

Thai father murders baby daughter live on Facebook

By Our Foreign Staff

A THAI man broadcast himself killing his 11-month-old daughter in two video clips he posted on Facebook before committing suicide, police said yesterday.

People could access the videos of the child's murder on her father's page for roughly 24 hours. Last week, Facebook said it was reviewing how it monitored violent footage and other objectionable material after a posting of the fatal shooting of an elderly man in Cleveland, Ohio, was visible for two hours before being taken down. The harrowing footage from Thailand showed Wuttisan Wongtalay killing his daughter on the rooftop of a deserted building in the Thai seaside town of Phuket.

Wuttisan's suicide was not broadcast but his lifeless body was found near his daughter, said Jullaus Suvannin, the police officer in charge of the case.

"He was having paranoia about his wife leaving him and not loving him," he told Reuters. Reuters was unable to contact the mother of the child. Calls to her mobile number went unanswered. Television images showed her weeping and holding the baby, who had been hanged.

A regional Facebook representative in Singapore was not immediately available to comment. After the company faced a backlash for showing the Cleveland killing, chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said Facebook would do all it could to prevent such content in the future. But the first Thai video had drawn 112,000 views yesterday, while the second video had had 258,000 views.

The killing was the first in Thailand known to be broadcast on the social networking site, said deputy police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen.

"It could be influenced by behaviour from abroad, most recently in Cleveland," he said.

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