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## Autopsy set for man killed in Mexico

Ontario's chief coroner will investigate

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**Tracy Huffman**  
Crime Reporter

The family of a Woodbridge man killed in Mexico earlier this week hopes an autopsy by a Canadian pathologist on the 19-year-old will confirm their theory that he was beaten and left to die on the side of an Acapulco highway.

Ontario's chief coroner, Dr. Barry McLellan, said he is ordering an autopsy on Adam DePrisco when his body arrives, likely tomorrow.



Adam DePrisco died Jan. 8 in Mexico after friends and family say he was involved in an altercation in an Acapulco bar. Mexican authorities say DePrisco died of injuries he received in a hit-and-run accident.

FAMILY PHOTO

"Because of the concerns expressed in this case we will be doing our own autopsy ... to try to enhance the understanding of what happened," McLellan said. It is unclear if a full autopsy was conducted in Mexico.

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"We want (the post-mortem). To find the real truth," said Sandro Bellio, DePrisco's uncle who went to Mexico with his wife Stephanie Pannozzi when they heard DePrisco was in hospital.

The DePrisco family believes Mexican authorities are not taking their son's killing seriously.

Mexican police say DePrisco – who worked two jobs to take a two-week trip with long-time friend Marco Calabro – was the victim of a hit and run and that they are investigating. They dismiss the family's theory that he was targeted and beaten.

Calabro returned from Mexico early yesterday. He said he is angry with Mexican authorities, who want to sweep his friend's death under the carpet.

"He was set up," said Calabro, who was at a nightclub with DePrisco early Sunday morning.

Calabro said a person in his party saw a young woman grab DePrisco on the dance floor. A man, whom he believes was the girl's boyfriend, went to security and within a minute, bouncers kicked DePrisco out of the nightclub, he said.

"I ran to the bouncer and begged and pleaded to know where he was. They pointed to the direction he was," he said.

Concerned for his friend, Calabro got in a cab and began looking for DePrisco. When he saw DePrisco on the side of the highway, he said he didn't recognize his friend and didn't believe it was him.

"He didn't get hit by a car," Calabro said. "He had no indication of injuries from the neck down. If you're hit by a car on the highway, don't you expect ... more injuries?"

Calabro said it appeared DePrisco had been hit in the head and dragged down the road. A doctor at the Mexican hospital told him he did not believe a car had struck his friend, he said.

DePrisco's cousin, Luisa Pannozzi, said doctors told her aunt (Stephanie Pannozzi) that the injuries "didn't indicate it was a hit-and-run accident."

But Mexican police told the *Star* a forensic examination concluded the injuries were typical of

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someone hit by a car.

Calabro was at DePrisco's side before he went into a coma and was able to say only "yo" to his friend. He was also there when DePrisco died Monday night.

"He was never a troublemaker," Calabro said. "... He would always tell me, 'Don't do this.' He was like my guardian angel, he was always there for me."

DePrisco's uncle said the family has received tremendous support from many people, including the travel insurance company and an official with the Canadian embassy in Mexico. But the family's dealings with Mexican police have been frustrating.

The family had hoped to fly him back to Sunnybrook hospital but "when we got there he was already braindead," said Bellio.


"We were dealing with a mess. The police didn't do anything, they didn't do any investigation while we were there," he said.

Meanwhile, Toronto lawyer Edward Greenspan has called on Ottawa to pressure Mexican officials to do a proper investigation. He acts for relatives of Domenic and Nancy Ianiero, also of Woodbridge, who were killed at a Cancun resort last year.

With files from Canadian Press

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