

# Snuff Films: The Horrifying Reality

By *Alexander Baron* - Nov 10, 2015

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Back in the 1980s, the term “snuff film” was heard in some sections of the UK media; it had been around for some time before that, but there were those, including the pro-censorship activist [Mary Whitehouse](#), who believed such films were real, ie, that people were actually murdered on camera.

Deaths, including executions have been filmed in the past, including (accidentally) the murder of a serving president, but the idea that anyone would be so depraved as to actually commit a murder for the sake of filming it sounded as unlikely as it was bizarre. Now, alas, with the rise of the smartphone, this horrific scenario has become a reality.

Although murders do not appear to be committed simply to be filmed, there have been and are instances of people being filmed while being murdered or tortured.

Serial killers Leonard Lake and Charles Ng filmed their victims being subjected to psychological torture. Another serial killer, Maury Travis, filmed the murders of his victims. Travis murdered at least twelve women; he was arrested after trying to be too clever, but committed suicide before he could stand trial. Film of one of his victims has been released by the authorities.

Nine years ago, a homeless man in London was attacked and killed by a gang engaged in the practice of happy slapping – a misnomer if ever there was one. His assailants filmed their handiwork, and **received heavy sentences** the following September.

Now it seems, the practice of filming an actual murder has reached Bangladesh where six men have been **sentenced to death** for the murders of two 13 year old boys. Footage of the beating of one of the boys has been uploaded to LiveLeak, but will not be linked here. Footage of similar beatings, brutal summary justice, can be found in abundance on YouTube as not for the first time, life imitates art.

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