

**ACTIVITY:** Murdered by Thai pirates  
**CASE:** [GSAF 1979.08.03.R](#)  
**DATE:** Reported August 3, 1979  
**LOCATION:** Off the coast of southern Thailand.

**NAME:** Unknown  
**DESCRIPTION:** Vietnamese male

**NARRATIVE:** See press clipping

**INJURY:** Fatal

**SOURCE:** The Canberra Times, August 3, 1979, page 5

## WOMAN REFUGEE

# Only survivor among 100

SONGKHLA, Thailand, Thursday (AAP-Reuter). — A 28-year-old Vietnamese woman said she was the only survivor from a boatload of 100 refugees attacked by pirates off the coast of southern Thailand.

Interviewed in a refugee camp in Songkhla, she said the pirates came in four Thai fishing boats and rammed the Vietnamese boat.

More than 60 refugees were trapped in the hold and drowned. They included her husband and two-year-old son.

The survivors were taken aboard the pirates' boats where the women were repeatedly raped and the men beaten with iron bars, clubs and axes.

The woman, whose name refugee officials asked not to be published, said the 30 men were eventually killed and thrown overboard.

She said she passed out after being raped many times and when she awoke, the other women and children were gone.

The boat captain, who took a liking to her, kept her in his cabin for another day, but the crew demanded that she be killed too so that there would be no survivors to talk to the Thai police.

She said several members of the crew punched and kicked her as the captain screamed at her to jump into the water.

After an hour in the water, she was picked up by friendly Thai fishermen and taken ashore.

Dr Pham Ngoc Phuoc, a former Saigon University professor, said his boat was also attacked by Thai pirates when he escaped from Vietnam last May.

The pirates killed two men on his boat and raped the women, he said.

Dr Phuoc, 37, said he was thrown overboard with two other men but clambered back aboard after the pirates had finished with the women and left. One of his colleagues was eaten by a shark.

He said the pirates had torn out the engine of the refugee boat and it drifted for two days in the Gulf of Thailand.

Other boats came alongside and their crews sexually assaulted the Vietnamese women before leaving the boat adrift again, he said.