

VOICE: Citizens of My Lai

In an interview with PBS: Frontline, villagers of My Lai spoke to reporter Judy Woodruff about what they had seen in their village in March 1968.

TRUONG THI LE: “Nothing was happening here. It was a very normal life when the helicopters came and the troops surrounded us. They were firing their guns over there. They blasted away and people were dying. Oh, it's so horrible. I pushed my son into the paddy field and lay on top of him. I told him, "Don't cry, the Americans have shot everyone. Don't cry and see if we can survive." For awhile I didn't hear any noise. I was alive because there were corpses on top of me. I lifted my head and saw Americans pointing here and there incessantly. Those who were still alive were shot again and again. Then there was no more. I'm so unhappy. Life's so hard. I miss my mother, my children. I think of them lying there dead and my heart is cut to pieces. The more I think about it the more I want to cry.”

PHAM THI TRINH: “I looked out of the house and saw my sister, Mui. She was fourteen that year. An American was pressing on top of her, she had no clothing on her. At the time I didn't understand what that meant. My sister was trying to resist him. Afterwards the American got up, he put his clothes on, and then he shot her. Never ... Oh, Americans, Americans. I decided to leave my hiding place. I saw my house had burned completely and in the yard my loved ones were burned to death. My mother and my little brother still in my mother's arms, my seven-month-old brother, whose body was half-burned. I didn't know anything anymore. I stood by my mother's body and cried.”

SOURCE: "Remember My Lai." Frontline. PBS, 23 May 1989.
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/programs/transcripts/714.html>