

Life Is Brutal

Malala is from Mingora, a city in the Swat Valley. It's a gorgeous her a target of the Taliban.

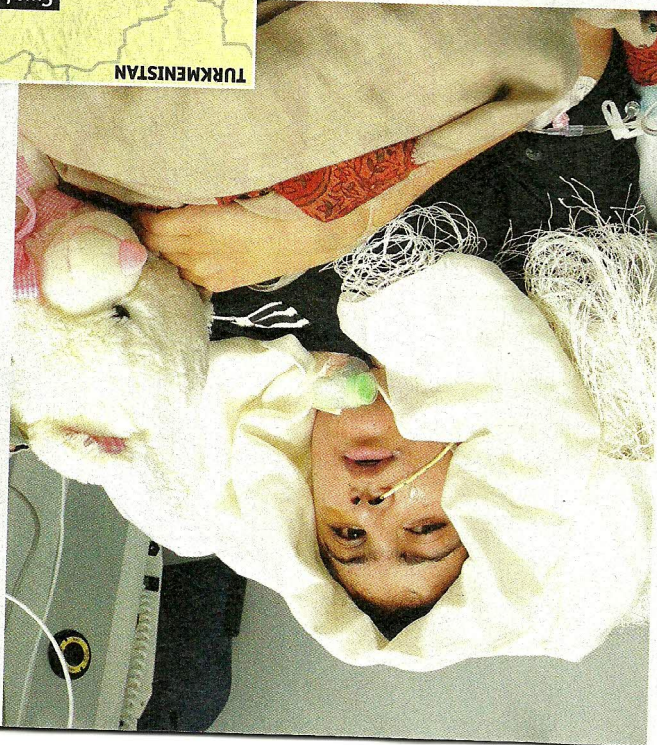
around the world. It had also made famous throughout Pakistan and school. This work had made her crusader for girls' right to go to 15-year-old girl; she was also a Because she was not only a plotting to kill Malala. Why?

For years, the Taliban had been Muslim people do not agree with. Interpretation of Islam that most Taliban. They believe in an extreme members of a group called the neighboring Afghanistan—are men from rural Pakistan and killed. These people—mainly young of life, a person who deserves to be her as a deadly threat to their way and generous teenager. They see view Malala for what she is: a bright some people in Pakistan do not

home from school, but innocent girl on her way would try to murder an understand why anyone It might be difficult to Malala to die.

gunmen fled, leaving their arms. Then the friends were struck in left eye. Two of Malala's Malala's head near her One bullet pierced The gunmen opened fire. unthinkable happened: the bus. And then the A feeling of terror filled of the men demanded.

"Who is Malala?" one



Malala recovers in a hospital in England.

place, known for its majestic green mountains, thick forests, and mighty rivers. It was once a popular vacation spot, attracting tourists from all over the world.

In the past few years, though, it has become a war zone. Starting in 2007, the Taliban began seizing control of Swat. When the Pakistani army tried to stop them, the Taliban responded with tremendous violence. They blew up government buildings and murdered police officers. At night, Malala was often awakened by the terrifying sounds of gunfire. During the day, she frequently walked by corpses of men and women executed by the Taliban and left on the street as a warning to those who

would dare defy them. The Taliban are not part of Pakistan's government, but their forces are powerful. They operate mostly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Those who live in areas under Taliban control are forced to follow oppressive religious rules. All music is banned. So are

television and movies. Democracy is seen as an offense against Islam. For women and girls, life is particularly brutal: They are not allowed to go to school, have careers, or wear makeup or bright clothing. They are not allowed to go anywhere without a male relative. Breaking these rules brings severe punishment, which may include public whipping or even execution. Like most Pakistanis, Malala and her family do not support the Taliban's version of Islam. Malala's



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