

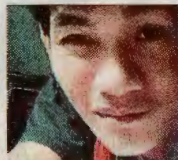
Facebook takes 24 hours to remove baby murder video

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Facebook faced renewed criticism yesterday over live-streamed footage in which a jealous husband hanged his 11-month-old daughter before killing himself.

The broadcast from Phuket, Thailand, stayed online on the social network for about 24 hours, providing further fuel for critics who claim that the internet and publishing company is neglecting its legal and ethical responsibilities to detect and remove disturbing content as soon as possible.

Friends of Wuttisan Wongtalay, the killer, alerted authorities after seeing the footage. Police searched several



Wuttisan Wongtalay thought his wife was leaving him

abandoned buildings on Monday evening before finding the two bodies in a deserted construction site.

Ever since the publisher launched Facebook Live a year ago it has borne the brunt of a backlash aimed at online services that have placed instant global broadcasting capabilities in the hands of anyone with a smart phone.

Murders, gang rapes, torture and suicides have all been streamed live, often by the perpetrators themselves.

On Easter Day a man in Cleveland, Ohio, shot dead an elderly man in the street. Having selected his victim apparently at random Steve Stephens, 37, uploaded video of the murder to Face-

book and then live-streamed footage of himself discussing it. He killed himself after a police chase two days later, but the incident pushed Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's chief executive, to concede that the company had "a lot more to do" in terms of handling such content.

In Sweden two young Afghan men were jailed yesterday for raping a woman in January in an attack that was livestreamed to a private Facebook group with 60,000 members. A 21-year-old Swede was also jailed for six months for posting the rape on Facebook and for failing to report it.

Facebook condemned the Phuket murder-suicide video. "This is an appalling incident and our hearts go out to the family of the victim," a Singapore-based spokesman said. "There is absolutely no place for content of this kind on Facebook and it has been removed."

Thai police found the smartphone that Wuttisan had used to film himself propped up against a wall.

"He was having paranoia about his wife leaving him and not loving him," said Lieutenant Jullaus Suvannin.

Thai television later showed Jiranuch Trirat weeping and holding the body of her daughter, Natalee, who was nicknamed Beta.

The video of her killing was watched by more than 250,000 people before Facebook took it down at the request of the Thai government. "We will not be able to press charges against Facebook, because Facebook is the service provider and acted according to protocol when we sent our request," a spokesman for the Ministry of Digital Economy said. "They co-operated very well."

The incident came two weeks after *The Times* revealed that Facebook was

at risk of criminal prosecution for refusing to remove potentially illegal terrorist and child abuse content.

The social media company failed to take down dozens of images and videos that were flagged to its moderators, including one showing an Islamic State beheading and several violently paedophilic cartoons. The site's algorithms promoted some of the offensive material by suggesting that users join groups or individuals who had posted it.



Jiranuch Trirat saw footage on Facebook of her daughter being murdered