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Manitoba teen's death in Mexico questioned

Authorities cite fatal fall but family unconvinced

Article

Published On Tue Jan 29 2008

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SELKIRK, Man.—The family of a Manitoba man who Mexican authorities claim died after falling off a 10th-floor balcony say the autopsy raises disturbing questions.

"They said that he just had trauma ... to the back of the head," Michelle Iwasiuk, the victim's sister, told CTV Winnipeg. "I can't see how you can fall out of a 10-storey building and only have trauma to the back of your head."

Josh Iwasiuk, 19, of Selkirk was partying at a Puerto Vallarta hotel on the weekend with his older brother Jerry when he died.

Jerry Iwasiuk says a security guard told them Saturday afternoon he was so drunk he had to go to his room. He did and awoke 17 hours later unable to find Josh.

"I looked all over. Nobody would answer me. I could tell something was up just by the looks people were giving me," Iwasiuk said.

Foreign Affairs officials in Canada say they are in contact with the Iwasiuk family, as well as with police in Mexico. The teen's body is to be flown to Manitoba later this week.

Jerry Iwasiuk said their balcony railing was chest-high so he doesn't see how Josh could have slipped off.

He hasn't been able to find out if his brother was robbed and wonders if he himself was drugged.

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"It was the longest sleep I'd ever had," Iwasiuk said.

In November, Chris Morin, 30, of Okotoks, Alta., fell to his death from a fourth-floor balcony in Cancun. Authorities say he had illicit drugs in his system but a friend suspected his death was connected to a bar dispute

earlier in the evening.

Other high-profile Canadian deaths in Mexico include Dominic and Nancy Ianiero from Woodbridge who died in February 2006 after their throats were slashed in their Cancun hotel room. Police have never found their killer.

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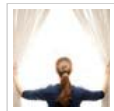
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