

Front Page
World



Africa
Americas
Asia-Pacific
Europe
Middle East
South Asia

From Our Own
Correspondent

Letter From
America
UK
UK Politics
Business
Sci/Tech
Health
Education
Entertainment
Talking Point
In Depth
AudioVideo

▶ The BBC's
Charles Scanlon,
in Tokyo

"Dental records
were used to
make the
identification"

real 56k

▶ The BBC's Louise
Elliott

"She had been in
Japan for only a
few weeks"

real 56k

You are in: World: **Asia-Pacific**
Saturday, 10 February, 2001, 15:40 GMT

Remains identified as missing Lucie



AP

Letter From **America** Police carry away the remains

Police have identified the remains found in a beachside cave near Tokyo as those of British bar hostess Lucie Blackman.

They were found near a cave at Miura, at the mouth of Tokyo Bay, about 30 miles south of the capital.

Miss Blackman, 22, who worked as a hostess in a Tokyo bar, went missing last July, sparking a massive search.

“
**This is a very sad
and traumatic time
for us**
”

Blackman family

The case has attracted huge publicity in Japan, where crimes involving Western women are rare.

The dismembered limbs and a head encased in concrete were discovered by police on Friday.

Miss Blackman, a former British Airways stewardess from Sevenoaks in Kent, has not been seen since 1 July last year.

She was working as a hostess in a Tokyo nightclub when she disappeared during a day-trip to the Chiba coast, east of Tokyo, with an unidentified man.

Drinks with suspect

The Blackman family said in a statement: "Obviously this is a very sad and traumatic time for us.

Search BBC News Online

Advanced search options

Launch console
for latest audio/video

▶ **BBC RADIO NEWS**

▶ **BBC ONE TV NEWS**

▶ **WORLD NEWS
SUMMARY**

▶ **BBC NEWS 24
BULLETIN**

▶ **PROGRAMMES GUIDE**



Japan death of Lucie Blackman

Key stories

Lucie timeline

Remains identified

A father's search

Tokyo's hostess bars

See also:

14 Nov 00 | Asia-Pacific
Lucie's father appeals to
hostesses

28 Dec 00 | Asia-Pacific
DNA 'link' to missing
Lucie

Internet links:

National Police Agency,
Japan

British Embassy in Japan
appeal

The BBC is not responsible for
the content of external
internet sites

Top Asia-Pacific stories now:

Blaze kills 42 in
Indonesian bar

China vows to overhaul
courts

Koreas trade fresh war of
words

Philippines Church

apologises for sex abuse

Search for 'spy' pilots in
China

Chinese chemical spill

"We are looking forward to bringing Lucie home in the near future.

"In the meantime we would ask that the media respect our wishes to grieve in private.

"We appreciate all the work the Japanese police have done on this investigation but we know they still have a great deal of work to do."

The Foreign Office confirmed the body had been identified from dental records.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said he was "deeply saddened".

"Her father, Tim, whom I met in Tokyo, and the whole family, are much in my thoughts. I have greatly admired their courage as they have sought news of Lucie. The task now must be to bring her killer to justice."



Lucie Blackman has been missing since July

The British Ambassador to Japan Sir Stephen Gomersall said his thoughts went out to the Blackman family, who had borne the ordeal with remarkable courage and fortitude.

A Japanese businessman, who has an apartment near where the discovery was made, has been suspected in Lucie's disappearance.

Property developer Joji Obara, 48 - who is already on trial for the rape of several women - has denied involvement in the disappearance of Miss Blackman.

But he has admitted having drinks with her at the bar where she worked.

Police have made no charges against the businessman in connection with Ms Blackman's disappearance.

But he has since been charged with the abduction, drugging and indecent assault of another Western woman.

Mr Blackman, 47, a property developer, said he had no immediate plans to fly to Japan.

kills 13
Malaysian state passes
Islamic law
Vietnam's unburied
soldiers head home

Links to more Asia-Pacific stories are at the foot of the page.

Since Miss Blackman's disappearance he has made a number of emotional appeals for help from the Japanese public during frequent visits to Tokyo.

 [E-mail this story to a friend](#)

Links to more Asia-Pacific stories

In This Section

GO



[^^ Back to top](#)

[News Front Page](#) | [World](#) | [UK](#) | [UK Politics](#) | [Business](#) | [Sci/Tech](#) | [Health](#) | [Education](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Talking Point](#) | [In Depth](#) | [AudioVideo](#)

[To BBC Sport>>](#) | [To BBC Weather>>](#)

© [MMIII](#) | [News Sources](#) | [Privacy](#)