CORDON OPS IN TWIN PULWAMA VILLAGES DISRUPTED, YOUTH CLASH WITH SECURITY MEN

ESS AHMAD. Dated: 9/7/2017 12:08:38 AM

Two injured by bullet, pellets

ANANTNAG, Sep 6: Clashes erupted during cordon and search operations launched by the security forces in twin villages of Pulwama since Tuesday evening. Two youth were injured in security forces action during the clashes.

Local sources said that army and Special Operations Group of police laid siege to Delow village of Pulwama at around 4 pm. As soon as the forces launched cordon and began searches on an input about the presence of militants there, local sources said, scores of youth took to streets and clashed with security forces to disrupt the operation.

The youth, they said, resorted to intense stone pelting at forces which were part of operation. The forces in retaliation lobbed tearsmoke shells and fired bullets and pellets to drive away the stone throwing protesters. In the action by security personnel, two youth suffered injuries. One of them identified as Shahid Ahmad Sheikh, sources said, was hit by a bullet in his leg while another was hit by pellets. The bullet hit was referred to Bone and Joint hospital for advanced treatment. Local sources said that following the intense stone pelting protests, security forces called off the operation.

In Karimabad village of the district, fierce clashes erupted between the security forces and youth late Tuesday evening after the latter laid a siege to the village following information about the presence of militants.

Local sources said that as soon as the cordon and search operation in the village was

launched, youth came out of their houses and made announcements on public address systems of mosques, asking the people to come out. Local sources said that scores of youth took to streets amid darkness and clashed with forces.

The clashes, they said, continued till late night after which the operation was called off. Local alleged that the forces returned again at the crack of dawn and vandalised the property.

A local Mushtaq Ahmad told Kashmir Times that forces to avenge the stone throwing in the evening broke the glass panes of several houses and also damaged the vehicles parked in the streets and premises of houses.

SSP Pulwama, Choudhry Mohammad Aslam said that though the youth tried to disrupt the operation but the operations were called off only after the searches were conducted at the target places.

"Despite the stone pelting, we carried out searches in the areas where we had information about presence of militants. The operations at both the places were called off only after there was no contact with the militants. We cannot say whether the militants were there or they escaped," SSP said.

He confirmed that one of the youth was hit by bullet in Delow during the clashes.

On the allegations of vandalisation of property the police officer said that he will have to confirm it.

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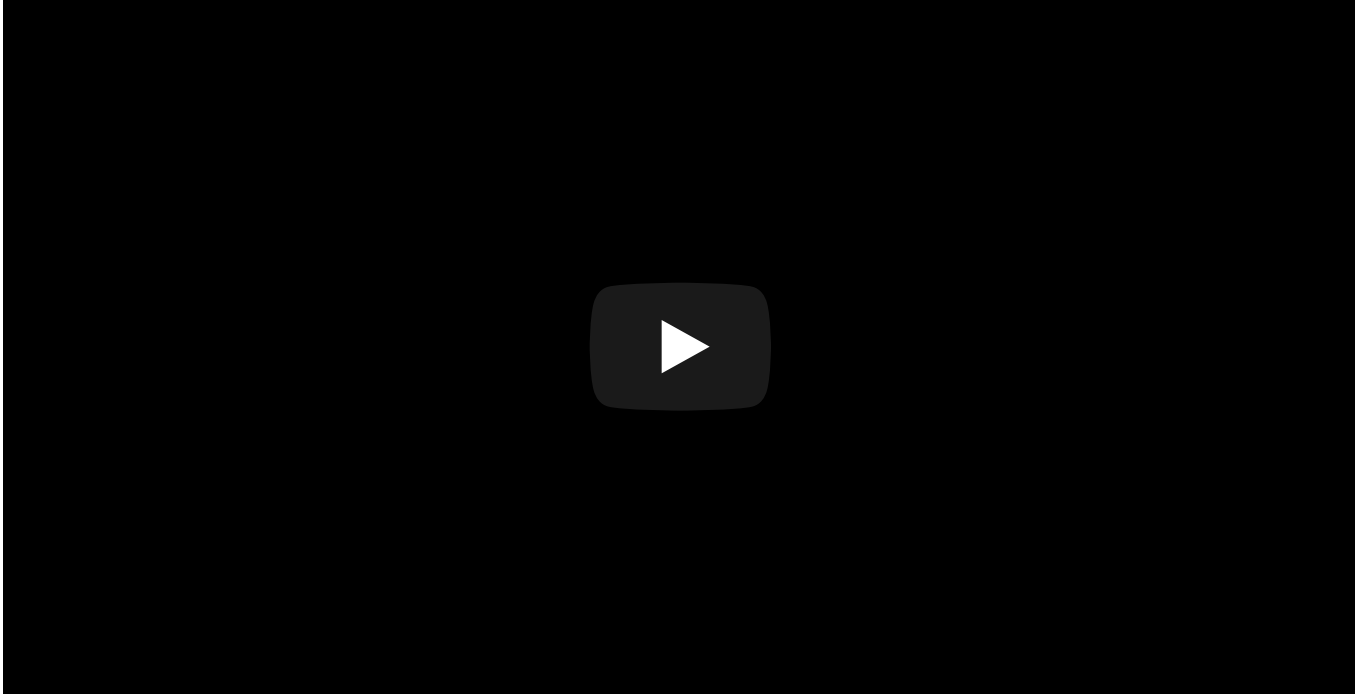

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