

Man Freed After 10 Years Imprisonment When Wife Tracks Down Actual Killer

Nguyen Thanh Chan's 2004 murder and robbery convictions have [been voided](#) by Vietnam's Supreme People's Court after his wife tracked down the man who actually committed the crimes.



Nguyen Thanh Chan after his release on Nov. 4, 2013.

Chan was 42 when arrested on September 28, 2003 for the murder of a 31-year-old woman on August 15 in the village of Nghia Trung in Vietnam's Bac Giang district. Her assailant stole jewelry and money from her home.

Chan was convicted on March 26, 2004 [based on that his](#) "left foot nearly fit the footprints left at the scene," he "showed dubious signs on the day of the incident," and his confession, which he retracted as coerced by police beating him and threatening him with a knife.

Chan was sentenced to death, but his sentence was commuted to life in prison because of his father's contributions in the revolution that united North and South Vietnam.

After Chan's conviction his wife, Thi Chien, campaigned for his innocence and investigated his case on her own. In addition to trying to help her husband Chien had

to deal with supporting and raising the couple's four children, and the social stigma of Chan's convicted crimes.

On July 5, 2013 she filed a petition with the authorities that included information identifying the actual murderer was 25-year-old Ly Nguyen Chung who lived in the same village as Chan and the victim. The police investigated Chien's information and questioned Chung's step-mother and brother, who both provided a statement he had blood on his shirt the day of the crime and they believed he was the actual killer. After Chung eluded police for almost four months, he was arrested on October 25, 2013. Chung confessed to the crime during his police interrogation, saying his motive was to rob the victim. On October 29, 2013 Chung was charged with murder and robbery. Because Chung was 14 at the time of the crimes he was to be prosecuted as a juvenile.

Based on the new evidence of his innocence Chan was released from prison on November 4, 2013, pending his retrial. Now 52, he returned that same day to his village and was



Nguyen Thanh Chan was greeted by a large crowd when he returned to his village on November 4, 2013 after more than 10 years of incarceration.

greeted by a large crowd.

Chan [told reporters](#) after his release: "I feel as if I am born again. During the past 10 years in prison, I always hoped that I would be vindicated one day."



Ly Nguyen Chung in detention after his arrest on October 25, 2013.

On November 6, 2013 a retrial by the Council of the Supreme People's Court voided Chan's convictions and sentence. Chan has the right to sue the District Court, the Circuit Court of Appeals, and request compensation from the Supreme People's Court that can include damages from property infringement, damages caused by the actual income loss or reduction, and damages for losses due to compromised mental and physical health.

After the Court announced its ruling Vietnam's President Truong Tan Sang requested [an investigation](#) to determine if there were violations of the law by individuals and organizations involved in procuring Chan's false confession. Colonel Nguyen Van Chuc, Office Manager and Spokesman of Bac Giang Province's Police [told reporters](#), "It is illegal for any investigator to carry out coercive methods in retrieving testimony."

Source:

[Wife gets her husband's murder conviction overturned](#) ten years after he was jailed by tracking down the real killer, *Daily Mail* (London), November 5, 2013

[Murder convict released after 10 years](#) on new testimony, *Talkvietnam.com*, November 5, 2013

[Suspected coercive testimony in Bac Giang](#), *Talkvietnam.com*, November 8, 2013.



Appeals Court Clears Two Men Of Selling Substandard Toast At A Bakery

Shaikh Alimoddin and Shaikh Jalaloodin [have been acquitted](#) by an appeals court in India of selling substandard toast.

On January 6, 1995 a health inspector bought toast at the bakery owned by Alimoddin in Jalgaon, India. Jalgaon is a city of almost 400,000 people about 250 miles northwest of Mumbai.

The health inspector sent the toast to a laboratory, which issued a report that the toast was "substandard." After the health inspector received the report on February 14, 1995, Alimoddin and Jalaloodin -- his employee

who sold the toast -- were arrested and charged with a criminal health code violation.

Eleven years later, Alimoddin and Jalaloodin were tried in 2006. They were convicted based on the laboratory report the toast was of substandard quality. They were each sentenced to six months of rigorous imprisonment.

Alimoddin and Jalaloodin appealed, but their convictions were affirmed in 2011 by the Sessions Court. They appealed that ruling. In early March 2014 the High Court of Bombay [set-aside Alimoddin and Jalaloodin's convictions](#), and acquitted them. The Court's ruling was primarily based on their determination the prosecution presented insufficient reliable evidence of Alimoddin and Jalaloodin's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The Court found that the laboratory report relied on by the prosecution was not



Indian Toast (oneworldplate.com)

sufficient evidence because the lab's test of the "toast" was unreliable. The Court noted that the toast should have been stored in an air tight jar or container for transport to the lab, when it was kept in a plastic bag that subjected it to contamination. The High Court also noted the prejudicial procedural irregularity that the two defendants were not provided a copy of the lab report at the time the law required its disclosure to them.

Sources:

[Bombay High Court acquits](#) a bakery owner and employee 14-years after being charged of selling substandard toast, *Daily News & Analysis* (Mumbai, India), March 9, 2014

[High Court of Bombay](#), Official website

