

BROUGHT ALIVE FOR POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

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ABSTRACT :

This paper deals with an important & interesting case where the police brings two dead bodies for post-mortem examination. While shifting the bodies to the dead house, it was noticed by a class IV employee that one of the two bodies was alive. This made hue & cry & an interesting story starts.

Key words : Alive, Unconscious, Revival, Rebirth

INTRODUCTION

Punjab is a very rich & flourishing state of India. Unfortunately, from 1982 to 1993 i.e. for about a decade it had passed through a very critical stage & difficult period. There were dreaded terrorists in this period who could kill innocent people. At the same time there were encounters. Many a time innocent people became victim of bullets. I present here a case report where death became a mystery. He was brought alive in mortuary for post-mortem examination.

CASE REPORT NO. 1

One unfortunate morning, two dead bodies were brought by police for conducting post-mortem examination in a Civil Hospital. It was noticed that one of them was alive. Immediately that man was shifted to hospital emergency & his treatment was started. He was unconscious. B.P. was unrecordable, pulse was 120/mt. This news immediately spread in the town and in the mean time police also reached there.

Here two stories start. According to one story,

the patient was immediately referred to another civil hospital for better treatment. He was accompanied by pharmacist and police and died on the way. So his dead body was brought back for post-mortem examination.

According to another story, the patient become conscious and asked the name of a nurse whom he knew. He was shivering with the cold and asked for a blanket and the doctor covered him with a blanket. In the meantime, SHO came. He threw away the drip from the patient and took him from the hospital forcibly and killed him and then brought back the dead body for post-mortem examination and told the doctor that he would have to do the post-mortem examination immediately. On post-mortem examination, there was only one wound on the back of his head. It was 10 cm x 6 cm. Margins of the wound were irregular and burnt and underlying. Skull bone was broken into pieces.

The case was taken up by the CBI who accepted the second story and a murder case was registered against the SHO and other police officials. Now the question arises that there is only

one wound which was received during encounter and then how he could be killed by second bullet. In his post-mortem report, the doctor had given the time between injury and death as "instantaneous". The case was tried in the session court and SHO was convicted of murder and awarded life imprisonment.

CASE REPORT NO. 2

A similar case was also reported from Hisar Civil Hospital recently where an unconscious drunken person was brought in hospital and he was declared dead by the doctor and his dead body was sent for post-mortem examination [1]. When the sweeper was ready to shift him on table for post-mortem examination in the meantime, the man

showed body movements and sweeper ran away from the mortuary. Then he was shifted to hospital where he regained conscious and ran away from hospital. This runaway man was shown on T.V. who was promising "never to drink again".

CONCLUSION

From above facts, it is evident that the doctor before conducting the post-mortem examination should once again examine the body to re-confirm the death otherwise some mistake can take place as has happened in the above said cases.

REFERENCE

1. Dead man comes alive, The Tribune, The Late City Edition, Chandigarh, 2004; 124 (18): 9.