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He was hurt but fit enough to fire: doc

Express News Service : Mumbai, Sat May 16 2009, 04:11 hrs

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Lone arrested terrorist Ajmal Kasab who suffered bullet injuries on both hands after being fired at on the night of November 26 last year was fit for 'harsh movements' and could therefore use his AK-47 rifle and gun down assistant police inspector Tukaram Ombale, said a medical officer of the BYL Nair Hospital who first treated Kasab after he was nabbed at Girgaum Chowpatty.

Dr Venkat Ramamurthy, resident doctor of the trauma ward, who had also recorded Kasab to be 21 years old at the time he was admitted to the hospital in the wee hours of November 27, 2008, deposed before the court on Friday. Dr Ramamurthy demonstrated using the AK-47 rifle seized from Kasab how he could have carried on firing for a long time despite being injured on his elbow and hands. The witness also stated that though Kasab could use his heavy weapon with the injuries, he couldn't sign his own police statement, as clinically it was 'fine movement'.

Explaining the two terms in detail, the doctor said, "In fine movement, the victim loses sensation in his fingers and cannot even do light things."

Dr Ramamurthy is the 13th witness to be examined in the Mumbai terror attacks case. The prosecution on Friday also examined Dr Yogita Delkar, the chief medical officer of Nair Hospital. "On preliminary examination of the accused Kasab when he was brought to the emergency ward of the hospital, I had recorded his age as 25 years. However, after the accused himself gave his correct age, it was corrected in the hospital records," she told the special court.


Vikaskumar Kesari, another medical officer who treated Kasab, informed the court about the treatment given by him on the instructions of his senior doctor Ramamurthy.

The police had recorded Kasab's statement in the trauma ward. Kasab could not sign and no thumb impression was taken on his police statement, and on November 27, the DB Marg police had taken custody of Kasab after he discharged the accused from the hospital, he said.

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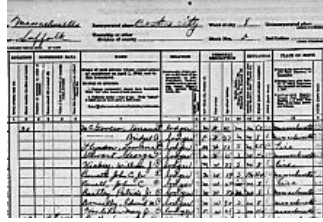
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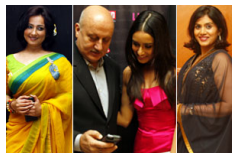
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