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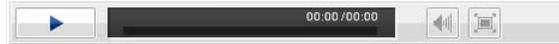


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Murders in Mexico



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W-FIVE Staff
Date: Sat. Apr. 14 2007 6:58 PM ET

It was supposed to be a dream vacation - the wedding of a lifetime. But it ended in tragedy, a tragedy that is seared in the minds of most Canadians.

On February 20, 2006, the bodies of Dominic and Annunziata Ianiero were discovered in their hotel room with their throats slit. They were down in Mexico for the wedding of their daughter, Lily, and they, and the rest of the wedding party, were staying at a five star hotel called the Barcelo Maya Beach Resort just south of Cancun.

The brutal murders grabbed headlines around the world. And while it's been more than a year since the killings, police in Mexico are no closer to catching the murderer.

Before beginning its investigation into the Ianiero murders, W-FIVE wanted to know just how dangerous Mexico is. Close to a million Canadians travel there every year and the Mexican Riviera is the lynchpin of Mexico's tourism industry which is worth a staggering \$12 billion a year.

We set out to find the number of assaults and murders in Mexico and other popular destinations. W-FIVE made a Freedom of Information request to the Department of Foreign Affairs. Though we didn't want to know the names of those assaulted or killed, our request was denied for privacy reasons. W-FIVE appealed that decision to the Office of the Information Commissioner who ruled in our favour.

When the statistics were finally released a very clear picture emerged. Based on numbers over a five year period from 2001 to 2005, Mexico was clearly a more dangerous destination than other popular vacation destinations that Canadians visit.

You are 34 times more likely to be murdered or assaulted in Mexico than you are in the United States. Nearly twice as likely to be murdered or assaulted in Mexico than in Cuba and nearly three times more likely to have that happen in Mexico than in the Dominican Republic.

With this information, W-FIVE approached Eddie Greenspan, the high-profile lawyer retained by the Ianiero family and asked for access to the Ianiero family. That started a six month investigation into the murders. We gained exclusive access to the Mexican police file on the murder investigation. We were given unique video that they shot in the hours and days following the murders.

W-FIVE's team of investigators also traveled to Mexico and sat down with the man ultimately in charge of the Mexican investigation, Bello Melchor Rodriguez y Carrillo, Attorney General of the state of Quintana Roo.

In a wide-ranging interview Mr. Rodriguez maintained that Cheryl Everall and Kimberly Kim - the two single mothers from Thunder Bay who checked out of the hotel the morning the Ianieros' bodies were discovered - remain principle suspects. And he insisted that the evidence - blood found in the women's room - supports his suspicions about the two women. But W-FIVE learned the women are never identified as suspects in the police

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report and there is no mention of any blood being found in the women's room, let alone tested.

The Attorney General also maintained that Anthony Ianiero remains a suspect and that the killings were ordered by the mob because of Anthony's gambling debts. But Anthony Ianiero is never mentioned as a suspect in the police file. After talking to several police forces in Canada who investigated these allegations, W-FIVE learned police had not found any mob connections nor gambling debts.

In fact the only suspect mentioned in the Mexican police files is Blas Delgado, the security guard who worked at the Barcelo Maya Beach Resort. He disappeared right after the murders.

As for the Canadian government, both Cheryl Everall and Kimberly Kim and the Ianieros feel let down by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The women are still clinging to the hope that their government will help clear their names. And the Ianieros, who can only hope for an open, vigorous and transparent investigation, feel betrayed by officials who continue to stick to the mantra that there is little they can do. Foreign Affairs says it must allow due process to occur and that they have confidence in the Mexican police investigation.



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