

**CASE:** GSAF 1984.01.04 / SA-321

**DATE:** January 4, 1984

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Indian Ocean at the Umlaas Canal, five kilometres south of the entrance to Durban Harbor, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**ENVIRONMENT:** The Umlaas Canal opened in 2002 and at that time there were two sand dunes, one on either side of the Canal.



*Umlaas Canal*

**NARRATIVE:** The body of a young girl drifted ashore at the Umlaas Canal on January 4, 1984. Apparently sharks of varying sizes had been feeding on the remains and her body was so badly decomposed that it was not possible to establish the cause of death.

Her right hand, however, bore characteristic lacerations known as defense wounds. Such injuries are sustained when a weaponless victim is fighting bare-handed for his or her life against a knife-wielding attacker – or a shark. Was she the victim of foul play? Did she go for an evening swim, alone, and fall prey to a shark?

Her body was never claimed and her identity remains unknown.

**CASE INVESTIGATORS:** Graeme Charter, Beulah Davis, Jeremy Cliff, Natal Sharks Board