that there were no drugs or alcohol anywhere in my system.
31. Once again, the police lied in order to serve their interests. They had all colluded to ensure that their untrue reports became the truth. I went back to the IPCA, but once again, they found no wrongdoing in their investigation.
32. The IPCA continued to cover the police's actions, but I do not believe that they are truly an independent organisation. They are only really interested in protecting their colleagues in the police.
33. The case manager we had at this time was terrible when it came to our case. She was rude, disrespectful and dismissive of all my concerns about the police's conduct.
34. The only request I made of her at the complaint was that Rotorua police not be involved in the investigation, as there would be an apparent conflict of interest in my mind. I was rebuffed, and the Rotorua police were heavily involved in investigating their fellow officers.
35. For her “good results” and “longstanding commitment to police”, she has since been promoted and joined the New Zealand Order of Merit. I’m left to ask, who did she get good results for? Did she do her job and hold police

accountable for their actions, or did she get the police their “good results”? If she is acknowledged as a long-standing member of police staff, is she impartial? In my mind, no, she could never be impartial.

36. Once again, I tried to get justice through the court system, but once again, I found difficulty at almost every turn, with no lawyers wishing to take the case. I still want justice and deserve it, but it becomes increasingly difficult each time I try.

37. The police have been a constant presence since this latest incident, never too far away, always making sure that I know they are watching me. I have explained the injuries I have to them, and there is a letter in my file stating that I have injuries that mean I am physically incapable of resisting, in the hopes that if they decide I am “Public Disturbance” in my own home they will only arrest me and not feel the need to attack me again.

Signed at **Wellington** this Thursday, 19 June 2025.

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**Raymond Gordon**