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2 YOUTH KILLED IN ARMY FIRING IN SHOPIAN AMID STONE-PELTIN

ESS AHMAD. Dated: 1/28/2018 8:39:03 AM

Police registers murder case against army, district magistrate to conduct probe into killings

ANANTNAG, Jan 27: Two youth were killed allegedly in army firing and another injured during stone-pelting at Ganowpora village in Shopian district today.

Police has registered a murder case against the army while government ordered a magisterial probe into the killi

Local sources and officials said that army resorted to firing on a group of youth who hurled stones on their vehic Ganawpora village, the native place of the Hizb militant Firdose Ahmad Lone who was killed three back along w another associate.

"Since the people were thronging the residence of the slain militant for the fourth day today, groups of youth hac gathered on the road. As the army Casper passed by the village, the youth resorted to stone pelting on it. The a men opened fire on them leaving several of them injured," local sources said.

The injured were immediately evacuated to nearby healthcare care facilities where two of them were declared de arrival.

Medical superintendent, DH Pulwama, Dr Abdul Rashid Parra said that two youth were brought to the hospital.

"One of them, Javed Ahmad Bhat was brought dead while another one was referred to Srinagar after the first ai Parra said. Bhat was the resident of nearby Balpora village.

The injured youth who was referred to Srinagar from the healthcare facility on the basis of severity of his injuries identified as Rayees Ahmad Wagay aged 24.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Pulwama said that another youth identified as Suhail Javed Lone was brought dea another healthcare facility of the district SDH Rajpora. Though some reports suggested that four youth have bee injured in army firing but the reports could not be officially confirmed.

Deputy Commissioner Shopian confirmed the registration of FIR against the army.

"Following my directions police has registered FIR against the army numbering 26 of 2018 under Section 302 ar 307," Deputy Commissioner said.

He said that besides the registration of case magisterial inquiry will be conducted into the incident.

"I will myself conduct the inquiry into the incident in minimum possible time. The probe will be conducted in a fa manner.

Weather it was unprovoked firing on part of army or was it in retaliation to the stone throwing will be established

the investigation," the DC said.

Army, however, said that its men fired in self-defence after a mob tried to set ablaze their vehicles and lynch one their officers.

"As the army convoy passed by the village a group of over 100 youth attacked our vehicles with stones. The nu of the youth swelled soon to over 250. The mob besides attempting to set ablaze our vehicles tried to lynch one officers, a junior commissioned officer, who fell unconscious after being hit on his head. Seven of our men suffe injuries in stone pelting. Our men had to fire in self defence to prevent the lynching of an officer that led to the ki two youth," army spokesman said in a statement.

A slightly different version of the sequence of events was given by the police in a statement late evening.

Police this evening issued a statement about the firing by army at Ganowpora in Shopian and subsequent killing two civilians.

The police spokesman in the statement said, “A convoy of 10 Gadwal of army on its way from 12 Sector Hq Bal Shopian to Maspora, came under heavy stone pelting at village Ganowpora.

Pertinently, Ganowpora is the village of militant Firdous Ahmad, who was recently killed in an encounter on Janu 2018 at Cheegund, Shopian.”

He added that due to this stone pelting reportedly some army personnel were injured and army personnel retali firing, in which three individuals namely Javiad Ahmad Bhat (20) son of Abdul Rashid Bhat resident of Balpora Shopian, Rayees Ahmad Ganaie (24) son of Mohammad Yousuf resident of Nadpora Shopian and Suhail Javaid Javaid Ahmad Lone resident of Ganowpora sustained bullet injuries.

“Javaid Ahmad and Suhail Javaid succumbed to the injuries at disstrict Hospital Pulwama and P.H. Rajpora respectively. Rayees Ahmad Ganaie has been referred to SKIMS Soura where he is being operated upon,” the spokesman said.

He added that in this connection a case FIR No. 26/2018 under relevant sections of law stands registered in Pol Station Shopian and investigation has been set into motion.

Soon after the incident, massive protests erupted in Ganowpora and adjoining areas. Though the bodies of both youth, local sources said, were handed over to their families after the legal and medical formalities but they had been buried till this report was being filed.

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