

# Exclusive: Family's fury as Mexico cops claim tragic Scots gran should not have been left alone

[Jul 30 2009](#) Charles Lavery

THE grieving family of tragic Scots gran Julia Howard have slammed Mexican authorities for claiming she should not have been left alone.

Julia, 77, disappeared from a hotel in Cancun five weeks ago. Her remains were found in a mangrove swamp last Wednesday.

Mexican prosecutors have said Julia, of Edinburgh, had got lost before and should have been supervised.

But her son Henry Harvey, who believes his mum was murdered, branded the claim "absolute bloody nonsense".

Julia vanished just 12 hours into a family holiday at the five-star Moon Palace Resort.

She left relatives, including Henry, 56, and wife Glynis, 50, after breakfast, to get a sun hat from her room on June 16.

Bello Melchor Rodriguez, attorney general of the Mexican state of Quintana Roo, said it is likely Julia wandered into the swamp before dying of starvation.

But Henry, of Balerno, near Edinburgh, was yesterday furious at Rodriguez's claim Julia suffered memory loss and could not cope alone.

He said: "He claims she had Alzheimer's or some other neurological disease. It is absolute bloody nonsense.

"She had a full medical check-up in February and came through with flying colours. She had 100 per cent of her faculties.

Henry, who is in Mexico to identify Julia's body, added: "She has never wandered off on her own. It's almost certain she's been murdered."

 Pluck



**BonnyBute** wrote:

I'm sorry, but I agree with the authorities, this woman should have been accompanied, she wandered, into a jungle, unknown to her. The family returning home, without answers, is also shocking.

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**Anne808** wrote:

Sorry, but I don't agree with you BonnyBute. Your making an assumption on the womans health and according to her family she had a full medical check-up in which she was fine. As for the family going home without answers, maybe they didn't have any option. The poor family will be going through a terrible time at the moment without the need for people to raise their own unjustified comments. No one knows what goes on inside closed doors of a family except the family. Leave them alone to grieve and get some answers.

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**BeSafe** wrote:

Mexico is a very dangerous country. Hundreds of people are raped/murdered/or die as a direct result of poor or non existent safety standards both inside as well as outside of the resorts. I have no doubt that Julia Howard did not wander off on her own. To read tragic Mexico vacation DEATH stories, many written by heartbroken family members as well as stories written by victims that "survived" their Mexico vacation go to:

[WWW.MEXICOVACATIONAWARENESS.COM](http://WWW.MEXICOVACATIONAWARENESS.COM)Report

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