

ACTIVITY: Snorkeling or floating on her back

CASE: [GSAF 2010.11.30.a](#)

DATE: Thursday November 30, 2010

LOCATION: The attack took place in the Red Sea at Coral Bay, Sharm El-Sheikh, South Sinai, Egypt.

NAME: Olga Martsinko

DESCRIPTION: She is a 48-year-old female from Russia, a guest at the Maritim Resort. She was wearing swim fins.

BACKGROUND

WEATHER: At 15h00, Sharm El-Sheik recorded clear skies and an air temperature of 84.2°F [29°C], dew point 39.2°F [4°C], humidity 20%, sea level pressure 30.01 inches and wind direction was NNE at 5.8 mph.

MOON PHASE: Last Quarter, November 28, 2010; New Moon, December 5, 2010

SEA CONDITIONS: The sea surface temperature was 82°F [28°C] to 84.2°F [29°C], warmer than usual for this time of year.

DISTANCE FROM THE JETTY: 30 feet

TIME: 14h40



Jamie Wiseman

Olga pictured in the Red Sea with her daughter Yelena before her attack.

NARRATIVE: Olga and her daughter decided to take a last dip in the water before lunch. Olga was floating on her back when her outstretched left hand touched something solid with a rough skin as it dived underneath her. “At first I thought it was a dolphin, but then I felt a sharp pain as it came up, sank its teeth into my arm and began to wag me around,” said Olga. “It tried to pull me down with it into the sea, and I saw the huge jaws of a shark and a shark fin beside me. The shark let me go for a second and I swam away. But it came back for more, biting me again and again from behind.”

“We were only 30 feet away from the jetty, and could easily see the other people on the beach, said Yelena. “My mother suddenly disappeared under the water, and I saw the shark swirling her down. When she came up again, the shark let go and she shouted “Spasite! Akula!” or “Help me! Shark!” If she had not swam fast with her flippers, she would have lost her legs as it chased her to the jetty.”

INJURIES: Left Forearm: Severed below the elbow.

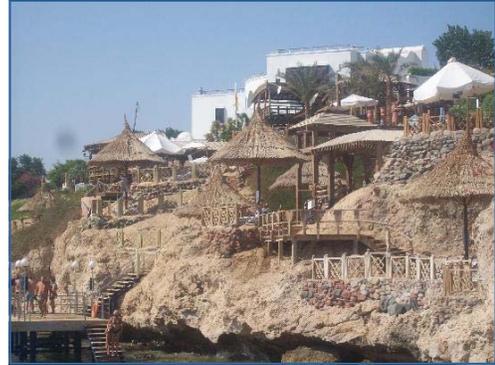
Right Leg: Single laceration to the lateral right leg extending from the knee to lower thigh.

Buttocks and Lower Back: Severe damage to skin and musculature. Much of the buttocks were removed, exposing the base of her spinal column. The wound on the buttocks measured 50 cm x 40 cm.

FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Olga was picked up by the lifesavers and taken to the jetty at Coral Bay (or hotel). An ambulance arrived and both she and Lyudmila Stolyarova (See case

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GSAF 2010.11.30.b) were transported to the hospital, arriving there at 14h30. During transport she arrested but was resuscitated. On arrival at the hospital, she was in shock and barely conscious. In the OR her wounds were cleaned and she was given six units of blood, and she sent to Intensive Care. Both she and Lyudmila were later airlifted to Cairo, and on Sunday December 5, 2010, they were transported to Russia by charter jet. Olga's wounds subsequently became septic.

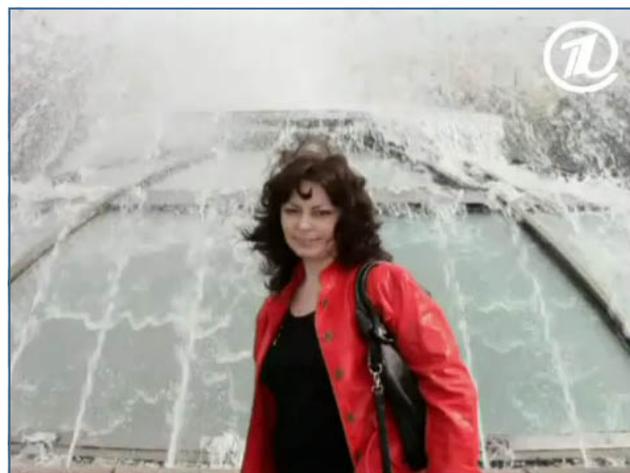


SPECIES: The attack involved a female oceanic whitetip shark approximately three metres in length. Moments after attacking Olga, the shark attacked Lyudmila Stolyarova.

NOTE: The shark initially bit the victim's hand, and then her buttocks. It may be that the shark had previously been fed by a dive operator. Until shark feeding was prohibited, dive operators sometimes brought the sharks close for guests and underwater photographers by feeding them by hand. The dive operators stored additional food for the sharks in waist packs behind their back.

According to Fabio, an Egyptian videographer from Savoy, he saw the shark and it frightened him. He gave the video to Mohammed Salem. On December 5 and 6, the shark — easy to recognize by an injury to its upper caudal fin — was seen in Ras Attar 23 kilometers to the south.

CASE INVESTIGATORS: Moustafa Fouda, MSEA, Mohammad Salem, EEAA; Nasser Galal, CDWS; Marie Levine, Shark Research Institute and Global Shark Accident File & GSAF; Ralph Collier, Global Shark Accident File & Shark Research Committee; Erich Ritter; Leonard J. V. Compagno and Yuri Sobolev, Shark Research Institute and Global Shark Accident File.



Olga Martsinko before the accident