

Street-fighting complaints rise

There has been an increase in street fighting in the past six months in the area of yesterday's attack, Yau Tsim Mong District Council chairman said.

But Chris Ip Ngo-tung believed the chopping incident was an isolated case.

Ip said he had urged police to strengthen law enforcement in the district after receiving complaints from residents about nuisance by South Asians.

But he could not say how many complaints had been received. "I believe this is an isolated case. Usually residents complain about groups gathering and drinking beer in the area," he said.

Phyllis Cheung Fung-mei, an executive director from the [Hong Kong Unison](#), a non-government organization which protects the rights of ethnic minority, said she hoped police would review whether it was enough to warn suspects only in Cantonese, as 6 percent of Hong Kong residents are ethnic minorities.

She expressed concern about whether the police sufficiently warned the suspects before firing their guns. But Hong Kong Police Inspectors Association chairman Lee Jim-on said police could consider firing their weapons under "life-threatening situations."

"It is the responsibility of police to protect public safety. If the situation is threatening anyone's life, including the police officers themselves, they can consider firing shots."

He added: "We require warnings to be given in Cantonese or English, but it is difficult to use languages other than those. In this case, I think the body language was strong enough to warn the suspects to stop the attack."

And barrister Randy Shek Shu-ming of the Progressive Lawyers Group said the language barrier issue was irrelevant in this case.

"Police who were in uniform and had warned and used batons gave a very clear message to any sensible person," he said. "Language was not a concern under such circumstances."

Shek said aiming at the limbs and lower body was regarded as non-lethal use of weapons.