

# No arrest in murder of Ottawa woman in Mexico

By Carolyn Thompson, The Ottawa Citizen July 7, 2011



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## **Judy Baylis, the Ottawa woman killed Monday night in Mexico, is shown on the right, along with her daughter, Lindsay. (FROM FACEBOOK)**

OTTAWA — Mexican police continue to investigate the murder of Canadian Judy Baylis, who was killed June 27 in her home in San Miguel de Allende in what police believe to be a violent robbery.

Police in the Allende district said they believe the assailant was young, and likely worked at the home or knew it well. They had recovered footprints and fingerprints to try to identify the suspect.

Alberto Lozano, a spokesman for the Mexican embassy in Canada, said Wednesday the Mexican government is working with local police and the Canadian government to help find those responsible.

“We hope we can have results very soon,” Lozano said. “We’ve been working together to find and prosecute whoever may be responsible for the crime.”

Baylis’s husband John, an Ottawa dentist, was in Canada at the time of the murder, but has since been staying in San Miguel to work with police. On Saturday he said the police have little doubt about why and how his wife was killed.

“It was a robbery, but I think she recognized the person, and then the person murdered her,” he said. “It was a very violent murder. It was horrible.”

Lozano said the Mexican government was doing what they could to support John Baylis and the rest of his family. “Our government of course expresses its sincere and most deep condolences to the family,” Lozano said.

The Canadian department of Foreign Affairs recommends that Canadians in Mexico should “exercise a high degree of caution.” It warns that “high levels of criminal activity, as well as occasional demonstrations and protests, remain a concern throughout the country.” Just last month another Canadian was stabbed in his home in Mexico and robbed of about \$13,000.

Although Lozano said the Mexican government was well aware of cases where Canadians were victims of crime in Mexico, he said this should not discourage people from visiting.

“We have millions of visitors who are visiting as tourists without any single trouble,” he said. “This has been a very unfortunate event. Isolated events unrelated to one another.”

The Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade provided a written comment on the situation, saying the department was aware of the death of a Canadian near San Miguel de Allende. “Our thoughts are with those affected. Canadian consular officials in Mexico City and in Ottawa are providing consular assistance to the family as required.”

Dr. Baylis has had his wife’s body cremated, and is now considering whether to bring the ashes to Canada or bury them in San Miguel. It is not known when a memorial will be held.

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