

No bullet hit Kasab, no active treatment on, says hospital's dean

Jaidev Hemmady : Mumbai, Tue Dec 02 2008, 03:08 hrs

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Contrary to initial reports that Ajmal Ameer Kasab, the only Mumbai attacker captured alive, was badly wounded in the encounter and lost a lot of blood, doctors have said that's not the case.

"He had some aberrations and bruises on his upper and lower limbs. He did not have any bullet injury and did not require surgery. He was given treatment on the spot and there has been no active treatment on him after that," said Ravi Ranade, dean of B Y L Nair hospital.

This assumes significance because Kasab is a crucial link in the conspiracy and it's his interrogation that, police officers feel, is vital towards unravelling the plot.

In fact, Kasab played dead for a while after he was nabbed following an encounter at Girgaum Chowpatty near Marine Drive, and showed no regret about his actions, officers who questioned him initially told The Indian Express.

Kasab, whose name has been spelled differently by different sections of Mumbai Police, killed Assistant Sub-Inspector Tukaram Umble by

firing five rounds from his weapon while getting out of the car when he was stopped at a barricade and asked to step out of the vehicle with his hands raised. His accomplice Abu Dera Ismael Khan, 25, who was driving the car, was shot dead in the encounter.

"Once he was subdued by our officials, he pretended to be dead by closing his eyes and staying immobile. It was after we took him to the hospital that we realised that he was alive. I interrogated him for some time at the hospital," said Senior Police Inspector Nagappa Mali.

Inspector Mali said Kasab seemed familiar with interrogation techniques. "Unlike ordinary criminals who often volunteer more information than is actually asked of them, Kasab was giving very pointed answers. The most chilling part was that he was answering in a very calm and emotionless manner, almost like a professional soldier," Mali said.

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