

# Teenage rape victim broadcasts train suicide from phone

## France

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A police investigation is under way after a 19-year-old woman jumped under a train near Paris — and used her smartphone to broadcast her suicide live on the internet.

The video was posted in real time on Periscope, the live-streaming app, and was watched by several hundred people. One of them called police, but officers were unable to get to the train station, at Égly, south of the capital, in time.

Moments earlier, the unnamed woman had told her audience that her life had been destroyed by a former boyfriend, whom she accused of raping her.

The video fuelled controversy in France over Periscope, which is owned by Twitter, less than a fortnight after two teenagers posted a film on the app of themselves attacking a man outside a nightclub in Bordeaux. The incidents have prompted calls for regulation of real-time internet apps.

Eric Lallement, the state prosecutor, said the woman had sent a text message to a friend to say that she wanted to commit suicide and “made statements on the internet, through the Periscope app, to explain her act”. He added: “The investigators will try to obtain the precise reasons for her act and, if necessary, broaden the inquiry.”

The woman, who described herself as a part-time employee at a retirement home, began by filming herself, sitting on a sofa and holding her cat. “A single person is capable of destroying you,” she said. “After a while, you don’t know what to do, how to get yourself heard. There are no more solutions. I’ll explain everything in a while.

“The video I am doing right now is not made to create the buzz but rather

to make people react, to open the minds, and that’s it.”

Periscope users watching at the time posted remarks that appear grossly inappropriate in the light of what happened afterwards, such as “Cool, it’s always a pleasure to see you”, “Me, I’m enjoying myself” and “Give us a hint.”

A version of the video was posted later on YouTube but is cut off before the moment of impact, with the screen going blank.

However, the comments posted by users are visible, and underline their distress as they realise what is happening. “Is she dead?” asks one. The film returns to show a firefighter picking up the woman’s mobile telephone.

● Dutch doctors have carried out the legal euthanasia of a woman in her 20s who was suffering from acute post-traumatic-stress disorder after a childhood of sexual abuse. The case was cited in the annual report of the official Dutch Euthanasia Commission. The woman, who was not named, was given a lethal injection after suffering for 15 years from severe psychiatric problems. She was deemed to have “treatment-resistant” post-traumatic stress disorder, anorexia, flashbacks, hallucinations, chronic depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder and mood swings, said the report. She also had physical difficulties and was almost entirely bedridden.

Doctors granted her request to be allowed to die after they agreed that her case met the criteria for euthanasia under Dutch law, which tolerates the practice in tightly regulated conditions.

The woman was deemed by psychiatrists to be rational and lucid but suffering “unbearably” and “hopelessly”. Her psychiatrist concluded that “there was no prospect or hope for her”.