

ACTIVITY: Possible drowning and scavenging

CASE: [GSAF 1983.01.15](#) / SA-306

DATE: 15 January 1983

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at Amanzimtoti, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

NAME: Unknown. No identification was ever made.

DESCRIPTION: He was a black male, 1.7 metres tall and between 25 and 30 years of age.

NARRATIVE: On the morning of 15 January 1983 the body of a black male washed ashore at Amanzimtoti and was taken to the State Mortuary in Durban. According to Dr S. Akoojee who conducted the post-mortem. The man had been dead at least four days. The body had been virtually skeletonized by sharks. The left arm was missing, both femurs, right humerus and tibia and fibula were exposed, and very little tissue remained on the pelvis, spinal column and ribs. Numerous scrape marks caused by sharks' teeth were noted on the fibula, humerus and ilium. Lacerations and puncture marks were visible on the right forearm, wrist, calf and both feet.

The dorsal surface and toes of the left foot were severely lacerated and there were puncture marks on the sole. Unlike GSAF 1983.12.07; the injuries suggest that the man may have been alive when his foot was bitten by a shark.

SPECIES: The marks made by sharks' teeth on the bones, indicate that several sharks of different sizes scavenged on the remains.

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