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Tradesman sues after drugs raid

By Philip Cullen, County Court reporter

A TRADESMAN is suing the State Government and a policeman after he was caught in a drugs raid while fixing a doorway at a West Footscray property. Fitter and welder Slave **Todorovski** alleges he was assaulted and falsely imprisoned during a raid by six to seven armed police in July 1996. Dyson Hore-Lacy, SC, for Mr **Todorovski**, told a County Court jury his client was punched, kicked in the stomach and ribs, knocked to the ground and handcuffed. Mr Hore-Lacy said Mr **Todorovski**, who was out of work and got the handyman job through a neighbour, was partially strip searched before being allowed to go. Mr **Todorovski** went to the Western Hospital and his injuries included swelling to the side of the head, superficial abrasions around the wrists from the handcuffs and two loose teeth. Mr Hore-Lacy told the jury they would hear evidence Mr **Todorovski**, of West Sunshine, suffered post traumatic stress disorder, flashbacks and nightmares. Mr Hore-Lacy said Mr **Todorovski** went to a solicitor who in turn spoke to a police officer who alleged Mr **Todorovski** attacked police, grabbed a gun and threw punches. Mr **Todorovski**, who has not been charged with any offences, is suing the State of Victoria and the only policeman he could identify, Dan Trimble. The hearing, before Judge Bill White, is continuing.

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