

‘Something is broken’: Doug Ford speaks out on charges laid against Lindsay resident after intruder allegedly assaulted

Jason Miller, Toronto Star

Ontario premier Doug Ford spoke out Wednesday over the case of a Lindsay homeowner who is facing assault charges after an intruder allegedly broke into his apartment early Monday.

Police lay charges

Kawartha Lakes police laid charges against both the intruder and the resident of a home after officers responded to reports of a fight between two men inside an apartment on Kent Street around 3:20 a.m. on Monday, police say.

Police reported that the resident had woken up and found an intruder in his home. The two got into a physical fight and the intruder suffered serious, life-threatening injuries, police said. He was initially taken to a nearby hospital but was later airlifted to a hospital in Toronto.

Homeowner

The homeowner, a 44-year-old man from Lindsay was charged with aggravated assault and assault with a weapon.

Intruder

The other man, a 41-year-old from Lindsay was already *wanted by police* for separate incidents and has since also been charged with possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose, break, enter and theft, mischief under \$5,000 and failing to comply with probation. Police said he will be held in custody pending a bail hearing after he is released from the hospital.

Ford says it as many residents would

“Something is broken,” Ford told reporters at a press conference in Hamilton adding that he was perplexed by how the accused, who was previously wanted by the police, on separate offences, is alleged to have broken into the man’s Lindsay home and the homeowner, “gives him (the intruder) a beating, and this (homeowner) guy gets charged.”

Everyone fights for their life

The premier said it's expected that "you're going to fight for your life," when faced by the threat of an intruder in your home.

"Enough is enough," he said.

Kawartha Lakes police chief **Kirk Robertson**, released a statement Wednesday indicating that media coverage of the Aug. 18 altercation "has generated significant public interest and emotional responses."

The chief defended his officers, saying "the negative commentary about the officers and their actions is unjust and inaccurate."

Robertson said the officers had done a thorough investigation which resulted in grounds to lay charges, adding that because the matter is now before the courts police are limited in the amount of information they can share.

He explained that "charges are not convictions; they are part of the judicial process, which ensures that all facts are considered fairly in court."

Defence allowed by homeowner

The Criminal Code allows a person to use reasonable force to protect themselves and their property, if they believe they are facing a threat, he said about Canadian law, before underscoring a key distinction, "that these rights are not unlimited in Canada. The law requires that any defensive action be proportionate to the threat faced," and that "the use of force must be reasonable given the circumstances."

[Editor insertion:

Bill C26 passed by Harper government limits victim's defence.

In 2012, the Harper government passed **Bill C-26**, amending Canada's Criminal Code to permit "reasonable" defensive force. Courts assess justification based on factors like threat imminence, severity, weapon use, and response proportionality.

Kent gives the example of someone being pushed. They cannot retaliate with a **baseball bat** and claim self-defence, she added, clarifying, "That's not reasonable force."

"Castle Law"

The 'Castle Law' comes from the old saying: "A man's home is his castle."

In the U.S., “castle laws” or “castle doctrine” give homeowners broad legal protection if they use force — even deadly force — to defend their property against intruders. Most states with these laws grant immunity from prosecution.

Not Canada.

How Self-Defence Works in Canada

Section 34 of the Criminal Code lets Canadians use “reasonable” force to defend themselves, others, or their property. But here’s the catch: the force has to match the threat. Lethal force is only justified if it’s truly the only way to prevent death or grave injury. If someone injures or kills a home intruder, police will investigate to see if the homeowner’s actions were “reasonable and proportionate.” There’s no automatic legal shield — and people have been charged when courts later decided they went too far.]

Ford critical of judiciary also

He also took a shot at the judiciary and the outcome of cases being left up to the discretion of “some bleeding heart judge,” on the side of leniency, when it comes to things like granting bail, because of a host of mitigating factors considered by judges, such as an offenders troubled upbringing.

“People are done with this,” Ford said.

It’s not the first time that the premier has spoken about individual cases to highlight his tough-on-crime agenda. He chimed in following a June 13 incident, saying a Vaughan man deserved a medal for allegedly using a gun to scare off car thieves.

Intruder, repeat offender

Usman Asif, 35, faces six charges, including: discharge of a firearm in a reckless manner; possession of a weapon for a purpose dangerous to the public peace; possession of a prohibited device; careless use of a firearm; and two counts of careless storage of a firearm, according to court documents, in relation to a June 12 incident on Pine Heights Drive in Vaughan.

And again

The Star later found Ontario Securities Commission documents showing the same man was implicated in a Ponzi scheme that preyed on the Pakistani community.

Police said Asif discharged a firearm during an attempted car theft. Separately, four suspects, who were attempting to steal a vehicle, were charged with a number of offences.

“I’ve got to find out this guy’s name and number, and I’m going to hold a fundraiser for lawyer fees for him,” Ford said at the time.

“I do not condone someone pulling out a gun, but it shows the frustration of people.”

Offenders escape clause

A spokesperson for The Ministry of the Attorney General, said at the time that “If the Crown determines that there is no longer a reasonable prospect of conviction, or that it is not in the public interest to proceed, the Crown is duty bound to withdraw the charges.”

Halton police said after at least two suspects reportedly broke into the residence the intruders were confronted by the occupant and “a number of gunshots were fired within the home.”

Homeowner charged defending home

A Toronto man was shot and killed and a second suspect was held and charged. The man was charged with second-degree murder in connection with the intruder’s death.

Financial help with legal fees

Ezra Levant, of right-wing media outlet Rebel News, has reported that he was contacted by the Lindsay homeowner after posting a message on X, stating that he was willing to assist to raise funds to help cover the man’s legal fees.

“For police to charge him is an upside-down version of morality,” Levant said in a video posted to YouTube. “We’ve got to help him.”

With files from Raju Mudhar and David Lea