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Chinatown shopkeeper faces charges

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From Tuesday's Globe and Mail, Wednesday, May. 27, 2009 02:36AM EDT

CITY HALL BUREAU CHIEF

A Chinatown shopkeeper and two employees who allegedly pursued a suspected shoplifter, tied him up, tossed him in a van and beat him now face multiple criminal charges.

Yesterday, the Toronto Police Service said the three men face a total of 12 charges in the incident, which unfolded Saturday afternoon after the storekeeper approached the suspected shoplifter, believing he had stolen merchandise from the food store near Dundas Street and Spadina Avenue.

Local Councillor Adam Vaughan (Ward 20, Trinity-Spadina) and Chinatown merchants declined to comment on the incident, but said store owners are frustrated about the police response to petty crime in the area.

Charged with assault, kidnapping, forcible confinement and carrying a concealed weapon are Jie Chen, 21; Wang Chen, 35, and Qing Li, 40.