

**Newspaper: The Straits Times**

**Date: 5 January 2006**

**Title: Violent man with shears allowed to stay on bus**

I was waiting for SBS Transit service 39 at Yishun interchange at 1.35pm on Dec 31 when I saw a middle-aged man holding long hedge shears push ahead of the queue.

He forced a teenage girl, who was first in the queue, to back away from him.

When I boarded the bus, I told the driver about what I saw. That was when the man turned violent. I walked away, but he chased me and tried to attack me with his shears.

The bus driver stopped him from advancing, but allowed him to stay on the bus.

When I asked the driver to call the police, he did nothing and went back to his seat. When I made the same request to the passengers around me, no one responded.

The man was allowed to travel on the bus all the way to Pasir Ris, where he alighted.

Did the driver handle the situation in the right way? Why was a man holding a weapon allowed to board the bus?

I am also dismayed that the passengers ignored my plight.

Christopher Yaw Chee Kong

**Reply from SBS Transit**

I refer to the letter "Violent man with shears allowed to stay on bus" by Mr Christopher Yaw Chee Kong dated 5 January 2006.

We have investigated the matter and found that the pair of shears was never openly bandied in the bus. It was kept in a plastic bag during the duration of the journey and as such is not viewed as a weapon.

On the day of the incident, our Bus Captain was informed by a passenger whom we believe is Mr Yaw, that another male passenger had cut queue. The complainant asked our Bus Captain to call the police. The complainant and the alleged queue-cutter then started quarrelling. Our Bus Captain went forward to separate the two men and calm them down and both went back to their seats. While the Bus Captain walked back to his driver's seat, a female passenger informed him that the alleged male passenger had a sharp object with him. The Bus Captain went to the passenger and saw the tip of what looked like a pair of large scissors jutting out from a plastic bag. The Bus Captain continued to keep a watchful eye on this passenger throughout the journey to make sure the scissors/shears were not taken out. They were not.

As the scissors/shears was never taken out of the plastic bag, it could not be considered a weapon. We have passengers buying knives, scissors and hammers but as long as these are not bandied about, they cannot be classified as weapons of danger and our

Bus Captains will not have the authority to confiscate them. We wish to assure our passengers that our Bus Captains are trained to assess each situation and react accordingly if a threat to the safety of our passengers arises.

We thank Mr Yaw for his feedback.

Yours sincerely,

TAMMY TAN (MS)  
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CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS  
SBS TRANSIT LTD