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Merseyside Police caught punching stab victim

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Merseyside Police have been caught on CCTV punching a stab victim in the pub.

The incident occurred after the police were called to attend to 31 year old Darren Grace after reports that he had been stabbed. The police claim that Mr Grace became violent towards them whilst they were treating his injuries.

Superintendent Mike Shaw from the force's professional standards dept said he could understand public concern over the footage but that CCTV images never "*show the whole story*".

Although the footage lacks context, the actions of those involved cannot be justified. Three police officers pinned Mr Grace to the ground whilst one of them punched him in the head repeatedly.

Although there's often what's described as a '*reasonable explanation*', Police brutality of any sort cannot be condoned. Quite apart from the needless suffering inflicted upon the victim, it's a very thin end of the wedge. If we allow the police to dispense beatings on the basis that "*he probably deserved it*", we run the risk of this kind of behaviour becoming prevalent.

Politically motivated beatings are all too common around the world, and if we allow behaviour like this to go unpunished we run the risk of opening the door to corruption and political manipulation.

We're not suggesting that the Police shouldn't be allowed to defend themselves, but it's clear to us that the officer went too far in this particular case. Mersey Police have referred the case to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (who then

authorised Mersey Police to conduct the investigation themselves!)

You can watch the footage on the BBC Website.

Tags: CCTV, Darren Grace, Independent Police Complaints Comission, Investigation, IPCC, Merseyside, Mike Shaw, Police brutality, UK, United Kingdom, Victim

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