



# French Riot Police Shot Yellow-Vest Organizer in the Eye with Rubber Bullet, Leaving Him Handicapped for Life

Jerome Rodrigues, a 40-year old construction worker, known for his role in organizing Yellow Vest protests, was struck in the eye with a 'flashball' rubber bullet as he was using his video camera over the weekend. His lawyer says the damage to his eye has handicapped him for life. He also was struck with a 'stingball' grenade on his foot. Rodrigues warned protesters to leave the Bastille due to far-left "black bloc" agitators who had arrived to attack the police. -GEG

A 40-year-old French construction worker known for his role in organizing Yellow Vest protests has been "handicapped for life" after he was struck in the eye with a rubber police bullet, his attorney said Sunday.

"He is in shock. He will be handicapped for life. It is a tragedy for him and his family," said Rodrigues's lawyer,

Philippe de Veulle in an interview with *BFM Television*.

*The bearded Rodrigues, who has become a well-known figure in the “yellow vest” movement with 50,000 followers on Facebook, was live-streaming the protest on the website when he was hit.*

*De Veulle said Rodrigues was struck with a “flashball”, referring to the 40-mm (1.6-inch) rubber projectiles used by French riot police.*

*The devices – which are not used in most European countries – have become deeply controversial in France since the protests began in November, blamed for dozens of serious injuries. –[AFP via Yahoo!](#)*

Speaking from his hospital bed, Rodrigues told *LCI* television that he was also hit with a stingball grenade.

“Everything happened very quickly. They threw a grenade at me and I took a (rubber) bullet. I was attacked twice – a grenade to the foot, and the bullet.”

In a video of the incident, Rodrigues can be heard warning protesters to leave the Bastille due to far-left “black bloc”

agitators who had arrived to attack the police.

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