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Mexican police no help in hunt for missing Canadian: Family

By Meghan Hurley, Ottawa Citizen October 28, 2010 [Comments \(7\)](#)

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Carleton Place resident Daniel Dion, 51, went to Mexico three weeks ago and kept in contact with his family until Friday, Oct. 22, 2010. Dion was scheduled to come home the following week, but didn't show up for his flight.

Photograph by: Image supplied, Facebook

OTTAWA — Police in Mexico are refusing to help find an Ontario businessman who has been missing since he ate dinner at a restaurant in Acapulco a week ago, his family says.

As a result of Daniel Dion's disappearance, his distraught wife and brother have flown to Mexico to join in the growing search for Dion, who turned 51 last week. But they have been met with resistance by Mexican police.

"They basically say to the family to do the investigation yourself," Dion's niece, Franceska Dion, said in an interview Thursday night. "This is completely unacceptable."

Before she left Canada, Dion's wife called police in Mexico, but they told her she had to file a missing person's report in person. She filed the report Wednesday when she arrived in Mexico, but police still won't investigate, Franceska Dion said.

Dion has seemingly vanished on what was to have been a trip to promote a business that he established selling a line of "eco" purses.

Family in Canada say they fear the worst. He hasn't called in a week, he missed his flight to Canada on Tuesday.

Family and friends say Dion travelled so often to Mexico for business that he now rents an apartment in Taxco, several hours away from Acapulco.

On Thursday, Dion's family discovered he had rented a white Volkswagen Jetta. The car has not been found.

Family say that someone tried to use Dion's credit cards, which have been cancelled, at some point after he disappeared.

One family member worries that his designer clothes could have made him a target. She doesn't want her name used, fearing for the safety of her mother-in-law, who is now in Mexico.

"We're just scared that if he got kidnapped that they might go after her," the family member said. "He was anxious to come home because it was getting rough there."

Kidnappings are common in Mexico. About three weeks ago, a heavily armed gang kidnapped about 20 Mexican tourists in Acapulco.

Claude Rochon, a Foreign Affairs spokeswoman, said the department is aware of reports that a Canadian is missing in Acapulco. They are providing assistance to the man's family, but wouldn't provide further details.

The department's website warns Canadians against non-essential travel near the Mexico/United States border "due to continuously high levels of violence linked to drug trafficking in those areas" that has claimed thousands of lives.

Canadians in the resort areas in the south of the country, where Acapulco is located, have seen violence. Since 2007, one Canadian was murdered, another killed in a hit-and-run and a couple was wounded in a robbery attempt.

Dion, a native of Sherbrooke has homes in Ottawa and Taxco, Mexico.

— with a file from the Montreal Gazette

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