

Calif. police accused of taking trophy photos of suspects

BY CHRISTOPHER BRENNAN

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS Updated: Monday, August 1, 2016, 6:38 PM

Alameda County put on leave after beating suspect

NY Daily News



Lawyers for a California man beaten by police have filed a federal lawsuit claiming that the officers have a “custom” of taking trophy photos of suspects they’ve bloodied.

Stanislav Petrov was arrested in November after leading the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office around the Bay Area in a chase that ended on a backstreet in San Francisco.

Surveillance footage from a nearby business released by the city’s public defender showed two officers repeatedly beating the unarmed 29-year-old with batons as he lay on the ground.

Alameda deputies Paul Wieber and Luis Santamaria face charges including assault and aggravated battery, and said in their reports that they feared for their lives and that Petrov had reached for his waistband.

Attorneys at Haddad and Sherwin LLP, who previously filed suit for the beaten man against the sheriff’s office for excessive force, filed a federal case Monday saying that officers had infringed on their client’s civil rights.



Stanislav Petrov suffered injuries to his hands and head in the beating. (SHADDAD AND HERWIN)

Among the allegations in the complaint is the accusation that police officers for Alameda County have an “unconstitutional custom and practice of permitting deputies to take trophy photos of individuals whom they have severely beaten and injured.”

At least two of the 18 defendants are alleged to have taken pictures of Petrov after the incident, though the suit does not name them.

The attorneys cited a previous incident where they represented the family of a man who died in 2010 after a guard beating in an Alameda County jail, where they said a deputy took a picture of Martin Harrison lying on the floor.

The suit claims that officers obstructed justice, standing behind a “code of silence” to cover up what actually happened in the beating and destroy the first two officers’ original reports.



The November incident was captured on the surveillance footage of a nearby business. (SAN FRANCISCO PA'S OFFICE)

Petrov's team also repeats claims against Alameda's deputy Shawn Osborne, who the suit accuses of taking the suspect's chain and then offering it to a nearby homeless couple to "buy their silence."

Osborne, a 19-year veteran, is not charged with any crimes in the beating, though the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) reported that he had been fired by his department.

The sheriff's office is recommending charging Petrov with 12 counts for the incident, though the district attorney has not done so.

He is in federal custody for an unrelated case where he is accused of illegally possessing a gun and possessing methamphetamine.

© 2016 New York Daily News