

RIGHTS

'Autopsy Doctor Told Me He'd Seen the Bullet Injury But Can Do Nothing as His Hands are Tied'

Grandfather of Navreet Singh, killed in tractor parade on January 26, levels dramatic charge, doctors deny making any statement.



Farmers tend to the body of Navreet Singh, 24, killed during the Tractor Parade on January 26. Photo: ismat Ara/The Wire



Ismat Ara

GOVERNMENT RIGHTS 30/JAN/2021

Note: This story ends with a video of the wounds on Navreet Singh's face which some readers may find disturbing.

New Delhi: The family of Navreet Singh – the young man killed during the tractor parade in the capital on January 26 – has refused to accept the Delhi police's claim that he died because his tractor overturned, and insists he was shot – as farmers who say they were witness to the incident near ITO had originally claimed.

The cause of Navreet Singh's death is at the centre of **three sedition cases** that the police in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana have filed against journalists including India Today's Rajdeep Sardesai, and the Congress politician Shashi Tharoor for blaming his death on a gunshot.

The Delhi police were quick to release video footage in which a tractor can be seen crashing into a police barricade and overturning. However, farmers at the scene claimed Navreet had been shot at before he lost control of the vehicle.

The post mortem report, prepared by a medical officer at the District Hospital, Rampur, after a 2 am autopsy on January 27, concluded that the "cause of death is shock and haemorrhage as a result of ante-mortem head injury", which Delhi Police officials have cited as consistent with their explanation.

The family, however, contests this report.

'We were cheated, now courts will decide'



Subscription One-Time

Support Investigative Journalism

₹ 499.00

Frequency: Monthly

Support In-Depth Reporting

₹ 399.00

Frequency: Monthly

Support Daily Reporting

₹ 199.00

Frequency: Monthly



Support The Wire



“We were told by the doctor that they have clearly seen the bullet injury, and then we cremated his body peacefully. But we were cheated, as the [post mortem] report that came out did not say that. The doctor even told me that even though he had seen the bullet injury, he can do nothing as his hands are tied,” Hardeep Singh Dibdiba, Navreet’s grandfather alleged, while speaking to *The Wire* on Friday, three days after his death.

On their part, the doctors have denied saying any such thing.

Dibdiba, 68, has been part of the farmers’ protest since the beginning, he says, adding that he has authored five books on Sikhism. However, after his grandson’s death, he is back in Dibdiba village of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh.



Noting the mention that the post-mortem report makes of two “lacerated” wounds, one on Navreet’s chin and the other behind his ear, he said, “They [doctors] haven’t directly mentioned the word bullet in the post-mortem, but given the circumstances and the kind of government that is governing the state, they wrote as much as they could about it. Now the courts themselves will clear the matter once we have a lawyer,” he said.

Navreet’s father, Vikramreet Singh, 46, said, “Everybody who saw his dead body saw that it was a bullet injury. One of the doctors who did the post-mortem said that it is a bullet injury, but that he can’t write it.” He added that his son had recently returned from Australia and went to Delhi to participate in the tractor parade by farmers. “We will finish his last rites by February, 4 and then go ahead with our plan of action,” he said.

UP police deny interference or pressure

Denying the family’s bullet injury claim, the seniormost police officer of the area, ADG Bareilly Avinash Chandra, said, “We had made a panel of senior doctors for the autopsy. We have no reason to suppress or distort such a document because the matter is of Delhi Police.”

One organisation the family could approach, say lawyers, is the National Human Rights Commission, which could examine the video made during the autopsy and cross examine the doctor who wrote up the report.

What happened that day?

When this reporter saw Navreet Singh’s body lying on the road at ITO on January 26, several farmers identified themselves as eyewitnesses to the incident and claimed that the young man had died as a result of being hit by a bullet.

Though no police personnel were visible within at least 300 meters from the dead body, the farmers told reporters that the police had “dispersed from the scene.”

Even after the Delhi Police released footage which showed Navreet’s tractor turning turtle, the farmers at the scene stuck to their claims. “A bullet hit him and that is why he lost control of the tractor and met with an accident,” said one man who said he was a witness.

Family says deep gash above ear is ‘exit wound’ of bullet

The post mortem report makes no mention of any bullet injury but does note the presence of an inverted injury on the left side of Navreet’s lower chin, and an everted injury above his right ear. The report, which *The Wire* has accessed, lists six injuries including those over the eyebrow, chin, skull, ear ossicles, chest and thigh.

The post mortem report mentions a “lacerated wound of size 2cmx1cm over

left side of the chin, 1cm below left angle of the mouth,” adding that “margins are inverted and bone deep.” Another injury, the report said, was a “lacerated wound of size 6cmx3cm over [the] right ear, margins are irregular and everted (inside out) right ear ossicles and brain matter is coming out from [the] wound.” The report also mentions a “lacerated wound of size 2cmx1cm bone deep medial end of right eyebrow, margins are inverted,” and “traumatic swelling” over the skull.

Manoj Shukla, deputy CMO and doctor at the district hospital in Rampur where the post-mortem report was prepared, denied the family’s claims. He added, “We do the post mortem immediately and hand over the copy to the concerned SSP and SHO. When asked if it was a bullet injury, he did not deny it and said, “The doctors who have written it will be able to tell...”

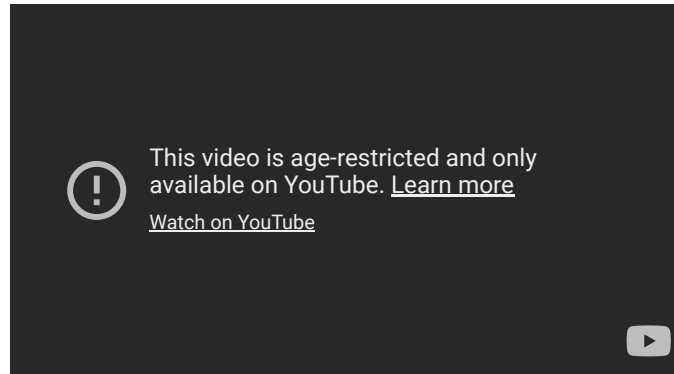
The family claims that the injury on his right ear is the exit wound from the bullet. However, the ADG said that it is possible that something else might have hit his right ear. “Or you may have got the wrong document,” he added.

According to a senior doctor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, speaking to *The Wire* on condition of anonymity, laceration wounds can be associated with bullet injuries. A **laceration** is a wound that occurs when skin, tissue, and/or muscle is torn or cut open. Lacerations may be deep or shallow, long or short, and wide or narrow. Most lacerations are the result of the skin hitting an object, or an object hitting the skin with force.

He said, “It seems that the post mortem report has carefully been made to remove any doubts about a bullet injury.” He added that the nature of the injury on his lower chin and ear could be possible entry and exit points of a bullet injury, especially given that the two injuries form a straight line. He added, “If a bullet had passed this man’s head, the mandible bone would have been fractured but the report doesn’t mention it. In fact, the autopsy report does not mention any X-rays done.”

Navreet Singh’s father says that the doctors had assured them that a bullet injury was visible in the X-rays but refused to show it to them. Dr Shukla also confirmed that X-rays were taken during the autopsy. However, the post-mortem doesn’t refer to any of them.

The family also shared a video of Navreet’s face, pointing to the deep holes visible in his left chin and above his right ear, making the point that this was a bullet injury. While it is impossible for journalists or lay persons to reach any firm conclusion, the family is hoping an independent probe will establish the truth.



Reacting to Dibdiba’s allegations, the Rampur police **tweeted a statement** on Saturday evening signed by the three doctors involved in Navreet Singh’s post-mortem denying that they had spoken “to the media or any other person” or provided any such information as is being attributed to them in the media.



'Autopsy Doctor Told Me He'd Seen the Bullet Injury But Can Do N. Grandfather of Navreet Singh, killed in tractor parade on January 26, levels dramatic charge, doctors deny making any statement. m.thewire.in



Rampur police
@rampurpolice

नोट (खण्डन)

दिनांक-27.01.2021 को रात्रि 02:00 बजे श्री नवरीत सिंह आयु लगभग 24 वर्ष पुत्र श्री विक्रमजीत सिंह उर्फ साहब सिंह, निवासी-बसम डिपटिया, थाना बिलासपुर जम्शेदपुर का पोस्टमार्टम थाना अमरा, बिलासपुर के भीम पर तीन चिकित्सकीय पैनल के द्वारा किया गया था, जिसकी निष्पत्तिनुसार वीडियोबॉली भी क्लपी बनी थी। उपरोक्त पोस्टमार्टम के पैनल में शामिल तीन चिकित्सकीय अधिकारियों में से किसी भी चिकित्सकीय अधिकारी द्वारा वीडियो में किसी भी प्रकार का बकवास/बयान नहीं किया गया है। और यह भी कहना है कि पोस्टमार्टम करने वाले चिकित्सकीय अधिकारी द्वारा पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट की एक प्रति पुलिस अधीक्षक व एक प्रति सम्बन्धित थानाप्रभु/पुलिस अधीक्षक को सीलड पैक विक्रम में उपलब्ध करायी जाती है। इसके अतिरिक्त पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में थाना प्रशासन में आवश्यकता पड़ने पर थाना प्रशासन द्वारा नुस्खे जाने पर ही पोस्टमार्टम करने वाले चिकित्सकीय अधिकारी द्वारा थाना प्रशासन में बकवास/बयान दिया जाता है।

अतः श्री नवरीत सिंह की पोस्टमार्टम रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में चिकित्सकीय अधिकारियों के नाम से वीडियो में प्रकाशित किये जा रहे समाचार/बकवास का पुनर्लेख खण्डन किया जाता है कि इन प्रकार के कोई भी बकवास/बयान हमारे द्वारा किसी भी मीडियाकर्मी/किसी अन्य व्यक्ति का नहीं दिया गया है।

(श्री भीम जुरे)
चिकित्सकीय अधिकारी

(श्री दलच सिंह)
डिप्टी एडि, थाना

(श्री मनोज कुमार मुख्तार)
थाना प्रभु/पुलिस अधीक्षक

11:09 AM · Jan 30, 2021



891 427 Copy link to Tweet

With inputs from Vijayalakshmi Nadar

Note: The story has been updated to include a reference to the statement of the three Rampur doctors circulated by the Rampur Police. One quote of the ADG, misattributed to a doctor, has also been now properly attributed and more details and quotes added.

THE WIRE

An Orcsnet partner website

[T & C](#)

[Privacy](#)

Support The Wire

₹200

₹1000

₹2400

ALSO READ



14 MINUTES AGO

'Love Jihad' Ordinance Is Symbolic of Social Fabric Being Aggressively Changed: Justice A.P. Shah



1 HOUR AGO

Farmers' Rally: Delhi Police Also Register Case Against Tharoor, Six Journalists



1 HOUR AGO

Media Bodies Slam FIRs Against Journalists, Want Sedition Law to Be Scrapped



TODAY

A Battle for Love

MORE 