



# GLOBAL PEACE & JUSTICE AUCKLAND

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21 January 2013

David Carruthers  
Chairperson  
Independent Police Conduct Authority  
Wellington  
[enquiries@ipca.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@ipca.govt.nz)

Kia ora Mr Carruthers,

## **Complaint re police conduct on 19 January**

Last Saturday I attended the Anti-Bases Campaign protest outside the Waihopai satellite surveillance station in Blenheim and as a result I'd like the IPCA to investigate two issues which resulted from the protest.

1. At approximately 1.30pm a group of people from the protest walked down the station driveway with a letter addressed to the station commander. They were stopped by a group of four police who were standing across the driveway. The police said the protest group were not permitted to proceed further whereupon the police were asked to themselves deliver the letter. The outcome was that a police sergeant (I'm told his name is Sergeant John Westen (sp?)) took the letter, screwed it up into a ball and threw it on the ground. It was a childish, provocative action well outside any conceivable police role to ensure protest rights are upheld.
2. This same police officer was armed with a taser clearly visible on his belt. This appears to be a clear breach of police standard operating procedures which state that -

*"The EMI device (taser) is not to be carried by members rostered for duty at demonstrations"*

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

John Minto  
Spokesperson  
Global Peace and Justice Auckland