

## Seven girls charged with gang assault

*by UPI*

LONDON, Ontario - Police in London in southwestern Ontario said Friday they have charged seven girls between 12 and 16 for a gang-like "swarming" assault and stabbing. London police Constable Amy Phillipop told the Canwest News Service the attack happened about 9:40 p.m., Feb. 2 in a well-lit commercial area. She said an unidentified 19-year-old woman was walking with two younger teenage boys when they were confronted by a "large group" of teenage girls. "The group approached the youth, surrounded and swarmed them," Phillipop said. "They assaulted the 15-year-old boy and stabbed him in the back." The group then allegedly punched the 19-year-old as the stabbing victim ran to a pay phone to call police, the report said. The charges filed this week relate to the beating the 19-year-old received, as Phillipop said the investigation is ongoing as to the stabbing. She said it wasn't yet clear if the attackers knew the victims or had targeted them, the report said.

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