

ACTIVITY: Surfing

CASE: GSAF 1994.07.24

DATE: Sunday July 24, 1994

LOCATION: The attack took place in the South Atlantic Ocean at Praia de Boa Viagem beach, Recife, Pernambuco State, Brazil.

8.1°S, 34.8°W

NAME: Carlos Frederico Gomes Martins

DESCRIPTION: He is a 15-year-old male. He was shirtless, had no injuries before the accident and he was not wearing a surfboard leash.

SURFBOARD: Both the top and underside of the surfboard is white.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: The sky was sunny.

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, July 22, 1994

SEA CONDITIONS: The surfer describes the sea as "green".

ENVIRONMENT: The attack occurred in an area where swimming and surfing are banned because of the high risk of shark attack. There were no lifeguards.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 metres or less

TIME: 16h00



NARRATIVE: Carlos had been in the water for about three hours. He was sitting on his board waiting for a wave, facing seaward, when he felt the shark bite and then shake his foot.

Carlos writes: *"Suddenly I felt the bite. All my left foot was in the shark's mouth. Then, after some time, he took it [his foot] off. I turn around on my board and started to paddle to the shore. I felt the shark biting twice under my board. I could lose my hands at that moment! When I arrived on the shore, the other surfers were there waiting to rescue me."*

INJURY: The surfer's foot was severed.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: The surfer survived.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not positively identified. Carlos believes the accident involved either a bull shark or a tiger shark. *"I don't have anything against the sharks,"* Carlos writes. *"To be honest, I love them and respect them a lot."*

SOURCE: Carlos Frederico Gomes Martins

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Paulo Mariano Lopes, Global Shark Accident File