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CTV EDMONTON

Husband seeks answers in wife's Mexico scuba death

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Ronda and Colin Cross, appears in this undated photo. Ronda, 41, died Saturday while scuba diving with her cousin in Cabo San Lucas.

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CTVNews.ca Staff

The husband of a Calgary woman who died while scuba diving in Mexico says he has been unable to reach police and has not heard from any Mexican official regarding his wife's death.

Colin Cross said his wife Ronda, died Saturday while diving with her cousin Roxanne Amundson in Cabo San Lucas. Cross was golfing with his father in Florida when the accident occurred.

Since the 41-year-old woman's death, Cross has tried to get answers from the local police, with no luck.

"All three times we've called there has not even been an answer on the telephone," Cross told CTV's Canada AM from Calgary.

"I'm not sure why we've never heard anything from the police. No Mexican authorities have called us, even the funeral home in Mexico has not released any information to us, we've actually had to call them,"

An emotional Cross said he wasn't even properly informed about when his wife's body was to be repatriated, and he was unable to meet her remains when they arrived in Calgary earlier this week.

He said Ronda had over 200 dives to her credit, with a wealth of experience in different locations and a strong safety record, and the only realistic explanation is that her air supply became contaminated with carbon monoxide.

Police have agreed with this theory, he said.

"When there's a tainted tank there can be a lot of problems but you wouldn't even taste it," Cross said, adding that the couple had dived in the Great Barrier Reef, the Bahamas, Cozumel and many other locations.

"We heard form the police and we heard from the dive master...who was leading the dive that even he was sick after the dive along with Roxanne, so the only thing it could be is contaminated tanks."

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Ronda's husband, Colin Cross, appears on CTV's Canada AM on Thursday, March 8, 2012.

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Ronda Cross is seen in this undated photo.

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Mexican police have now launched an investigation into the dive shop that provided Cross with her equipment, the family said.

Cross, her cousin and another diving partner had performed a basic dive which took them about 18 metres underwater when the tragedy occurred, according to family. Her cousin noticed something was amiss when Cross didn't surface with the group.

It took about 15 minutes for a nearby fishing boat to find Cross, who was unconscious. She was pronounced dead a short time later.

"They found her floating face-down with the dive equipment on. They pulled her up and tried to do some resuscitation, but to no avail," said father-in-law Dennis Cross.

Police have seized equipment from the dive shop as part of their investigation into Cross's death, her family said.

Cross said his wife was an "amazing woman, she was beautiful inside and out," and had a generous spirit, committed to volunteerism and helping others.

The couple had hoped to become a family, he said, choking back tears.

"We were actually just approved and in the final stages for adoption and we were actually just waiting to be paired with a child," Cross said.

He said he is calling for changes to dive regulations to ensure that better safety procedures are followed at licensed dive shops.

Matt Mandziuk, a certified dive instructor and owner of Dan's Dive Shop in St. Catharines, Ont., said accidents related to carbon monoxide contamination are not unheard of in the dive world.

He said the phenomenon can be caused by lack of compressor maintenance, lack of filter changes, or overuse and overheating of the compressor itself.

He said divers should always 'taste' their air and raise alarm bells if it tastes at all unusual. There are also a number of small portable devices that can easily be used to test air for impurities.

"The biggest thing is keeping up with training and keeping current on techniques and personal equipment," he said.

**Ronda Cross is seen in this undated photo.**

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**Ronda Cross died while diving in Mexico on Saturday. (Photo Courtesy of Cross family)**

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