

Baltimore police sued over child's arrest

by UPI

BALTIMORE -- The Baltimore Police Department is being sued by the family of a 7-year-old boy who was arrested while sitting on a dirt bike. The child, Gerard Mungo Jr., was outside his home last March when an officer allegedly grabbed him by the shirt collar and dragged him off the bike, The Baltimore Sun said Wednesday. Dirt bikes are illegal in Baltimore. After a verbal confrontation with the child's mother, Lakisa Dinkins, Gerard was handcuffed and taken to the police station, the lawsuit said. He was never charged with any crime. Mayor Sheila Dixon later apologized for the incident. The lawsuit claims the officer "maliciously and unreasonably" dragged Gerard off the bike." Dinkins was arrested less than two weeks later at the home of a relative, an incident the lawsuit claims was in retaliation for the publicity from the dirt bike arrest. The lawsuit asks for \$40 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

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