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'I took this phone out of a dead body's pocket, who's speaking?'

December 1, 2008

Text: A Ganesh Nadar

Chand Pasha has been working in Leopold Cafe since 1989. He and his younger brother worked at the popular cafe for 19 years. While Chand took a break to work in Dubai for a while, his younger brother Pir worked here continuously.

Chand sat outside his house in Mahim, north-central Mumbai, and related the shocking and unexpected

events of the night of November 26.

"We were working. As it was my dinner time I went in to eat. I was eating in the kitchen at 9.30 pm when I heard the shots. I thought it was a short circuit and there was a fire. People came running in screaming 'gun shots.'

"I stayed inside. After 45 minutes we came out when we heard the police sirens and the sounds of ambulance sirens. By then, the police had removed the dead bodies, and shifted the injured, to hospital."

"I could not see my brother anywhere. I thought that he must have run away and searched all the lanes in Colaba. I kept calling his mobile phone. He was not picking up. But I kept calling him."

"Suddenly the call went through. I was elated at first and then shocked to hear someone else, 'I am at the St George's hospital. I took the

phone out of this dead body's pocket, who is speaking?"

"My world crumbled as I took a taxi to the hospital. He was dead and so was another waiter. That waiter was young and had just joined, his name was Kazi. One more waiter was seriously injured I was told."

"I heard that my Cafe Leopold started functioning today. I will go after four days. Where else would I go? It's the only place I know and like to work. I am going to work there only. And future security arrangements I will leave it to my boss. He will do something."

"My boss did not come here but he sent the manager and cashier here. They told me that they would provide any help we required. A few of the staff also came. My boss spoke to me on the phone. He said, ""Don't worry about anything I will take care of everything.""

"They have promised financial help to my brother's family, we will know the amount when they give it. We did not ask. My brother has an insurance policy. I haven't looked at it yet. I will do so when I get the death certificate from the municipal corporation. They said that it will take ten days. The death certificate that the hospital gave was taken by the graveyard officials, they gave me the photocopies instead."

Photographs: A Ganesh Nadar

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So Many Lives losyt ...

by [jaggu](#) on Dec 02, 2009 04:13 PM [Permalink](#)

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WHY did the police NOT come to Leopold?!?

by [Line](#) on Jan 25, 2009 10:59 AM [Permalink](#)

Noone has yet given an answer to WHY the police did NOT come to Leopold!

First twitters telling about the two blasts at Leo's came at 9:15pm.

Rakesh Maria stated the police got the first message about "shootouts at Leopold" at 9:31.

Colaba Policestation is just across the street of Leo's!

The repeated attacks lasted about 20 mins. It took another 15-20 mins. before we - among the first - were evacuated to hospital by military soldiers. There were still no police at Leo's!

Where were they?

Hiding behind the curtains?

Looking in another direction?

Counting Dawood's blessings?

WHY DID THE POLICE NOT COME???

My friend was killed and my BF was severely injured at the very end of the attack(s), - they would most probably still have been alive/uninjured had the police come!

What about the two of the terrorists who supposedly went on to Taj to continue their killing mission there?

How many lives could have been saved had the police done something - anything! - to stop them while they were still at Leo's???

SO many lost, broken and shattered lives!

Shame, shame, shame!!!

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