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Naples father searching for missing son in Mexico



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Posted: Mar 11, 2012 4:40 PM EDT Updated: Mar 11, 2012 4:49 PM EDT

By Leigh Dana - bio | email

EAST NAPLES, FL - A Collier County man trying to find his missing son says he's being wrapped up in red tape. He says his son went sailing across international waters off the coast of California toward Mexico.

In February, 43-year-old Donn Pinkney Jr. - an experienced sailor - was headed for the west coast of Mexico.

But his father says the boat was found looted 75 miles north of where he was expected to arrive - with Pinkney Jr. no where to be found.

Now, Pinkney Sr. is in Mexico fighting for answers.

"He could be dead, alive or he could be kidnapped," Pinkney said.

Pinkney Jr. was last heard from on February 20.

His boat was found washed ashore along the Mexican coast five days later. It was ransacked and stripped of all valuables 75 miles north of his final destination - where he was supposed to dock.

His father, Pinkney Sr., lives in East Naples and has already spent more than a week in Mexico searching for his son.

"The only hope in my eyes is that boy is alive. If he's been kidnapped in some fashion I could be contacted for ransom," he said in a phone interview Sunday afternoon.

The Department of State issued a travel warning in early February advising U.S. travelers to use caution when near parts of western Mexico.

The warning states the Mexican government has been engaged in an extensive effort to stop drug trafficking and other criminal activity.

And the rising number of kidnappings and disappearances throughout Mexico are of major concern.

It is the same area that Pinkney Junior's boat was passing through.

The U.S. State Department in Mexico City says it is aware of Pinkney's disappearance and is meeting with local law enforcement.

Pinkney Sr. says he has been doing the same, but has been hitting a lot of dead

"Unless you speak Spanish, you cannot correspond or communicate in anyway, shape or form with anybody down there basically outside of the U.S. Embassy,

In the meantime. Pinkney's friends have made a website asking for help in

You can also read more here from our news gathering partners over at Naplesnews.com



Pinkney Jr.



Pinkney Sr



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