



Documentary Film Festival this week

Protesters call for investigation into videotaped incident

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KAYANA SZYMCZAK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Nino Brown of Mass Action Against Police Brutality spoke at a rally at Boston City Hall Plaza. The event was held in protest of the alleged choking and police harassment of 18-year old Elvin Vargas by Boston Police officer Teddy Rivera.

By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF SEPTEMBER 01, 2015

About two dozen people gathered on City Hall Plaza Monday afternoon to decry a video that they said showed a Boston Police officer earlier this month choking a man.

The video shows Officer Ted R. Rivera putting his hands on the neck of 18-year-old Elvin Vargas while attempting to put him in a cruiser after he was arrested in Roslindale on Aug. 16.

Monday's protest organized by the Mass Action Against Police Brutality group called for Rivera to be fired and to face charges for using excessive force, and for a full investigation of the incident.

Speakers at the event also condemned previous statements by Mayor Martin J. Walsh who has said he has seen the video but that it does not show what he would characterize as choking.

The group, carrying a banner and occasionally chanting, also spoke out against police brutality, in general, a topic that drawn national concern recently.

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Carl Mitchell attended the rally Monday afternoon.



KAYANA SZYMCZAK FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

Sirad Zahra spoke during the rally.

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