



LOSING SIGHT IN KASHMIR

THE IMPACT OF
PELLET-FIRING SHOTGUNS

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Cover: Insha Mushtaq, who lost vision in both eyes due to pellet injuries.

All photographs by Sirish Nimmagadda for Amnesty International India

Designer: Mohammed Sajjad

INTRODUCTION



A weapon meant to be deployed for ‘**crowd control**’ has been responsible for blinding, killing and traumatizing people in Kashmir.

Security forces in Jammu and Kashmir have been using pump-action shotguns firing metal pellets to police protests in the Kashmir valley since at least 2010. These inherently inaccurate shotguns fire hundreds of metal pellets which spread over a wide area. Their use has blinded hundreds and killed at least 14 people since July 2016.

The effects of these weapons will be felt for years to come. In this briefing are the cases of 88 people whose eyesight was damaged—some temporarily, some permanently—by metal pellets between 2014 and 2017. Their lives have changed entirely, and they are struggling to cope.

School-going boys and girls have lost vision in one or both eyes, and have difficulty reading, playing with their friends, or watching cartoons. College students have had to give up their dreams of pursuing higher education. Young men and primary breadwinners of families say that they cannot earn a living anymore, that they are now a liability for their families.

Several people have not regained their eyesight despite going through repeated surgeries, and are spending considerable amounts on medical treatment. Some still have pellets inside their eyes, because it is medically risky to remove them.

Many show symptoms of psychological trauma, and all of them face everyday struggles: of dealing with the darkness they say has descended on their lives, of having to let go of simple pleasures, and of preparing for difficult futures.

This is the human cost of the government’s heavy-handed crackdown in Kashmir.

Sources in the Jammu and Kashmir state police say that the shotguns most commonly used in the state use cartridges containing about 500 pellets, which resemble ball bearings. There is no way to control the trajectory or direction of the pellets, whose effects are therefore indiscriminate.

By their very nature, these weapons have a high risk of causing serious and permanent injuries to the persons targeted as well as to others. These risks are virtually impossible to control. Pellet-firing shotguns which authorities say are intended to disperse stone-throwers have blinded, injured and killed protestors, bystanders, journalists, medical professionals and - there is some evidence to suggest - even security force personnel.

The use of pellet-firing shotguns violates international human rights standards on the use of force. The UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials states that law enforcement officials may use force “**only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty**”. The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms states that force should only be used when unavoidable, and law enforcement officials should “exercise restraint” in using force and “minimize damage and injury”.

While India witnesses protests every day, some of them violent, the pellet-firing shotgun has only been used in Kashmir. India’s Home Ministry has suggested on several occasions that these weapons will be replaced, but those promises have not been kept. Official requests for information about the shotgun – which are manufactured by a Defence Ministry unit – have been turned down.

Law enforcement authorities have a duty to maintain public order. But the use of pellet-firing shotguns, which are inherently inaccurate and carry a high risk of harm, is not a proportionate use of force. Stone-throwing or other violence by protestors should be addressed in a less harmful way by other means that allow for better targeting or more control over the harm caused. Pellet-firing shotguns have no place in law enforcement.

21 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

ASIF AHMAD SHEIKH (9)

Class 5 student, Anantnag



“

Watching cartoons on TV, playing with my friends on the street, reading books for hours - this is what I dream of now.”



17 JULY 2016: **INJURIES LED TO REMOVAL OF HIS LEFT EYE**

DANISH RAJAB JHAT (24)

Marketing executive, Srinagar





“

I had 92 pellets hit my face. Who says pellets are not lethal? Ask us. Pellets killed our dreams and hopes. They bruised our souls. They made our lives hell.”

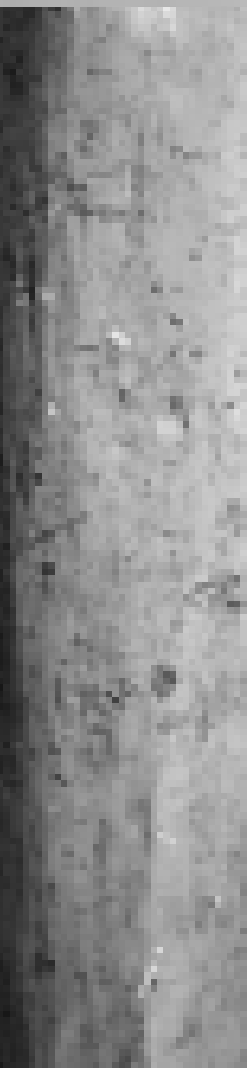
19 JULY 2016: **DAMAGE TO LEFT EYE**



TAMANA ASHIQ (10)
Class 4 student, Ganderbal



I heard people shouting slogans outside, so I went to an open window to see what was happening. Suddenly, something hit my left eye. Blood started to come out. Later I learned that I was hit by a pellet."



31 OCTOBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

IFRA SHAKOOR (16)

Class 9 student, Pulwama

“

I want to read and write, but the pellets have made it difficult.”

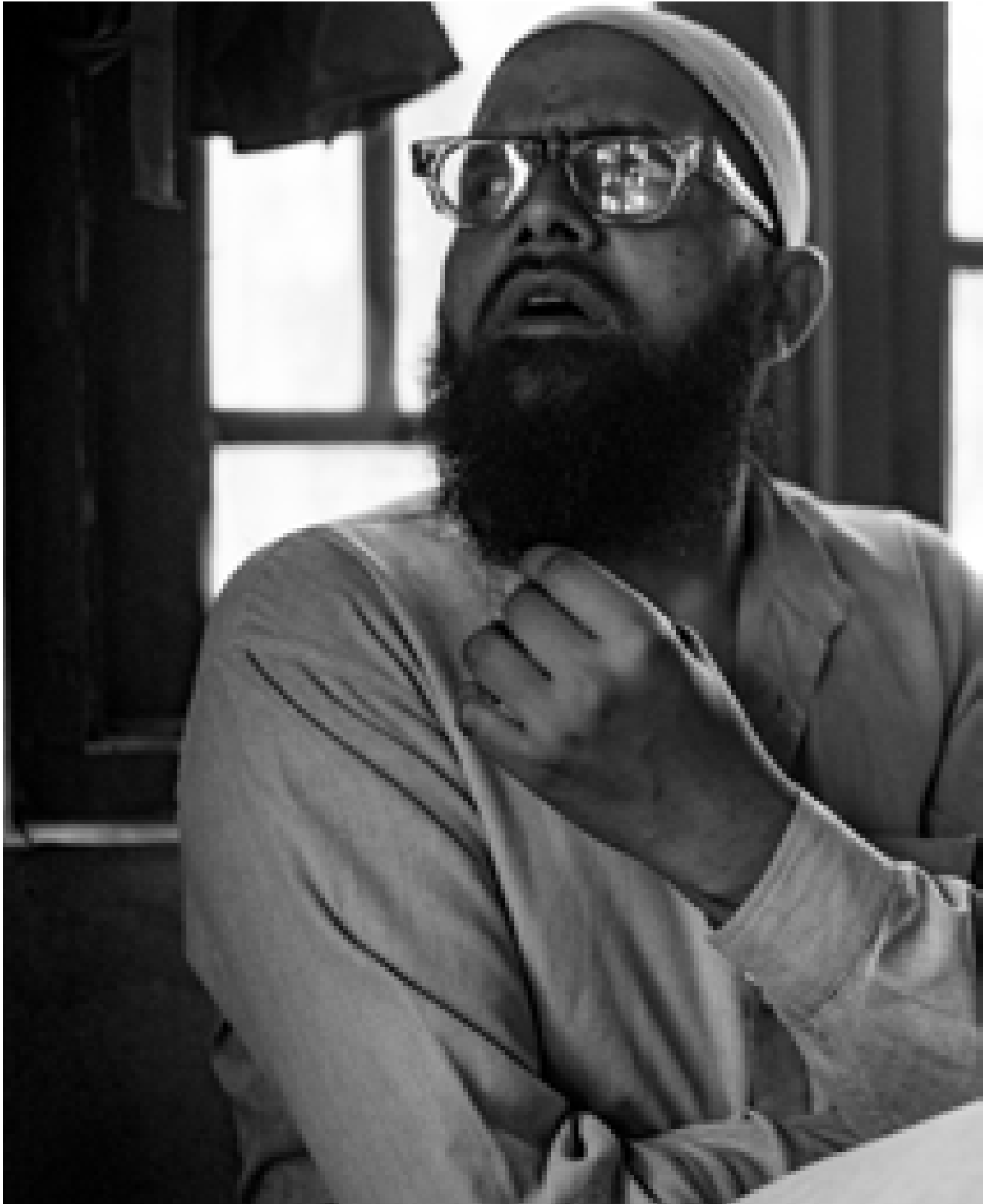


15 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



FIRDOUS AHMAD DAR (25)

Auto-rickshaw driver, Baramulla



“

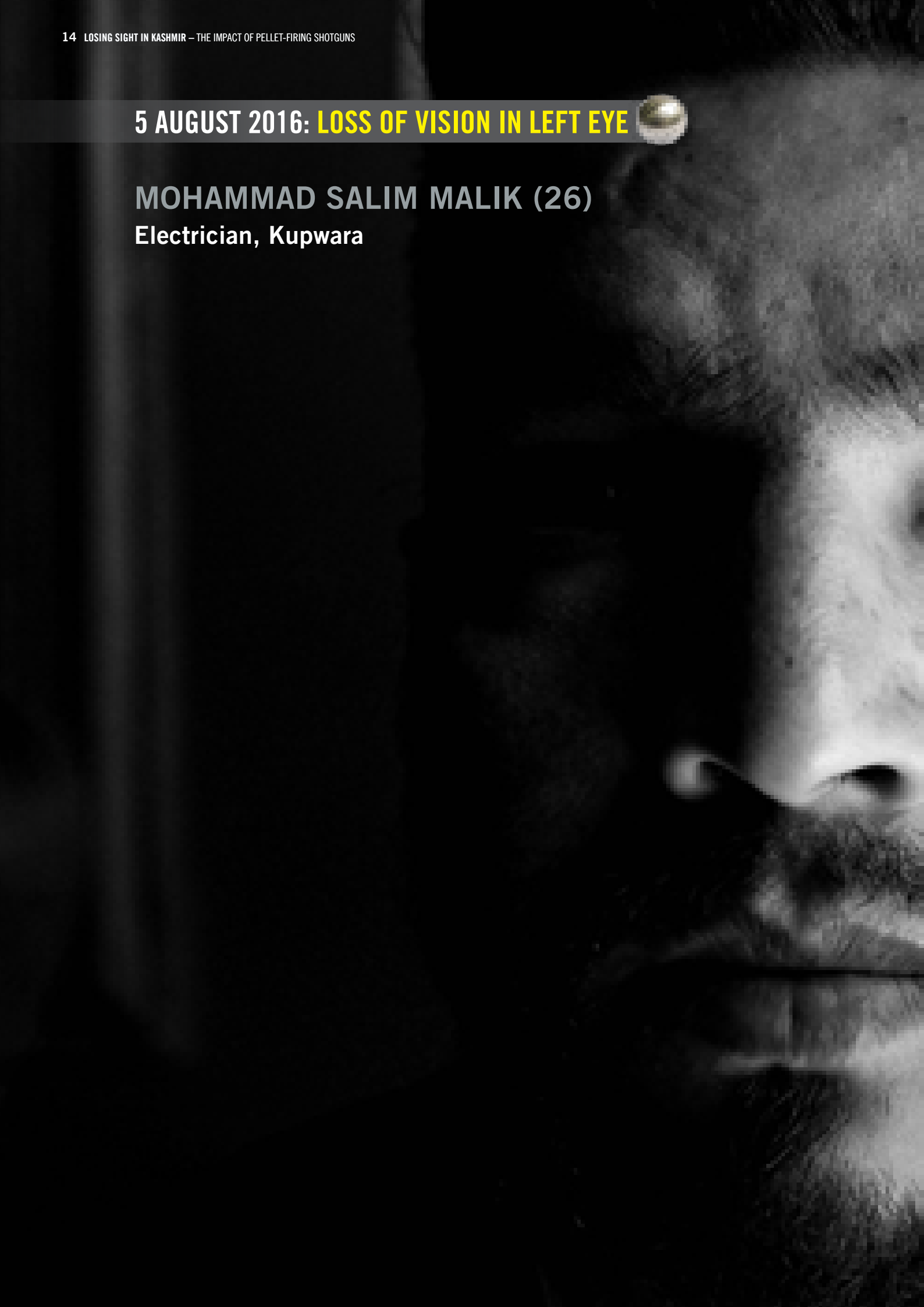
The pellets have completely changed my life. Instead of being a support to my family, I have now become dependent on them.”



5 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE** 

MOHAMMAD SALIM MALIK (26)

Electrician, Kupwara





“

My life is now completely dark in every way. I can't even walk in my own house without support."



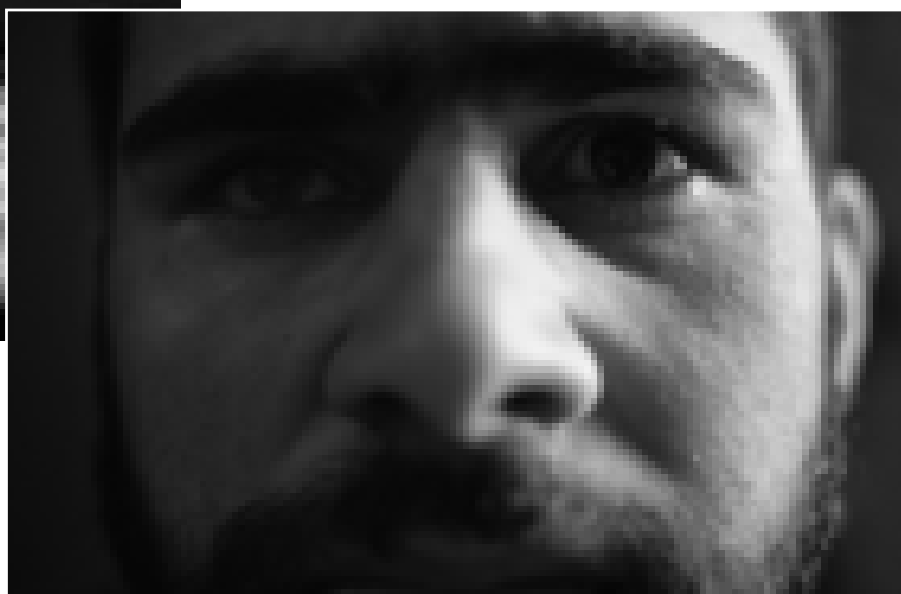


Asif has undergone six surgeries for his right eye, but there has been no major improvement in his eyesight.

1 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

MOHAMMAD ASIF DAR (23)

Salesman, Baramulla

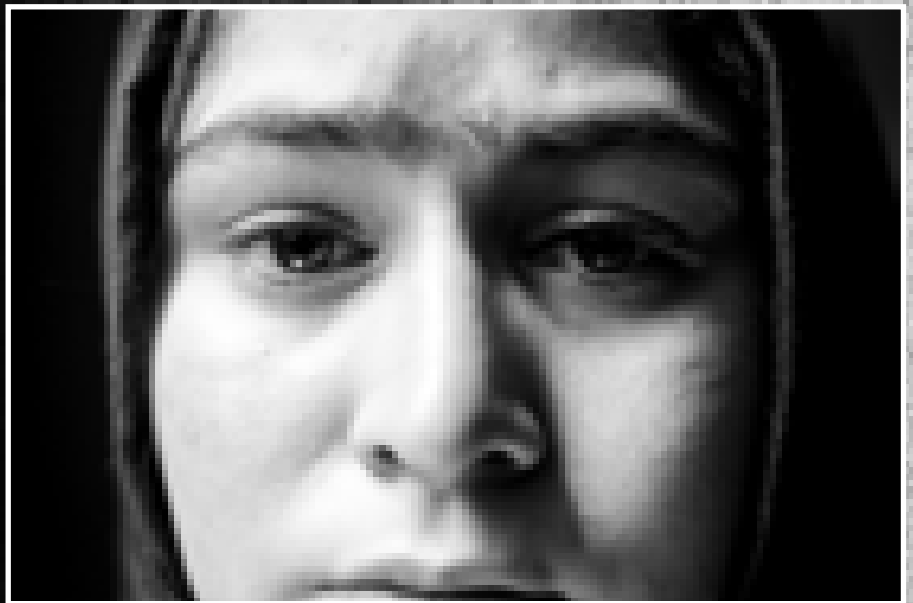


2 OCTOBER 2016: LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE

ULFAT HAMEED (17)

Class 10 student, Baramulla





I used to teach sewing and tailoring to girls in my village, but not any more. Because of the injuries, I couldn't write my class 10 board exam."

16 MARCH 2014: **LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

FAROOQ AHMAD MALLA (27)

Box maker, Bandipora



“

The pellets have turned everything black - my ambitions, my dreams, my whole life. It is painful to hear that more and more people are being pushed into this dark world by these pellets.”







21 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

ADIL RASHID BHAT (25)
Mobile repair technician,
Anantnag

He has five pellets still in his eyes. He cannot recognise anyone or go out of his house without help.



8 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**



ISHRAT JAVID (18)

University student, Anantnag



“

There were protests outside my house. I had gone out to look for my brother when they fired the pellets at me. I was hit in my eyes, face, head and torso."



16 MARCH 2014: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

ARSHID AHMAD DAR (20)

Chef, Pulwama

“

The doctors have told me I can't work as a chef anymore because any smoke can cause more damage to my eyes."





21 MAY 2015: **TEMPORARY LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

HAMID NAZIR BHAT (16)

Class 11 student, Baramulla





“

My physical injuries have healed, but the fear of what I had gone through is still there. It has been a nightmare for me and my family.”

11 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

INSHA MUSHTAQ (15)

Class 9 Student, Shopian

“ *I was at my home when I was hit by hundreds of pellets, mostly on my face. They even went inside my mouth. I want the forces who fired the pellets to be punished, but I know the state does not care. I have no faith in their system.* **”**





14 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



MOHAMMAD ASHRAF GANIE (22)
Handicraft worker, Budgam



***Even after 3 surgeries—
two in the right eye and
one in the left—he does
not know if all the pellets
have been removed from
his eyes.***

8 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

RUBY JAN (34)

Community health worker, Anantnag



“

I heard that the forces were beating up villagers, so I went out to look for my son, when I was hit by the pellets. I still can't understand why. One thing I know now is that no one is safe here."



5 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

KHALID YOUSUF DAR (23)

University student, Baramulla



“

*My eyes starts watering after reading for some time.
I had a passion for cricket, but now I can't play at all."*

12 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

IMTIYAZ AHMAD SOFI (21)

Automobile mechanic, Baramulla



Only 20% of Imtiyaz's vision has been restored after 5 surgeries. He was refused a Disability Certificate as his name was wrongly noted on his medical record.

15 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

MEHRAJ-UD-DIN DAR (24)

Labourer, Baramulla



“

I went through five surgeries. I can't work any more now, because of the possibility of infection. I'm worried about my children's future.”

30 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

GHULAM MOHIDIN PALLA (29)

Physical education teacher, Baramulla



“

I went through three surgeries, and five pellets were removed from my eye, but my vision was gone. After some time, when I went back, the doctors said they can't help me any more."

“

*I couldn't write my board examination.
The pellets have ruined my education.”*

15 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

AJAZ AHMAD MIR (17)
Class 10 student, Baramulla

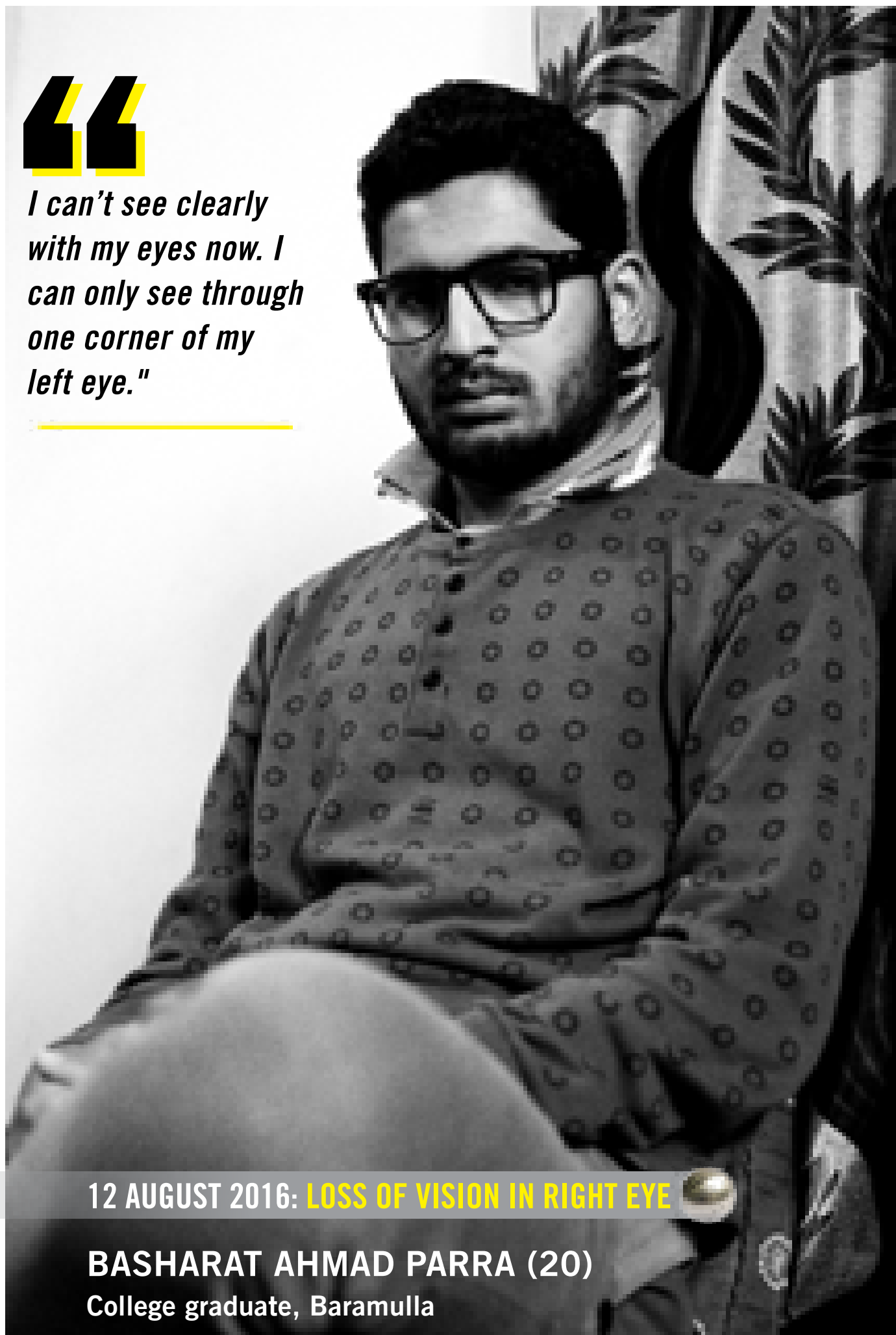
“

*I can't see clearly
with my eyes now. I
can only see through
one corner of my
left eye."*

12 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

BASHARAT AHMAD PARRA (20)

College graduate, Baramulla



DATE OF INCIDENT UNKNOWN: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

HISAM-UD-DIN PEER (29)

Shop owner, Kupwara

“

*I am paying the price
for simply being in the
wrong place at the
wrong time.”*



DATE OF INCIDENT UNKNOWN: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

MUSHTAQ AHMAD AHANGAR (28)

Blacksmith, Kupwara

“

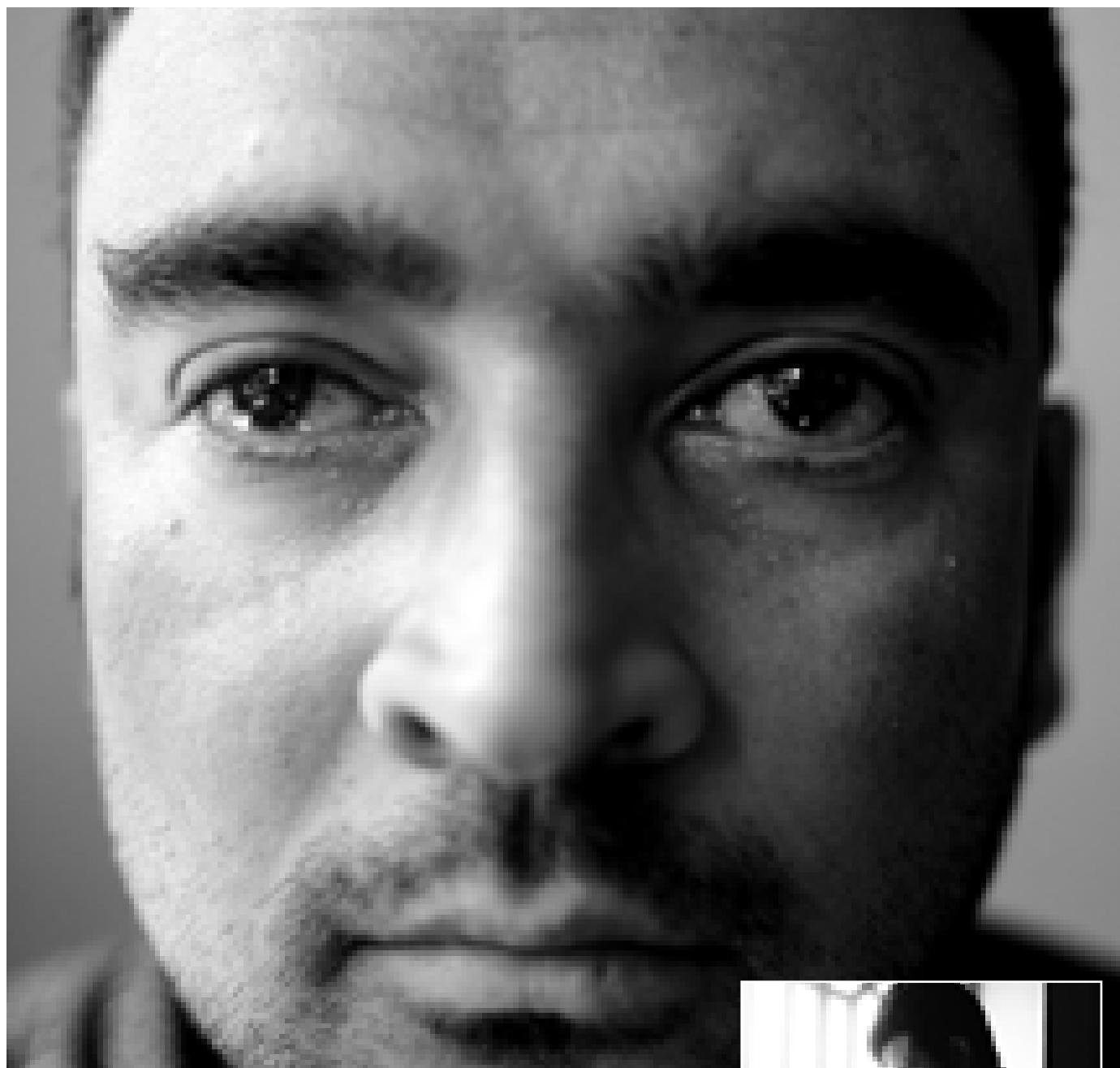
My eye injuries make it difficult for me to do my work. But I don't have an option. I have to support my family, and think about my daughter's future."



7 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

ABDUL AHAD BHAT (30)

Electrician, Kupwara



“

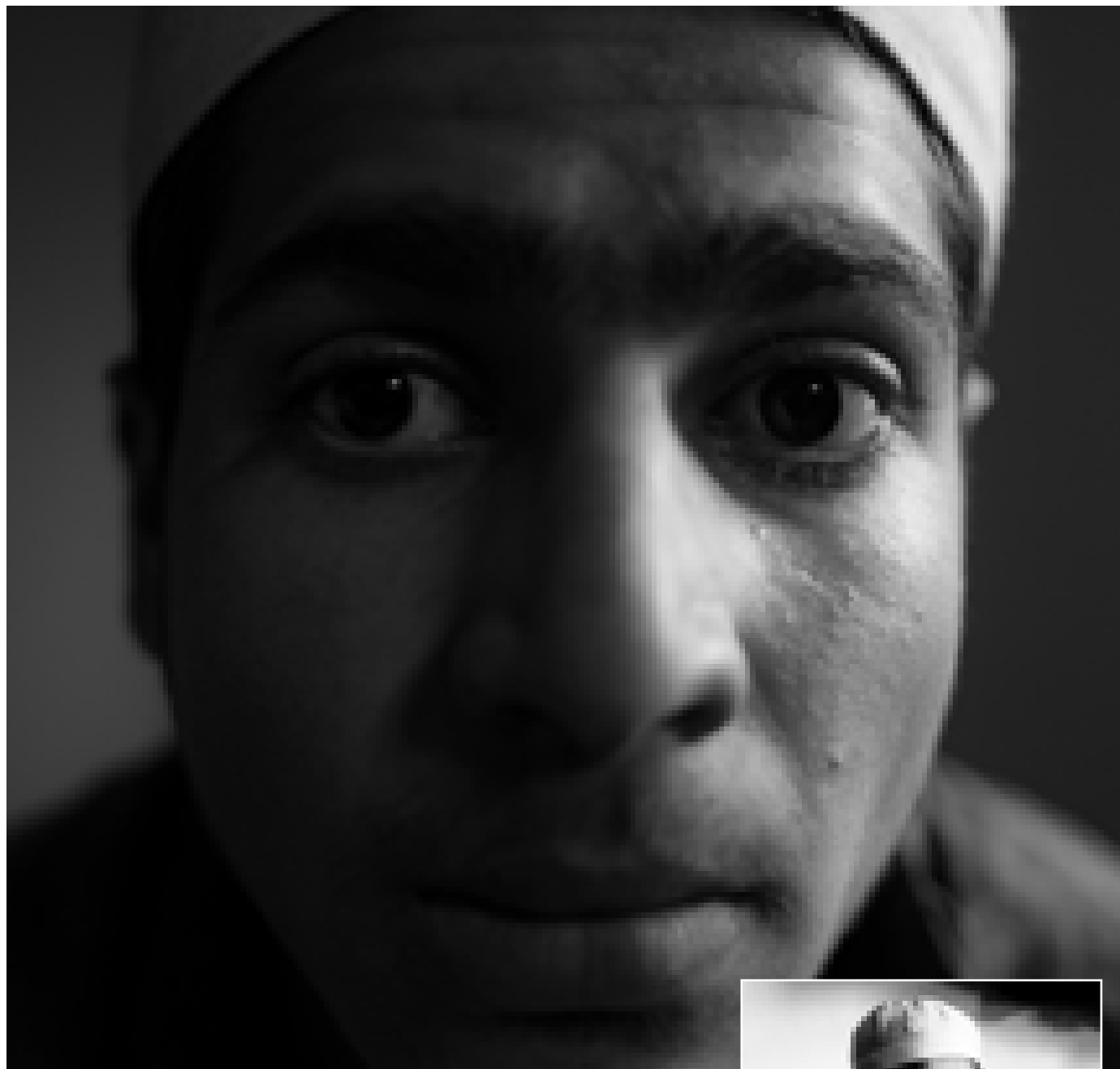
I can see form and light but no definition. I can't recognise anyone by their faces."



5 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

MAQSOOD AHMAD SHEIKH (14)

Class 8 student, Kupwara



“

"The incident has made my family fear everything. They get worried when I go out."



17 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

SAJAD AHMAD MALIK (24)

University student, Kupwara



“

I am afraid of leaving my home now. Pellet injury victims like me are likely to be harassed by the police.”

16 APRIL 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

DANISH ASHRAF MIR (17)

Class 11 student, Kupwara



“

I have gone through two surgeries. After the first surgery, I regained some vision, but gradually it faded away.”

5 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



IRSHAD AHMAD MALLA (20)

Welder, Baramulla



“

*I can't do my
work again."*

2 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



MUDASIR AHAD MALLA (13)

Class 9 student, Baramulla



Doctors in Amritsar performed five surgeries on my right eye. They removed two pellets, but I still can't see properly with it. I still have to go to Amritsar for check-ups and consultations."



“

I am concerned about the long term impact of pellets on my health as they are still embedded in my eye.”

6 AUGUST 2016: **TEMPORARY LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

SHAHID RASHID TELI (18)

Shopian

“

*I still can't see properly with
my left eye.”*

16 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

FAHEEM AHMED (19)

Class 10 student, Shopian

9 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

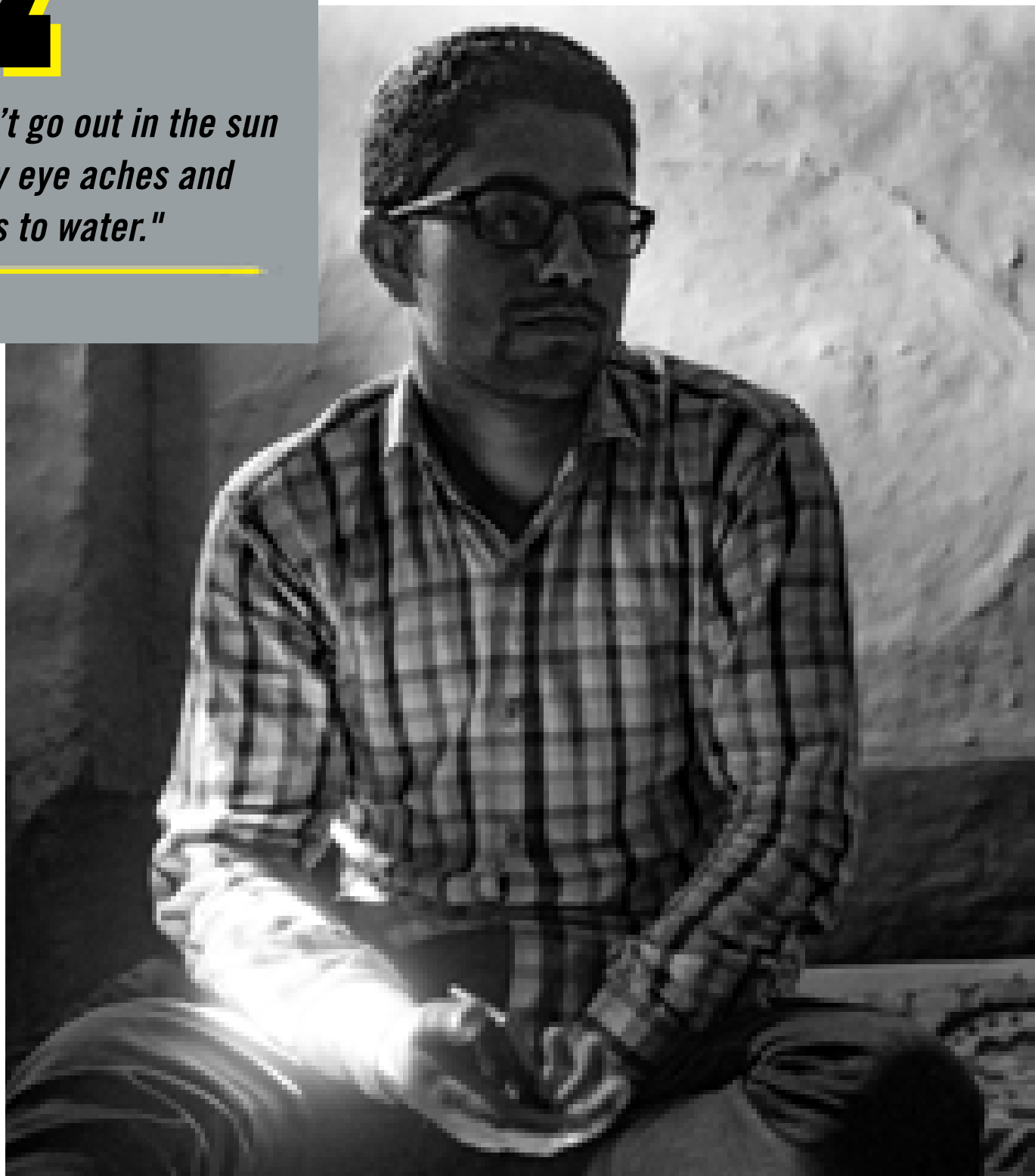


ZUBAIR RASOOL BHAT (20)

Carpenter, Anantnag

“

*I can't go out in the sun
as my eye aches and
starts to water."*



10 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



SHAHID ABBAS KHANDAY (22)

Student, Anantnag

“

I spend most of my time at home now. The sun gives me a headache. If I go out, my family becomes worried about my safety.”

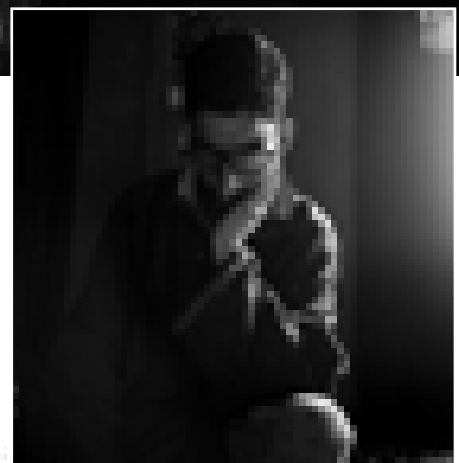


9 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



MOHAMMAD RAFIQ BHAT (22)

Shopkeeper, Kupwara



“

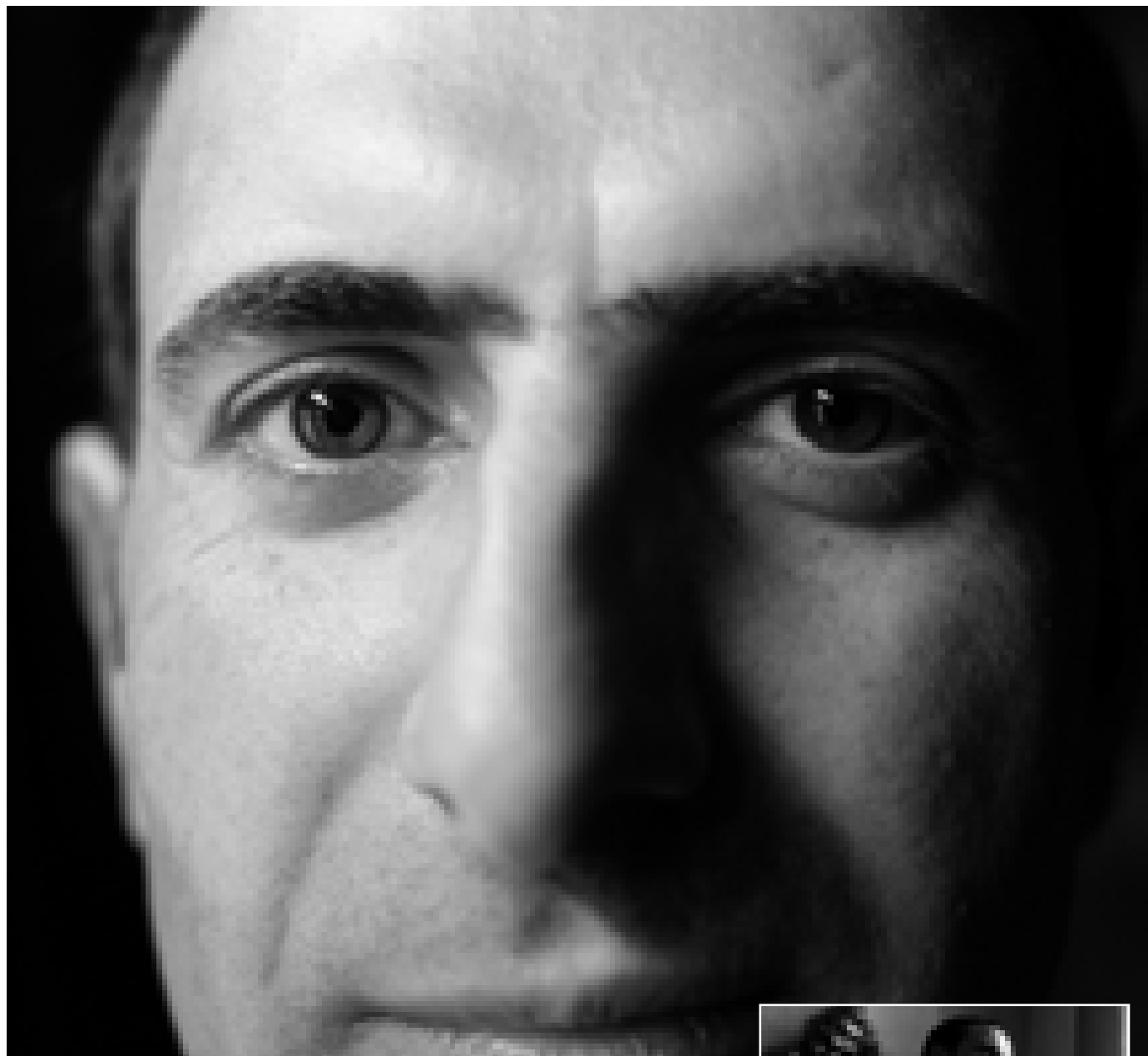
*I was in our apple orchard,
near a protest site, when a
pellet hit my left eye.”*

5 AUGUST 2016: **TEMPORARY DAMAGE TO BOTH EYES**



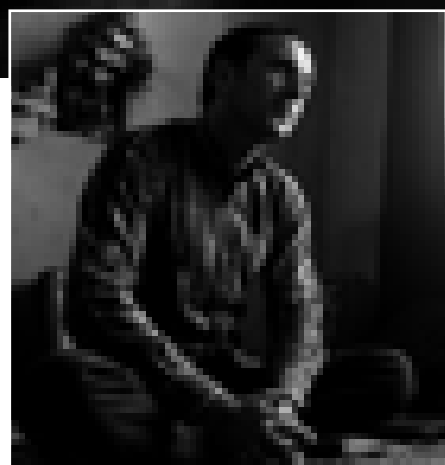
MIR JAVID (32)

Journalist, Kupwara



“

They shot at me from the back of a police vehicle at close range. The way I was targeted illustrates the lawlessness in the state.”



12 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

TAWSEEF AHMED KHWAJA (19)

Class 12 student, Kupwara



“

After the first surgery, I regained some vision in my eye. But after the second and third surgery, I lost all vision.”

10 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

PARVEENA BANO (18)

Tailor, Kupwara



The forces tried to force their way into my relative's house. When we resisted, they fired pellets at us."

4 MAY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

BILAL AHMAD DAR (15)

Class 9 student, Shopian



“

I was walking from our house to our cattle shed when I was hit by pellets in my eye and face.”

16 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



MOHAMMED AMIR DAR (22)

Tractor driver, Baramulla



“

I went through three surgeries, and five pellets were removed from my eye, but my vision was gone. After some time, when I went back, the doctors said they can't help me any more."



“

Someone told me that protests had started, so I went to look for my 6-year-old son. I was searching for him when the pellets hit me.”

9 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



SHAKEELA SHEIKH (30)

Homemaker, Baramulla



“

Being a pellet victim has become a state-certified taboo for us.”

5 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



RAYEES AHMAD MIR (22)

University student, Baramulla

14 JULY 2016: **TEMPORARY DAMAGE TO LEFT EYE**



UMAIR HAMEED GANIE (15)

Class 9 student, Baramulla

“

"My memory isn't so good anymore, and I have nightmares. I can't even go out and play in the sun."



12 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



ZAHID AHMAD BHAT (15)

Class 10 student, Baramulla

“

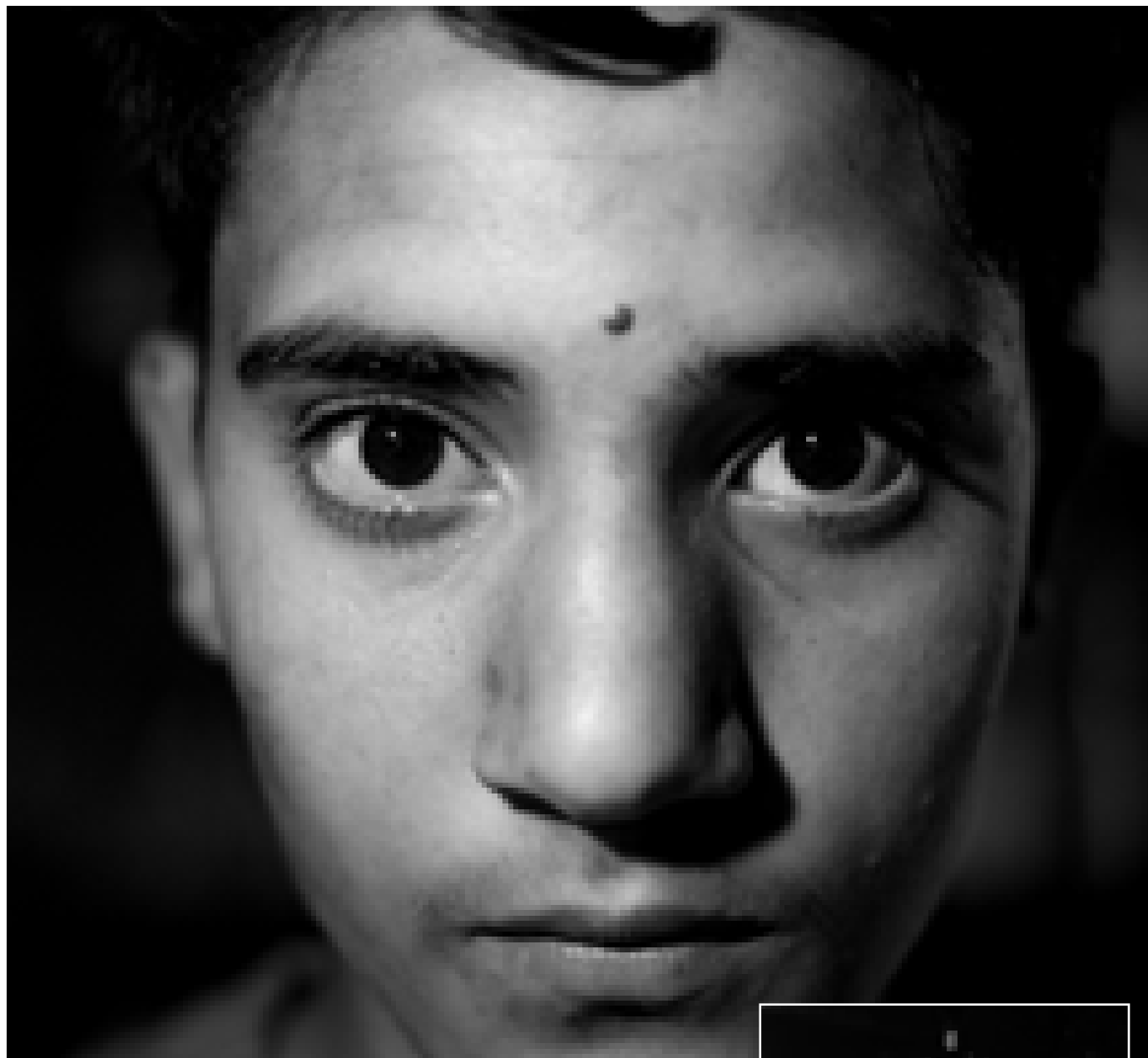
I was trying to avoid the protests, so I took a different route to reach my friend's home. That was when the pellet struck me.”



20 SEPTEMBER 2016: **TEMPORARY DAMAGE TO LEFT EYE**

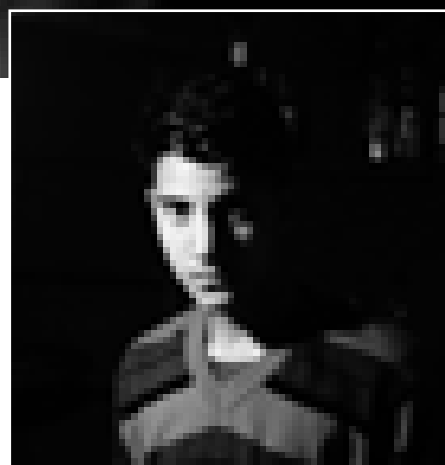
MUSLIM NAZIR (13)

Class 9 student, Bandipora



“

*I was hit as I was leaving
the mosque after evening
prayers.”*



2 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

SHAHID AHMAD WANI (17)

Class 10 student, Anantnag



“

I could not write my class 10 board exam last year. I doubt if I can write it this year."



19 JANUARY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



KHURSHEED AHMAD PARRAY (35)

Horse cart driver, Bandipora



I was hit by pellets in my eyes and all over my body.”

18 MARCH 2014: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



AIJAZ AHMAD PARRAY (28)

Bandipora



“

A local government official said that the police needed my medical records and photographs. I don't know why.”

13 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

JAVID AHMAD WANI (26)

Mason, Anantnag



“

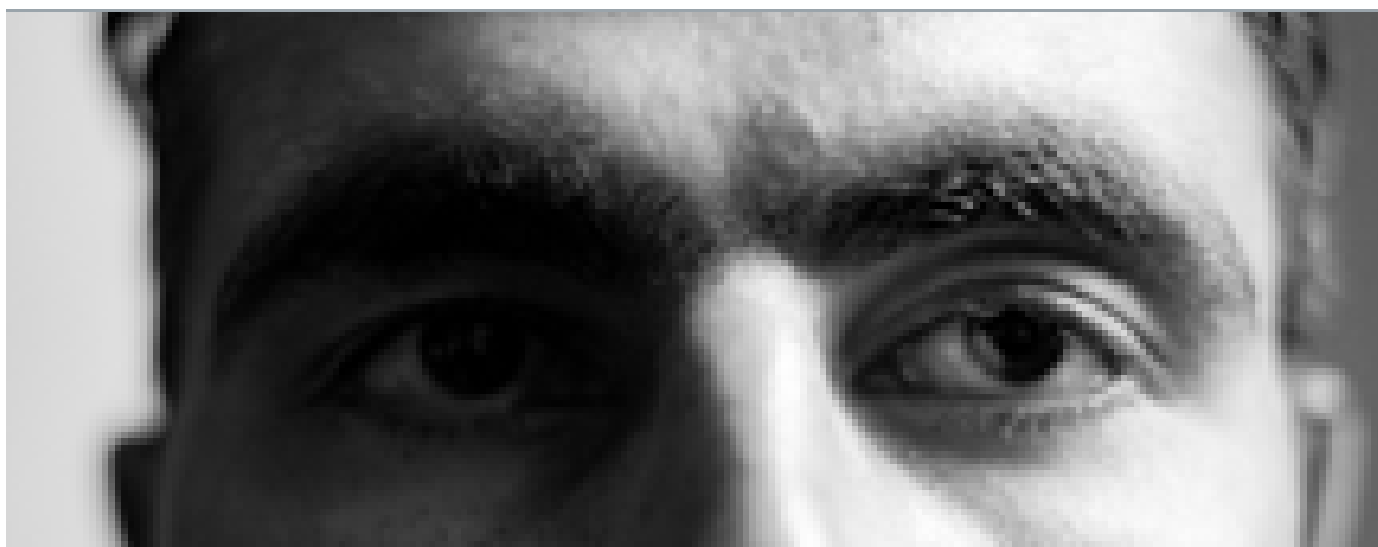
Doing any outdoor work has become very difficult. I can't stand in the sun for too long, so I can't work more than ten days a month."

15 AUGUST 2014: **TEMPORARY DAMAGE TO RIGHT EYE**



ISHFAQ AHMAD PARRAY (22)

Bandipora



“

The Chief Medical Officer asked for a police verification to issue the disability certificate.”

“

Our village council head came to my home and told me that the police was asking for my medical documents. I've given copies to them.”

3 AUGUST 2014: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

SHOWKAT AHMAD LONE (30)

Farmer, Bandipora

“

I came out of my home to look for my relatives. I was walking towards some women outside our home, when I was hit in my eye.”

31 OCTOBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



SHABROZA MIR (19)
Class 10 Student, Pulwama

16 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



AMIR YOUSUF MALIK (18)

Bandipora

“

I was playing cricket the day I was hit by pellets. I have not played since.”



10 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



ISHFAQ AHMAD PARRAY (17)

Class 12 student, Bandipora

“

*I can't concentrate
on my studies,
because I can't read
for too long."*



13 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

GHULAM NABI HAJAM (30)

Barber, Anantnag



“

Before the recent parliamentary elections, I was called in by a local police station and detained for a day. The police call me in often now, after my injury.”



29 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

FIRDOUS AHMAD KUMAR (16)

Class 9 student, Baramulla



“

At one hospital, there was no space left in the ophthalmology wards, so I was sent back home and told to return after some days.”



9 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



IMLAQ AHMAD MAGRAY (18)

Class 10 student, Anantnag



I missed my board exams in 2016 due to the injury. The effect of the pellets on my studies has been even deeper than the physical injury."

9 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



TAHMIL RASHID WANI (18)

Class 12 Student, Anantnag



“

I went to Amritsar, where doctors removed one pellet from my eye. Another is still inside.”

27 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



SAJAD AHMAD BHAT (30)

Shopkeeper, Anantnag



“

The pellets changed my life. My engagement was broken off. I lost confidence in myself.

8 AUGUST 2016: **TEMPORARY DAMAGE TO BOTH EYES**



HASEENA BEGUM (55)

Homemaker, Anantnag



“

The police had come to the village. As I came out of my home to see what was happening, I was hit by pellets in my eyes.”

“

The police fired pellets at two people they were chasing. Two of the pellets hit my right eye.”

8 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



TAWSEEF AHMAD RATHER (25)

Bus conductor, Anantnag



*My job and family have been affected.
My marriage fell apart, and I have to
now depend on my old parents."*

14 AUGUST 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



FEROZ AHMAD MALIK (30)

Truck driver, Anantnag

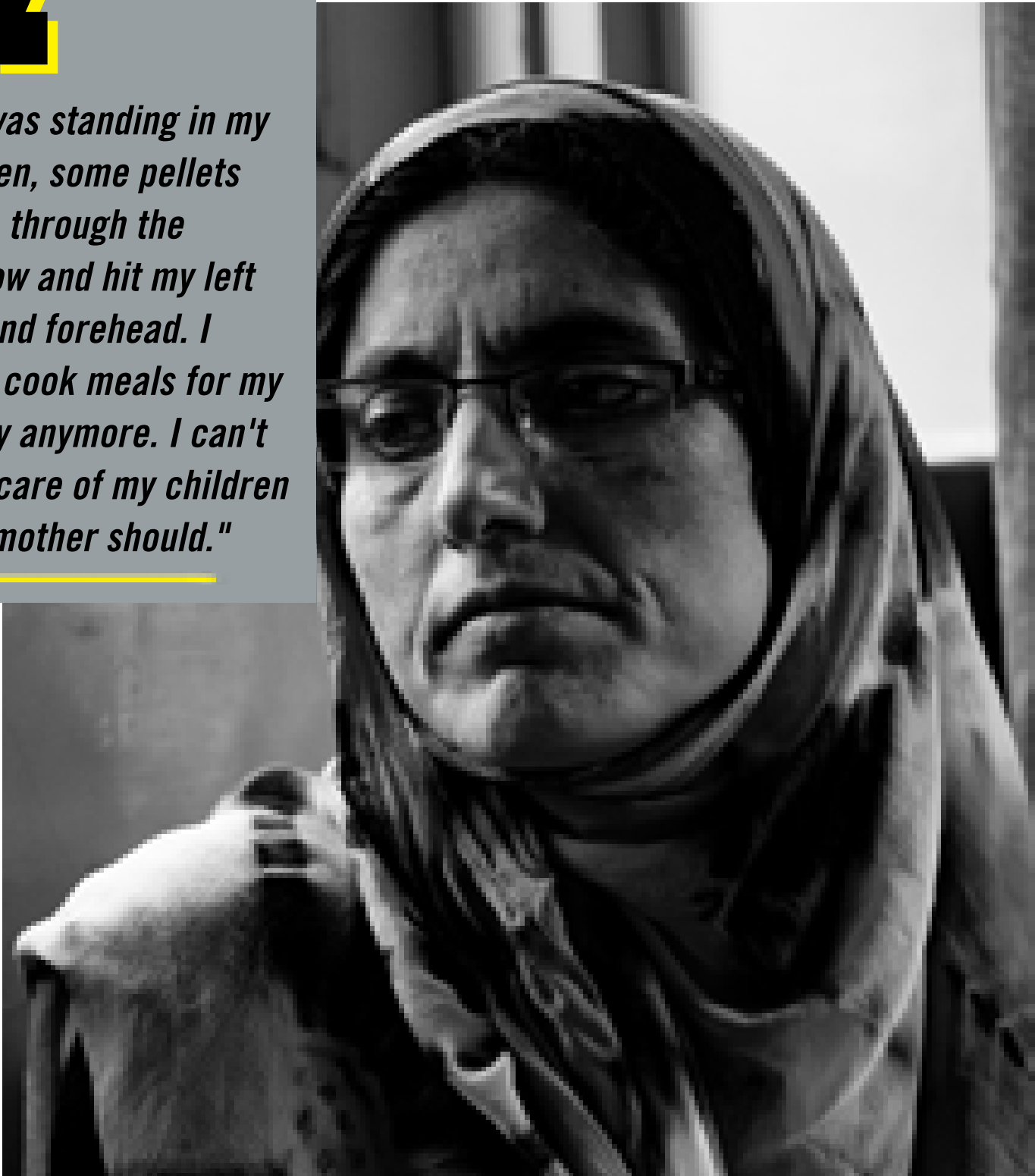
23 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

MEHBOOBA BANO (40)

Homemaker, Baramulla

“

As I was standing in my kitchen, some pellets came through the window and hit my left eye and forehead. I can't cook meals for my family anymore. I can't take care of my children as a mother should.”



9 MARCH 2017 : **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

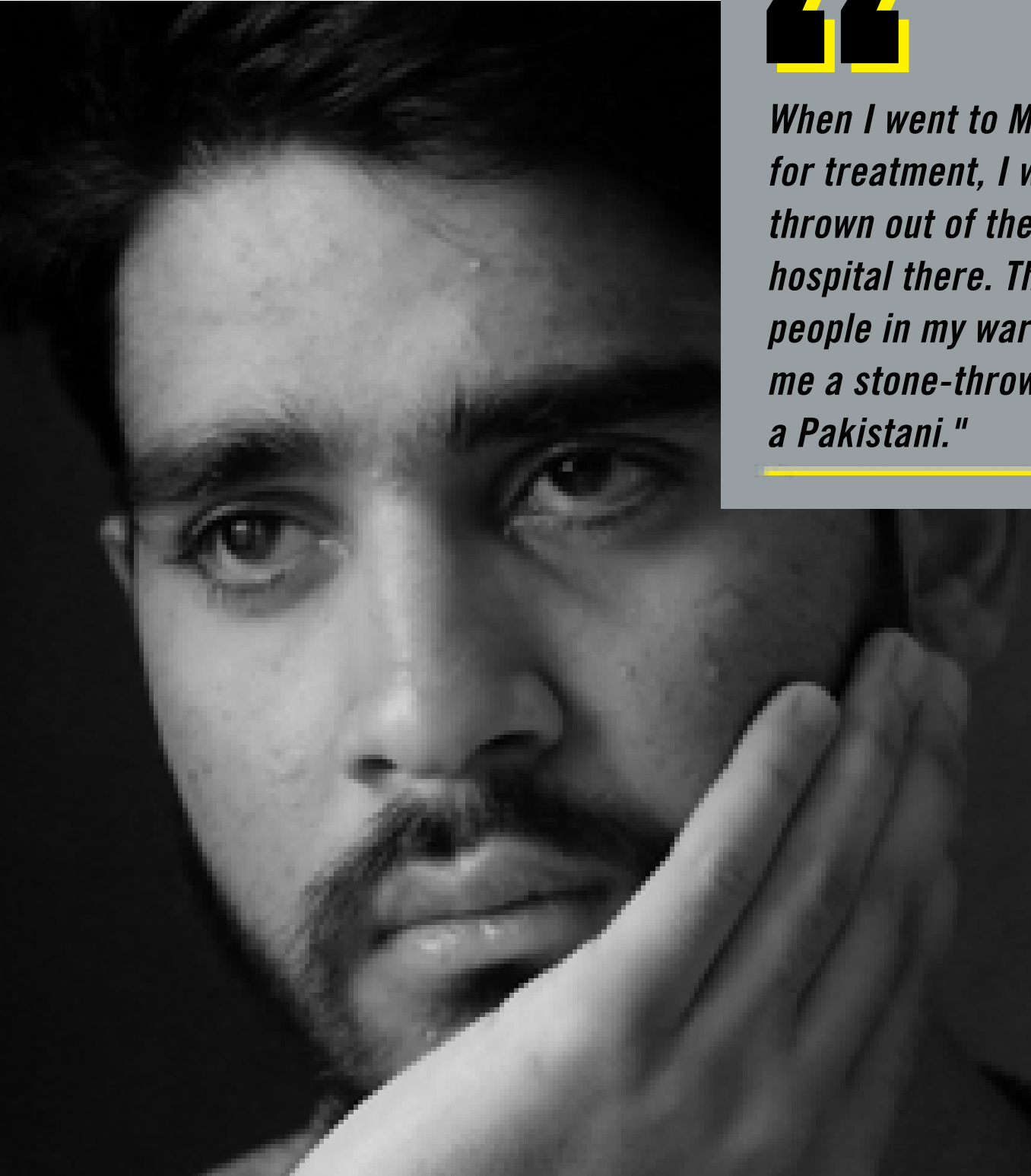


YASIR FAYAZ RAH (19)

University student, Kulgam

“

When I went to Mumbai for treatment, I was thrown out of the hospital there. The people in my ward called me a stone-thrower and a Pakistani.”



12 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



ABDUL QAYOOM PARRAY (36)
Shopkeeper, Shopian



I have had to spend much of my little income on medical treatment. It has made me worried about the future of my three children."

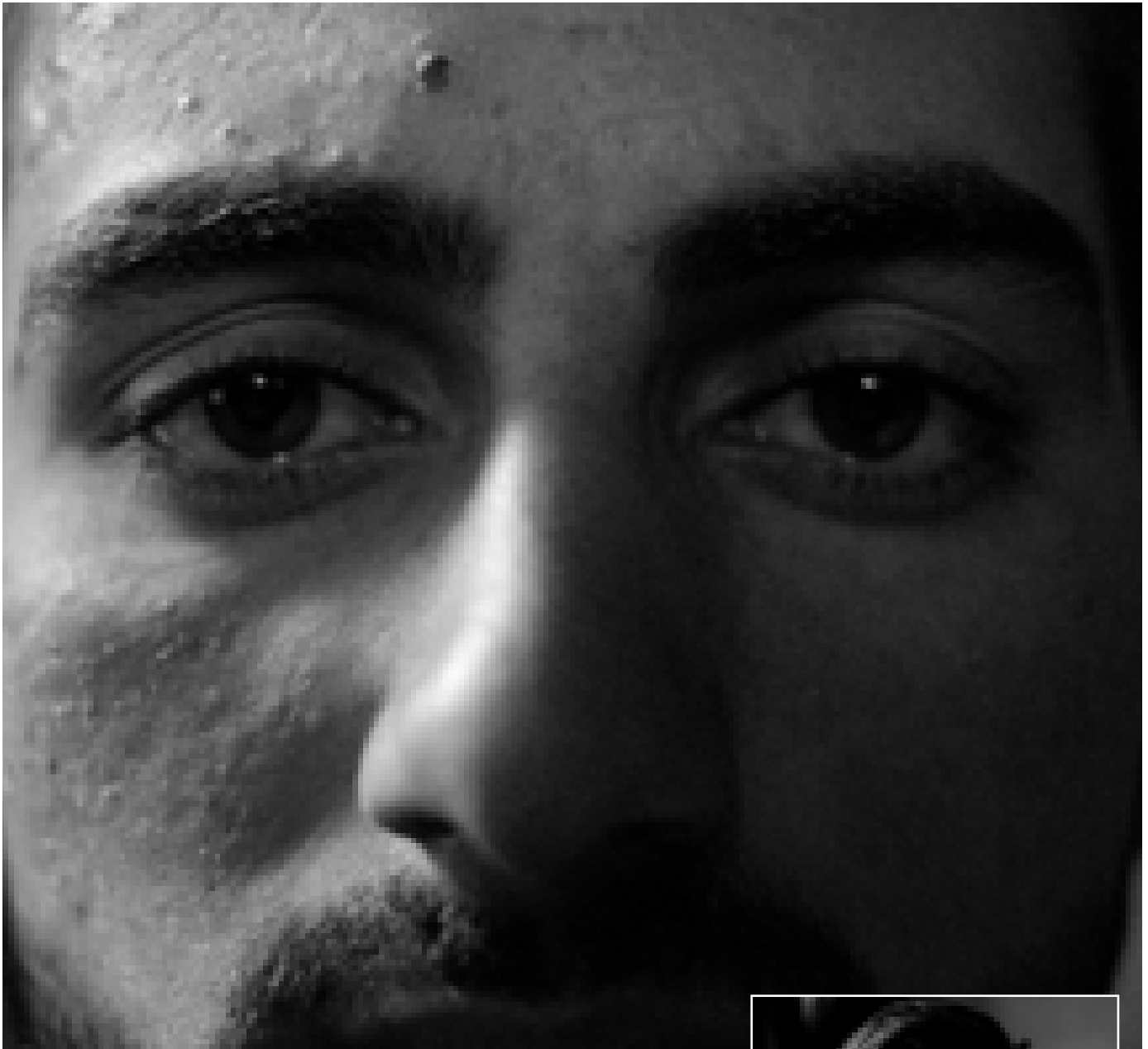


10 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



SAMEER AHMAD SHAH (16)

Class 11 student, Shopian



“

I cannot concentrate on my books, or in the classroom, because I still have a pellet in my eye. It's forcing me to give up my studies.”



31 OCTOBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

SHABROZ (19)

Pulwama



*After multiple surgeries, I recovered some vision.
I still can't see clearly without spectacles."*

31 OCTOBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

MANZOOR AHMAD DAR (22)

Baker, Pulwama



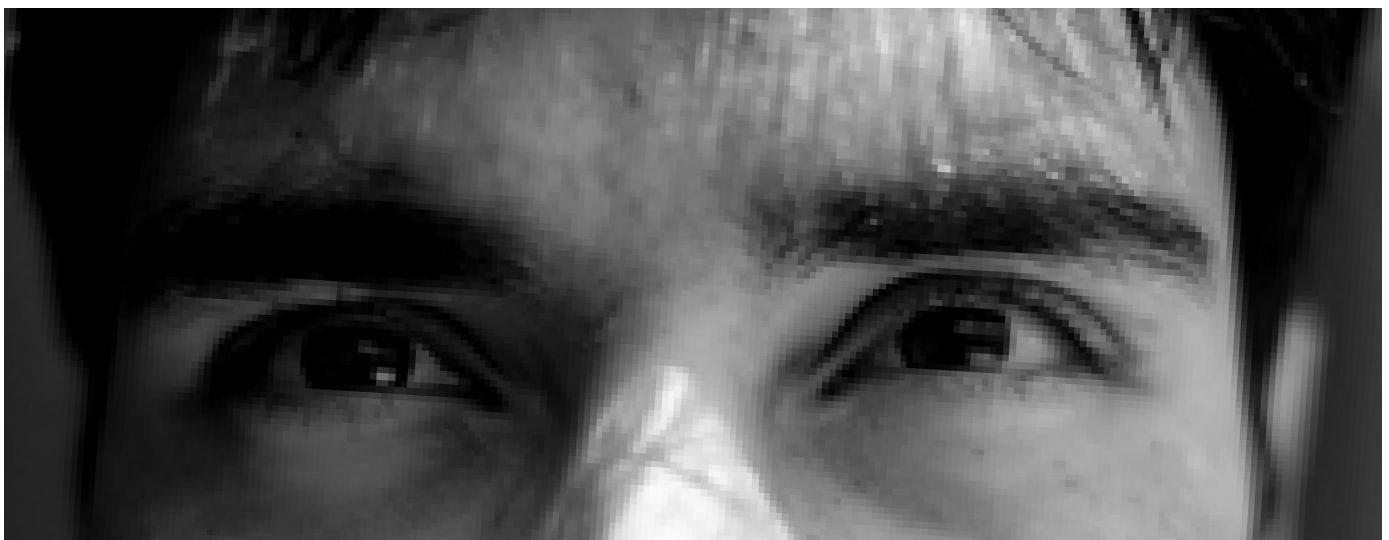
“

I left my studies and started working to support my family after my father passed away. Now I have had to give up this job on the doctor's advice. I'm worried about my family.”

31 OCTOBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

ZAHOOR AHMAD DAR (22)

Class 12 student, Pulwama



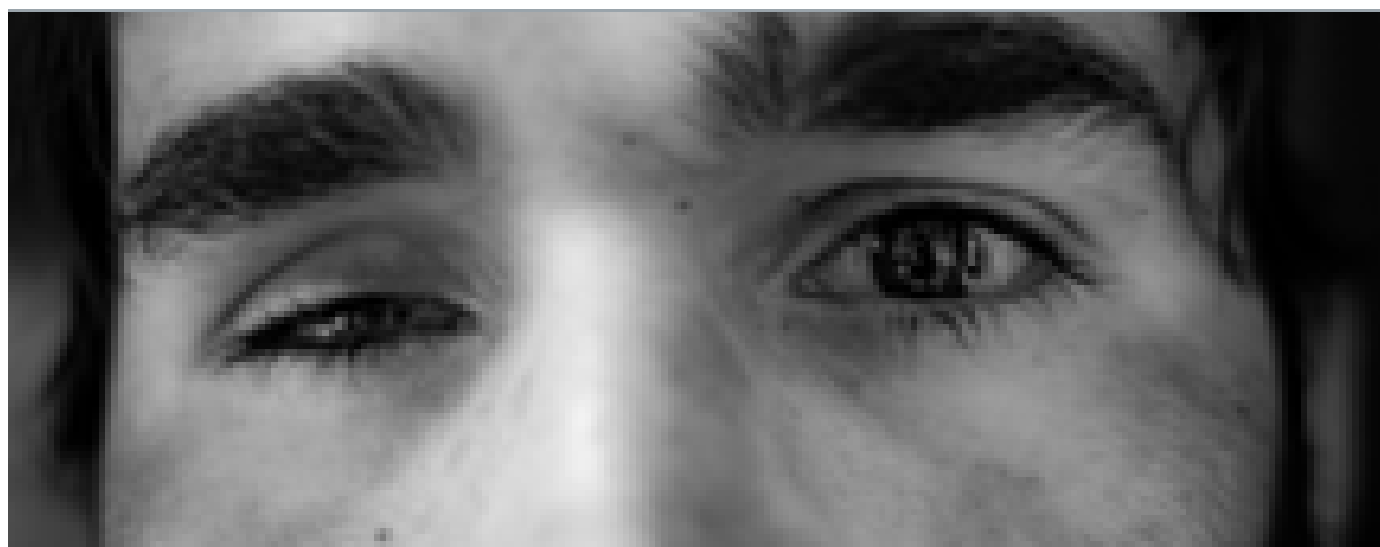
“

I went through four eye surgeries, and had to miss my school exams.”

8 APRIL 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

HILAL AHMAD GANIE (18)

Class 10 Student, Pulwama



“

Around 450 pellets hit me all over my body. I was not part of any protest or stone-pelting. My family filed a police complaint, but no action has been taken.”



“

After the injury, the police have called me in several times, and asked for bribes from my family to let me go.”

10 SEPTEMBER 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

SAJAD AHMAD MALLA (22)

Electrician, Baramulla



“

I have nightmares of pellets being shot at me. I long for peaceful sleep.”

21 APRIL 2014: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



BASIT AHMAD (20)
University student, Baramulla

10 SEPTEMBER 2016: **TEMPORARY LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

BILAL AHMAD GANIE (19)

Baramulla

“

The local police station has taken all my medical records, which has made me and my family insecure.”



7 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



BILAL AHMAD BHAT (17)

Class 10 student, Baramulla



“

When I went to a hospital in Srinagar, there were so many people that the doctors sent me back home as they did not have beds available.”

2 NOVEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

MEHRAJ-UD-DIN DAR (28)

Labourer, Baramulla



“

I am the only earning member in my family. We now live from hand to mouth, as I cannot work regularly. The cost of my medication is making things worse.”



2 NOVEMBER 2016: **TEMPORARY LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

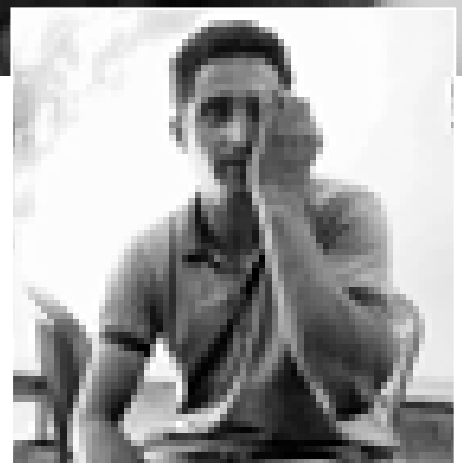
NAZIR AHMAD GANIE (26)

Tractor driver, Baramulla



“

I have regained most of my vision now, but the psychological trauma has not still gone.”



22 JULY 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



NADEEM AHMAD GOJREE (20)

Class 10 Student, Baramulla



I've become more irritable. I lose my temper quickly now, and more often."

12 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**



AJAZ AHMAD WAGAY (22)

University student, Shopian



“

It's very painful now to read anything for very long. My memory has also weakened."

9 MARCH 2017: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

RAYEES AHMAD DAR (18)

College Student, Pulwama



“

Two pellets that hit my right eye could not be removed. I can feel them when I read a book. My eyes start watering and paining.”

12 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN LEFT EYE**

MOHAMMAD AMEEN PATHAN (31)

Farmer and Tailor, Budgam



“

I was harvesting rice in my paddy field. There was a protest nearby, and the forces fired pellets at the protesters. I was hit by pellets in my eyes, face, head and other parts of my body.”



“

I had to give up my masonry for medical reasons due to the injuries. It's been difficult to find other work, and I am now dependent on my family."

12 SEPTEMBER 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

HILAL AHMAD BHAT (25)

Mason, Budgam

“

Playing cricket or any outdoor games is no longer possible for me. I can't see things clearly."

9 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN BOTH EYES**

AQUIB AHMAD PARRA (17)

Student, Budgam

28 MAY 2017: **DAMAGE TO RIGHT EYE**

ISHTIYAQ AHMAD BHAT (15)

Class 9 student, Pulwama

“

[In hospital]

“Losing my eyesight is what I am most afraid of. I've seen boys who lost their vision to pellets, struggling.”



28 MAY 2017: **DAMAGE TO BOTH EYES**

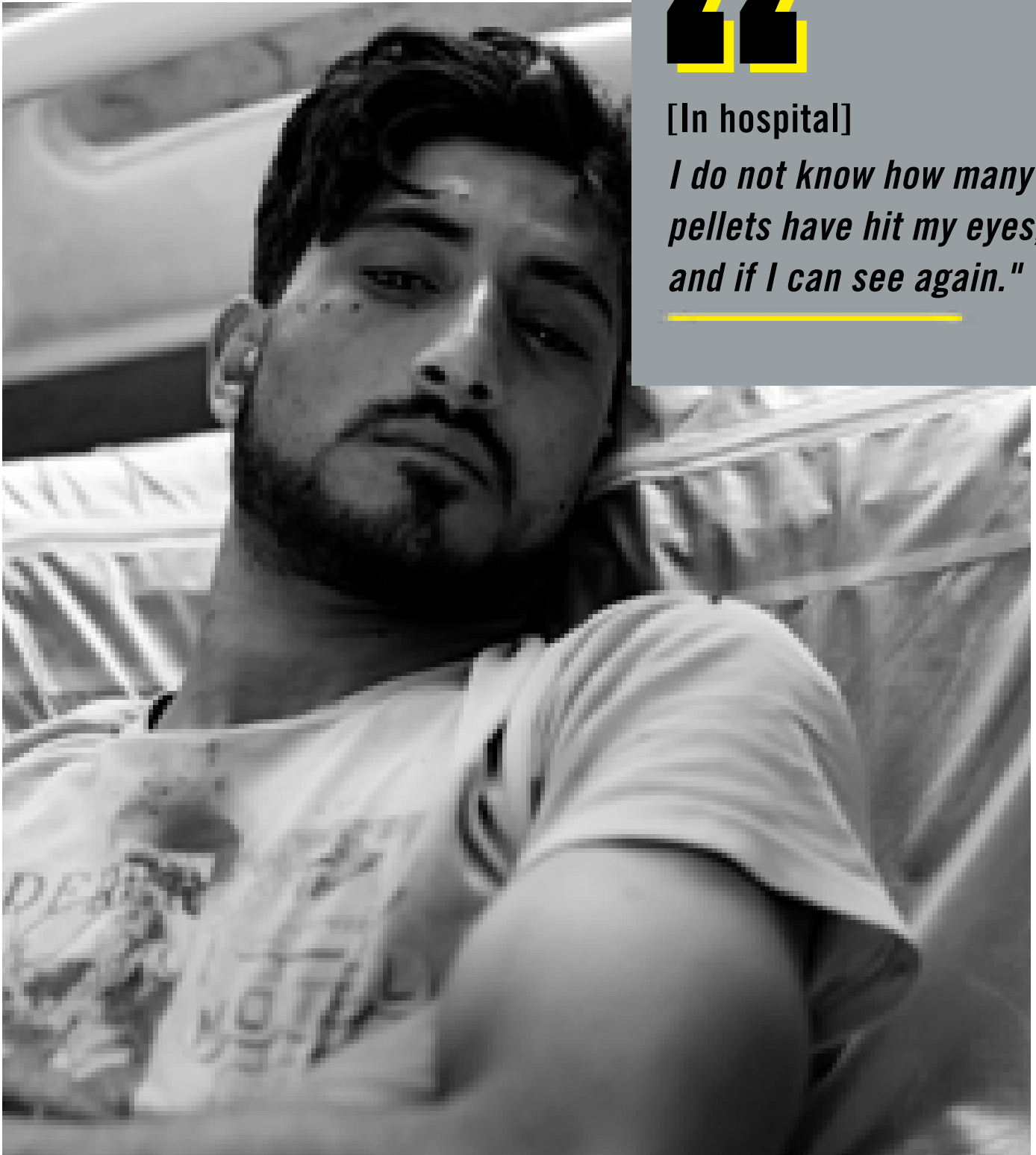
FEROZ AHMAD (20)

Bus conductor, Pulwama

“

[In hospital]

I do not know how many pellets have hit my eyes, and if I can see again."



28 MAY 2017: **DAMAGE TO LEFT EYE**



IMTIYAZ AHMAD THOKER (14)

Class 8 Student, Shopian



“

[In hospital] I can see other people in the hospital who were hit by pellets in their eyes. They have gone through so much darkness and suffering. It sends shivers through my body. I am afraid that I will also have to go through this."



10 JULY 2016: **LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**



SAJAD AHMAD MALIK (30)

Shopkeeper, Pulwama



“

When I was being taken to the hospital after my injury, the forces stopped our ambulance and beat us. It was only when some locals intervened that we were allowed to proceed.”

26 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

ZAHID AHMAD KHAN (19)

Class 12 student, Baramulla



“

I was referred to a Srinagar hospital and provided an ambulance. It was stopped by the police and we were asked to go back. We had to take a different route through other villages to reach the hospital.”

19 AUGUST 2016: **PARTIAL LOSS OF VISION IN RIGHT EYE**

USMAN AYAZ SHEIKH (16)

Class 10 student, Baramulla



“

While I was on my way to a Srinagar hospital for treatment, the CRPF stopped us and did not allow us to go further. We were allowed to go only after the intervention of some policemen.”

POLICE AND SECURITY FORCES INJURED BY PELLETS



Pellet-firing shotguns are inherently indiscriminate, and their use by security forces also risks injuring other members of the police or armed forces. Information obtained through a Right to Information application suggests that these injuries have indeed occurred.

The Health Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, in response to an RTI application, submitted a list of persons treated for injuries in government hospitals in six blocks in Kupwara district in 2016. This list of 648 people includes the names of 16 men identified as being members of the Jammu and Kashmir armed police who suffered various forms of injuries caused by pellets. The details are reproduced below, with the full names of the patients withheld.

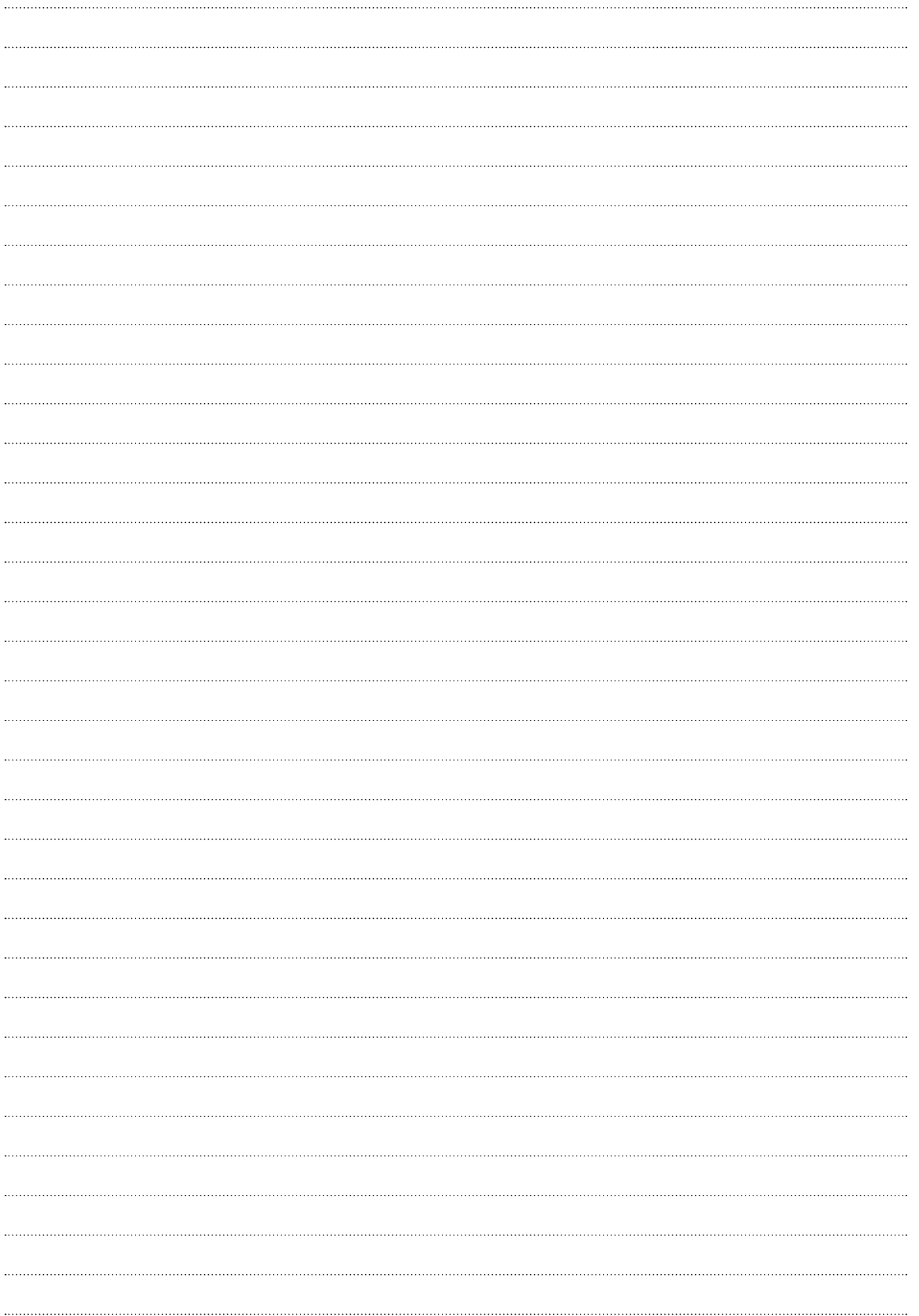
Name	Address	Date	Age	Type of injury	Part of body involved
AA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	32	Pellet injury	Arm
GN	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	40	Pellet injury	Hand
GS	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	50	Pellet injury	Hand/head
FA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	40	Pellet injury	Knee
AM	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	45	Pellet injury	Eye
FA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	42	Pellet injury	Foot
RK	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	42	Pellet injury	Right foot
SA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	38	Pellet injury	Right shoulder
MS	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	30	Pellet injury	Right arm
GM	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	47	Pellet injury	Left shoulder
NA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	37	Pellet injury	Hip
MS	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	52	Pellet injury	Chest
JA	JKAP 9th Battalion	16-Jul-16	23	Pellet injury	Left spine
MA	JKAP	21-Jul-16	48	Pellet injury	Foot
MM	JKAP	21-Jul-16	43	Pellet injury	Foot
MA	JKAP 9th Battalion	8-May-16	35	Pellet injury	Hand

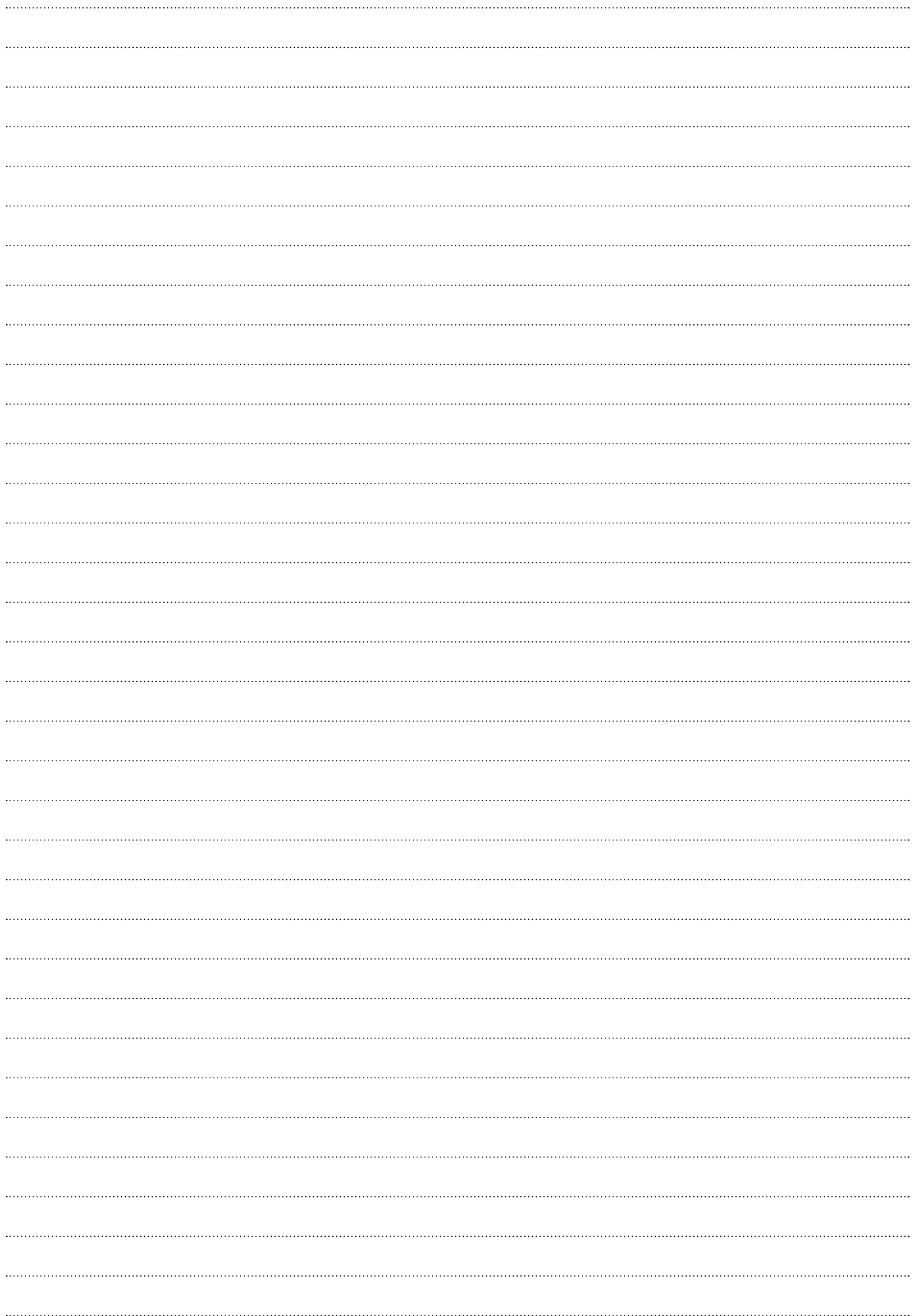
Amnesty International India wrote to the Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Central Reserve Police Force seeking information on whether any of their personnel had been injured by pellet firing shotguns, and their details. No responses were received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amnesty International India makes the following recommendations to the Government of India and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir:

- Immediately stop the use of pellet-firing shotguns to police demonstrations, and ensure that the use of other weapons is in line with international human rights standards on the use of force.
- Provide full reparation in line with international standards to those who have been injured by pellet-firing shotguns, and to the families of those killed. This must include adequate compensation and rehabilitation, including any medical and psychological care that may be needed.
- Initiate prompt, independent and impartial civilian criminal investigations into all incidents where the use of pellet-firing shotguns led to deaths or serious injuries to establish whether arbitrary or excessive force was used, and where sufficient evidence is found, prosecute those suspected of responsibility in civilian courts.
- Provide relevant training on crowd control measures and the use of force and firearms to security force personnel of the central and state governments, as laid out in the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials.







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