

TRUE CRIME CASE STUDY

The Pattaya Murder Case

Pattaya, Thailand · February 2005

- 📍 Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand
- 👤 Suspect: Kenneth Eriksson, 40, Sweden
- 📅 Crime: 15 February 2005
- 📺 Key evidence: Hotel CCTV footage
- 🌐 International media attention worldwide

Sources: The Local SE · Scandasia(2005–2010)



PATTAYA · THAILAND

BACKGROUND & CONTEXT

Setting the Scene: Pattaya, 2005



Chonburi Province, **~150 km**
from Bangkok



One of SE Asia's **most visited**
resort cities



Famous for **vibrant nightlife**—
and notorious crime



Large **Scandinavian expat**
community resident



Kenneth Eriksson, 40 —
Kramfors, Sweden



Living at Pattaya hotel **since**
August 2004

Source: The Local SE, March 3, 2005



KEY PROFILE — KENNETH ERIKSSON

40

Age

Swedish

Nationality

Aug '04

Arrived Pattaya

— CHRONOLOGY OF A CRIME

The Night of 15 February 2005



NIGHT • 15 FEB

Fatal Altercation

Eriksson beats & stabs Thai woman in hotel room



SAME NIGHT

Body Concealed

Victim hidden in large black sports bag



HOTEL LOBBY

CCTV Captured

Drags bag through reception to waiting taxi



EARLY HOURS

Body Dumped

Passer-by helps throw bag over wall onto wasteland



18 FEB • 3 DAYS LATER

Body Discovered

Found ~300m from hotel
•Eriksson already fled



Key Evidence: CCTV footage of Eriksson calmly dragging the bag through hotel reception proved decisive in the investigation

The Local SE • March 3, 2005



— DEFINING EVIDENCE

The CCTV Evidence

FEBRUARY 2005 · PATTAYA HOTEL



Hotel CCTV Captured Everything

Eriksson dragging a large black sports bag through hotel reception to a waiting taxi



Calm Demeanour on Camera

His apparent composure horrified the public — became central to the prosecution's case



Enlisted a Passer-by

Bag so heavy he asked a stranger to help throw it over a wall at the dumping site

“He was always coming to the hotel with new women.” — Nyman noted Eriksson reacted strangely when news broke of a body found nearby.

— MIKAEL NYMAN, HOTEL GUEST · THE LOCAL SE, MARCH 3, 2005

THE MANHUNT

Two Weeks on the Run



18 FEB 2005 – FLIGHT

Eriksson fled Pattaya by bus to Bangkok

Left immediately after body was discovered nearby



THAI POLICE – MANHUNT LAUNCHED

Major manhunt + emails promising good treatment

Police sent direct emails urging him to surrender



FATHER'S PUBLIC PLEA – EXPRESSEN

"Give yourself up, Kenneth. Don't make it worse."

Lennart Eriksson appealed via Swedish press



2 MAR 2005 – SURRENDER

Presented himself at Swedish Embassy, Bangkok

In police custody within 2 hours



18 Feb

BODY FOUND

13

DAYS FUGITIVE

2 Mar

SURRENDERED

"Give yourself up, Kenneth. Don't make your situation worse."

– LENNART ERIKSSON, FATHER · EXPRESSEN NEWSPAPER

Source: The Local SE, March 3, 2005

— CONFESSION & REENACTMENT

Arrest & Public Reenactment

3 MARCH 2005 · PATTAYA



I don't know how things got out of hand. What can I say?

Presumably it was because I'd been drinking and taken amphetamines. *I don't know why the argument started.*

— KENNETH ERIKSSON · EXPRESSEN, MARCH 2005



Public Crime Scene Reenactment

Led handcuffed through Pattaya streets with armed escort — showed investigators what happened on 15 Feb



Emotional Breakdown at the Scene

"He was extremely shaken and almost completely broke down" —
Photographer Tophong Tomechai, Expressen



Self-Defence Claim

Claimed victim attacked first — stabbed him in the foot with glass in the shower



Admitted Alcohol & Amphetamine Use

Eriksson acknowledged being intoxicated at the time of the incident

Source: The Local SE, March 3, 2005 · Lt. Jongrak: "Now we've got a better picture of what happened."

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Trial, Verdict & Sentencing

THAILAND 2006–2010



2006 – VERDICT

Manslaughter

Not premeditated murder · Sentenced to **5 years**



2009 – APPEAL

Death Penalty

Prosecutors sought capital punishment on appeal



2006–2010 – PRISON

Worst in Thailand

Eriksson described severe mental hardship in letters



2010 – OUTCOME

Appeal Rejected

Manslaughter upheld · Returned to **Sweden Aug 2010**

LEGAL TIMELINE



“The prison I'm sitting in is, according to others, **probably the worst in Thailand**. I'm not being subjected to physical violence, but **mentally it's tough to be here**. ”

— KENNETH ERIKSSON, LETTER TO SWEDEN'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS · SCANDASIA, JANUARY 2009

Source: Scandasia (Jan 14, 2009; Aug 26, 2010) · The Local SE (Jan 14, 2009)

International Media & Public Reaction



SWEDISH PRESS COVERAGE

- **Expressen** published pre-arrest interview & father's appeal
- **Aftonbladet** reported on his return to Sweden in 2010
- The Local & Scandasia provided English-language coverage



INTERNATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

- Global attention on **Thai justice system**
- Questions raised about **prison conditions** for foreigners
- Death penalty debate drew worldwide commentary



CCTV AS PIVOTAL EVIDENCE

- Footage of Eriksson **calmly transporting bags** shocked public
- Became defining image of the case worldwide
- Demonstrated **CCTV in criminal investigations** power of



MEDIA PRESSURE & SURRENDER

- Father's **televised public appeal** credited as key factor
- International press scrutiny sustained throughout manhunt
- Media coverage directly influenced **criminal outcome**



WORLDWIDE
COVERAGE
2005-2010



BROADER IMPLICATIONS

Crime, Tourism & Justice



INVESTIGATIVE CHALLENGES



International media scrutiny – worldwide press intensified pressure on Thai police



Risk of flight – Eriksson evaded capture for two weeks



Diplomatic involvement – Swedish Embassy added consular complexity



Language & cultural barriers – cross-border communication challenges



JUSTICE SYSTEM ISSUES



Death penalty on appeal – prosecutors sought capital punishment for manslaughter



Prison conditions – described as among Thailand's worst by Eriksson



Consular access – foreign nationals' rights highlighted as inadequate



CCTV precedent – set standard for video evidence in future high-profile trials



PATTAYA · 2005-2010

CONCLUSION

Legacy & Lessons



Notorious Precedent

One of Thailand's most high-profile foreigner-involved crimes — shaped how authorities handle similar cases



CCTV as a Turning Point

Security footage proved decisive — identified the suspect and prompted his eventual surrender



The Forgotten Victim

The Thai woman's name was never widely reported — a stark reminder of the human cost behind the headlines



Enduring Questions

Justice, vulnerability, and safety of women in tourist destinations — questions that remain unanswered

“He has lost weight, that's for sure. I don't know about his mental state of mind — he keeps that to himself.”

— LENNART ERIKSSON, FATHER · SCANDASIA, AUGUST 2010

Source: Scandasia (August 26, 2010)