

“ I SAID, ‘IF I’M NOT DYING, I’M BLIND.’ I DIDN’T DIE. THAT’S WHAT MATTERS.”

— SHOOTING VICTIM NETO RIBEIRO



Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

Neto Ribeiro describes how his life was forever changed when he was shot while walking with his girlfriend, Roberta Porto, right

Student blinded by bullet relives terror, confusion

STEPHANE MASSINON
CALGARY HERALD

Neto Ribeiro loved the sights of the Canadian Rockies.

Banff. Jasper. Lake Louise. He soaked in the breathtaking places he had only seen on television in his native Fortaleza, in northeast Brazil.

“It was amazing for me,” Ribeiro said Friday.

That scenery and the opportunity to improve his English brought the Brazilian student to

Calgary. But in a flash of confusion and inconceivable bad luck, Ribeiro will never see again.

Ribeiro was out for a late dinner in Chinatown with his girlfriend, Roberta Porto, when the couple happened to walk by a fight. A gunshot meant for someone else was fired.

“I saw the flash; I didn’t know what happened,” Ribeiro told reporters for the first time.

He felt something in his head after hearing the loud noise. His first thought was that an electrical cable had snapped.

Maybe he’d been shocked.

“I went crazy for (Porto) and asked her ‘What happened, what happened?’”

“I don’t know, I don’t know,” she replied.

“Look at me, tell me what happened,” he pleaded.

At first, despite having been shot beneath the eye, there was no blood. Slowly, it began to trickle down his face.

“I think it was a shot,” Porto told him.

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VALERIE
FORTNEY

**Victim tells his
horrifying story
with courage, dignity**

“As he speaks, it becomes clear this very public appearance from an innocent bystander caught in the cross-fire is an act of healing — more for the rest of us, perhaps, than the victim himself.”

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