

**ACTIVITY:** Swimming

**CASE:** GSAF 2001.03.03

**DATE:** Saturday March 3, 2001

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the South Atlantic Ocean at Boa Viagem Beach, Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil.

**NAME:** Carlo Alberto Brasileiro

**DESCRIPTION:** The swimmer was a 20-year-old male, a student.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** Scattered clouds, air temperature ranged from 86° to 93.2°F [30° to 34°C], and wind direction was Southeast.

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, March 9, 2001.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Recife takes its name from the coral reefs that run along the coast of the city.

**NARRATIVE:** It was not known if the student was swimming beyond the reefs when he was bitten by a shark. His 23-year-old sister, Alexandra Virginia, said Carlos enjoyed swimming alone in deep water and was to be expected back at 13h00. When he failed to return, she checked the police stations and hospitals but without success.



**INJURY:** The student's body washed up on Boa Viagem Beach two days later (Monday) in front of the Acaiaca Building. It had been severely mutilated by sharks and other marine organisms. "The front of the thorax and all internal organs were ripped out" said Dr. Jorge Mota of the Institute of Legal Medicine. "The body was also missing the right forearm, a part of the right thigh and the face."

**SPECIES:** The Fire Department said it had not identified the type of shark involved in this incident.

**NOTE:** The Pernambuco state government warned bathers not to go beyond the reefs. It banned surfing in the area in 1999 after a young man lost his two hands in a shark attack off Boa Viagem Beach. This was the 33rd recorded shark attack on Pernambuco's southern coast and the 11th fatality since 1992.

**SOURCE:** JC, March 7, 2001 edition

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Paulo Mariano Lopes, Global Shark Accident File

### ***Tubarão mata mais um banhista***

*Corpo dilacerado foi encontrado em frente ao Edifício Acaiaca, segunda-feira. Identidade não foi confirmada, mas há suspeitas de que trata-se do estudante Carlos Brasileiro*

*O Instituto de Medicina Legal (IML) confirmou, ontem, a primeira morte por ataque de tubarão este ano. A vítima ainda não foi identificada, mas há suspeitas de que seja o estudante Carlos Alberto Brasileiro, 19 anos. Ele está desaparecido desde sábado, quando saiu para ir à Praia de Boa Viagem. O corpo foi encontrado em frente ao Edifício Acaiaca, anteontem à tarde. Este é o 41º ataque de tubarão registrado no litoral pernambucano em nove anos, segundo o Corpo de Bombeiros.*

*O cadáver estava sem os órgãos internos e com partes da perna e do braço direitos mutilados. Por conta da dilaceramento, a família de Carlos Alberto não conseguiu reconhecer o corpo. "Embora tenha sunga, altura e arcada dentária parecidas, estamos com dúvidas", disse a irmã do banhista, Alexsandra Virgínia Brasileiro, 23. Ontem, o Instituto Tavares Buril (ITB) não conseguiu analisar as impressões digitais do cadáver porque não encontrou o fichário do estudante. Hoje, o IML realizará o exame da arcada dentária.*

*Mesmo antes de obter o resultado do teste, Alexsandra acredita que há grandes chances de a vítima ser seu irmão. "Carlos saiu para me encontrar na praia por volta das 13h do sábado, mas não nos vimos. Fui para casa, esperei por ele e nada. Fomos às delegacias da cidade e aos hospitais, sem conseguir localizá-lo. Como meu irmão só gostava de nadar no fundo, depois dos arrecifes, acho que o tubarão pegou ele", explicou.*

*Para Fábio Hazin, coordenador do Laboratório de Oceanografia Pesqueira da UFRPE, o animal que atacou deve ser das espécies cabeça-chata ou tigre, responsáveis por outras ocorrências em Pernambuco. O pesquisador lembrou, no entanto, que esses casos são pouco comuns no mês de março. Além disso, a Lua estava no quarto-crescente e a maré era seca. "Os tubarões costumam agredir nas luas nova e cheia, com maré alta e nos meses de julho, agosto e setembro", esclareceu.*

*Enquanto o Corpo de Bombeiros registrou 41 ataques de tubarão desde 1992, a UFRPE contabilizou, até 1999, 32 incidentes dentro dos padrões científicos. Os pesquisadores não levam em conta os afogamentos seguidos de mordidas de tubarão.*

### **Shark kills more than one swimmer**

Torn body was found in front of the building Acaiaca, Monday. Identity was not confirmed, but there are suspicions that it is the student Carlos Brasileiro

The Institute of Legal Medicine (IML) confirmed yesterday the first death from shark attack this

year. The victim was not identified, but there are suspicions that the student is Brazilian Carlos Alberto, 19 years. He has been missing since Saturday, when he left to go to Boa Viagem beach. The body was found in front of the Acaiac building, yesterday afternoon. This is the 41st recorded shark attack off the coast of Pernambuco in nine years, according to the Fire Department.

The corpse had no internal organs and parts of the leg and right arm were maimed. Because of the tear, the family of Carlos Alberto failed to recognize the body. "While swimming trunks, height and dental alike, we are in doubt," said the sister of the swimmer, Alessandra Virginia Brazilian, 23. Yesterday, the Institute Tavares Cutters (ITB) failed to analyze the fingerprints of the corpse because it found the student's binder. Today, the IML conducts its examination of dental records.

Even before obtaining the test results, Alessandra believes that there is a chance the victim is her brother. "Carlos came to meet me at the beach at about 13h of the Sabbath, but we did not see him. I went home, waited for him and nothing. We went to the city police stations and hospitals, but were unable to locate him. As my brother was just like swimming in the background, then the reefs, I think the shark got him," she said.

For Fabio Hazin, coordinator of the Laboratory of Fisheries Oceanography UFRPE, the animal that attacked the species should be flat-head or tiger, which has been responsible for other occurrences in Pernambuco. The researcher noted, however, that such cases are uncommon in the month of March. Moreover, the moon was the crescent and the tide was dry. "The sharks usually attack the new and full moons, with high tide and in the months of July, August and September,"he explained.

While the Fire Department reported 41 shark attacks since 1992, the UFRPE recorded until 1999, 32 incidents within the scientific standards. The researchers do not take into account the drowning followed by bites.

**SOURCE:** JC, March 7, 2001

### **Shark Kills Brazilian Swimmer Off City Beach**

SAO PAULO, Brazil (Reuters) – A shark killed a young Brazilian man off a beach in the northeastern city of Recife, known for its shark attacks, officials said on Thursday. The body of the 20-year-old student washed up on the city's famous Boa Viagem beach two days after he went swimming. "The front of the thorax and all internal organs were ripped out," said Dr. Jorge Mota of the Institute of Legal Medicine. "The body was also missing a forearm, a part of the thigh and the face."

It was not immediately clear if the man was swimming beyond the coral reefs that run along the coast of the city, located 1,700 miles northeast of Sao Paulo. Recife is the Portuguese word for reef. The Pernambuco state government warns bathers not to go beyond the reefs. It banned surfing in the area in 1999 after a young man lost his two hands in a shark attack also off Boa Viagem.

It was the 33<sup>rd</sup> recorded shark attack on Pernambuco's southern coast and the 11<sup>th</sup> death since 1992. The Fire Department said it had not identified the type of shark that attacked the swimmer.

**SOURCE:** Yahoo News, Thursday March 8, 2001,  
[http://www.dailynews.yahoo.com/htx/nm/20010308/ts/brazil\\_shark\\_dc\\_1.html](http://www.dailynews.yahoo.com/htx/nm/20010308/ts/brazil_shark_dc_1.html)