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Canadian gunned down in Northeastern Mexico

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Ken Klownik, 43, a cycling and outdoors enthusiast, was on his way to a private mountain bike trail preserve when he was gunned down in Mexico.

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CTV.ca News Staff

A Canadian was killed and another seriously injured in Mexico last week when a teenager opened fire on them in an attempted car jacking.

Kenneth Klownik, 43, was reportedly in Mexico to build trails for hikers and mountain bikers at a local resort when he was killed.

The shooting took place five days ago in the state of Coahuila, about 65 kilometres from Eagle Pass, a Texas border town.

Police in Eagle Pass told CTV Toronto that a teenaged boy approached the Chevrolet Suburban that Klownik and two other men were riding in.

The trio had stopped for lunch and when they attempted to drive away, the teen allegedly jumped on the vehicle and opened fire. Klownik was shot twice in the face and died at the scene.

Other reports say the trio had driven through a roadblock set up by their assailants.

"It happened very fast," said Sgt. Moses Pina with the Eagle Pass police force. "The people in the vehicle were very much in fear of their lives. They were trying to get away."

Another member of the group was shot in the head, U.S. investigators say, while the third passenger was taken hostage by the suspects and later released.

U.S. investigators say that Mexican drug cartels often target SUVs and pick-up trucks, and use local teenagers to help steal them.

The Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed it knew of one Canadian citizen who had died in Mexico's Piedras Negras region, but did not give the victim's name.

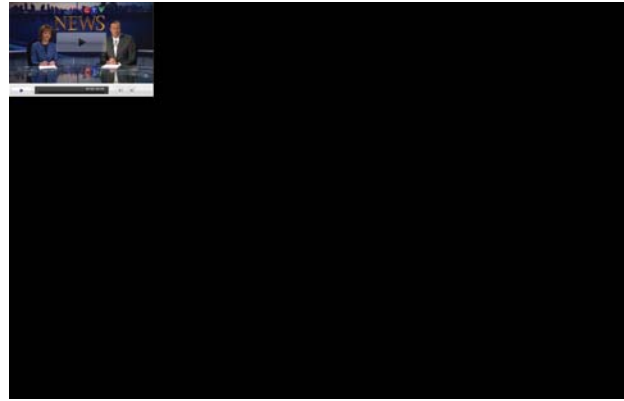
"Canadian consular officials in Monterrey and Mexico City are working closely with local authorities to gather additional information, and are providing consular assistance to the family," said Dana Cryderman, a department spokesperson.

Klownik's parents live north of Orangeville. They declined to speak to CTV News, saying the situation was too sensitive.

A funeral service is scheduled for Thursday in Orangeville, Ont.

With a report from CTV Toronto's John Musselman and files from The Canadian Press

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