

= Disappearance of Natalee Holloway =

Natalee Ann Holloway ( born October 21 , 1986 ) was an American teenager who disappeared on May 30 , 2005 , while on a high school graduation trip to Aruba , a Dutch island in the Caribbean . Holloway lived in Mountain Brook , Alabama , at the time of her disappearance , and graduated from Mountain Brook High School on May 24 , 2005 , shortly before the trip . Her disappearance caused a media sensation in the United States and remains unsolved .

Holloway was scheduled to fly home on May 30 , but failed to appear for her flight . She was last seen by her classmates outside Carlos 'n Charlie 's , a chain restaurant and nightclub in Oranjestad , in a car with locals Joran van der Sloot and brothers Deepak and Satish Kalpoe . When questioned , the three men said they dropped Holloway off at her hotel and denied knowing what became of her . Upon further investigation by authorities , Van der Sloot was arrested twice on suspicion of involvement in her disappearance and the Kalpoes were each arrested three times . Due to lack of evidence the three men were released without charge each time .

With the help of hundreds of volunteers , Aruban investigators conducted an extensive search for Holloway . Special Agents from the FBI , fifty Dutch soldiers and three specially equipped Dutch Air Force F @-@ 16 aircraft participated in the search . In addition to the ground search , divers searched the ocean floor for Holloway 's body . It was never found . On December 18 , 2007 , Aruban prosecutors announced that the case would be closed without any charges made against the former suspects . The Aruban prosecutor 's office reopened the case on February 1 , 2008 , after receiving video footage of Joran van der Sloot , under the influence of marijuana , saying that Holloway died on the morning of May 30 , 2005 , and that a friend had disposed of her body . Van der Sloot later denied that what he said was true , and in an interview with Greta Van Susteren ( the contents of which he later retracted ) said that he sold Holloway into slavery .

Holloway 's parents criticized Aruban police for a lack of rigor in the investigation and questioning of the three men last seen with her . The family also called for a boycott of Aruba , which gained Alabama Governor Bob Riley 's support but failed to gain widespread backing . On January 12 , 2012 , an Alabama judge declared Holloway legally dead .

= = Background = =

Natalee Ann Holloway was the first of two children born to David Edward ( " Dave " ) and Elizabeth Ann Reynolds ( " Beth " ) Holloway in Clinton , Mississippi . Her parents divorced in 1993 , and she and her younger brother Matthew were raised by their mother . In 2000 , Elizabeth Holloway married George " Jug " Twitty , a prominent Alabama businessman , and Natalee moved to Mountain Brook , Alabama . Natalee Holloway graduated with honors from Mountain Brook High School . She was a member of the National Honor Society , her school dance squad , and was a participant in other extracurricular activities . Holloway was to attend the University of Alabama on a full scholarship , where she planned to pursue a pre @-@ med track . At the time of the disappearance , Dave Holloway was an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance in Meridian , Mississippi , while Beth Twitty was employed by the Mountain Brook School System .

= = Disappearance = =

On Thursday , May 26 , 2005 , Holloway and 124 fellow graduates of Mountain Brook High School , located in a wealthy suburb of Birmingham , Alabama , arrived in Aruba for a five @-@ day , unofficial graduation trip . The graduates were accompanied by seven chaperones . According to teacher and chaperone Bob Plummer , the chaperones met with the students each day to ensure nothing was wrong . Jodi Bearman , who organized the trip , stated , " the chaperones were not supposed to keep up with their every move " . Police Commissioner Gerold Dompig , who headed the investigation from mid @-@ 2005 until 2006 , described the behavior of the Mountain Brook students , stating there was " wild partying , a lot of drinking , lots of room switching every night . We know the Holiday Inn told them they weren 't welcome next year . Natalee , we know , she drank all

day every day . We have statements she started every morning with cocktails ? so much drinking that Natalee didn 't show up for breakfast two mornings " . Two of Holloway 's classmates , Liz Cain and Claire Fierman , " agreed that the drinking was kind of excessive " .

Holloway was last seen by her classmates leaving the Aruban bar and night club Carlos 'n Charlie 's around 1 : 30 a.m. on Monday , May 30 . Holloway left with 17 @-@ year @-@ old Joran van der Sloot , a Dutch honors student living in Aruba and attending the International School of Aruba , and his two Surinamese friends , 21 @-@ year @-@ old Deepak Kalpoe and 18 @-@ year @-@ old Satish Kalpoe , in Deepak Kalpoe 's car . Holloway , who had been scheduled to fly home later on May 30 , did not appear for her return flight , and her packed luggage and passport were found in her Holiday Inn room . Aruban authorities initiated searches for Holloway throughout the island and surrounding waters but did not find her .

= = Investigation = =

= = = Early investigation = = =

On May 30 , 2005 , immediately following Holloway 's missed flight , Jug and Beth Twitty traveled to Aruba with friends by private jet . Within four hours of landing in Aruba , the Twittys presented the Aruban police with the name and address of Van der Sloot as the person with whom Holloway left the nightclub . Beth Twitty has stated that Van der Sloot 's full name was given to her by the night manager at the Holiday Inn , who supposedly recognized him on a videotape . The Twittys and their friends , with two Aruban policemen , went to the Van der Sloot home looking for Holloway . Van der Sloot initially denied knowing Holloway 's name , but he then told the following story , with which Deepak Kalpoe , who was present , agreed : Van der Sloot related that they drove Holloway to the California Lighthouse area of Arashi Beach because Holloway wanted to see sharks , before dropping Holloway off at her hotel around 2 : 00 a.m. According to Van der Sloot , Holloway fell down as she exited the car but refused Van der Sloot 's help . He stated that she was then approached by a dark man in a black shirt similar to those worn by security guards as the young men drove away .

Searches for Holloway began immediately afterwards . Hundreds of volunteers from Aruba and the United States joined the search . During the first days of the search , the Aruban government gave thousands of civil servants the day off to participate in the search . Fifty Dutch marines conducted an extensive search of the shoreline . Aruban banks raised \$ 20 @,@ 000 and provided other support to aid volunteer search teams . Beth Twitty was provided with housing , initially at the Holiday Inn where she stayed in her daughter 's former room . She subsequently stayed at the nearby Wyndham Hotel 's presidential suite .

Reports indicate Holloway did not appear on any security camera footage from her hotel 's lobby during the course of the night ; however , Beth Twitty has made varying statements as to whether the cameras were actually working that night . According to an April 19 , 2006 , statement made by her , the security cameras at the Holiday Inn were not working the night Holloway vanished . Twitty has made other statements indicating that they were working , and has stated so in her book . In any event , according to Police Commissioner Jan van der Straten , initial head of the investigation until his 2005 retirement , Holloway did not have to go through the lobby to return to her room .

The search for physical evidence was extensive and , on occasion , subject to false leads ; for example , a possible blood sample taken from Deepak Kalpoe 's car was tested but determined not to be blood .

There was heavy involvement by American law enforcement from the early days of the investigation . United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated to reporters that the United States was in constant contact with Aruban authorities . Another State Department official indicated , " Substantial resources are being applied to this as they [ Aruba officials ] continue to ask for more " .

= = = 2005 arrests = = =

On June 5 , Aruban police detained Nick John and Abraham Jones , former security guards from the nearby Allegro Hotel which was then closed for renovation , on suspicion of murder and kidnapping . The initial reason for their arrests has never been officially disclosed ; however , according to news accounts , the Van der Sloot and Kalpoe statements may have been a factor in the arrests . Reports also indicate that the two former guards were known for cruising hotels to pick up women , and at least one of them had a prior incident with law enforcement . John and Jones were released on June 13 without being charged .

On June 9 , 2005 , Van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers were arrested on suspicion of kidnapping and murdering Holloway . Aruban law allows for arrest on serious suspicion from investigators ; to continue holding the suspect in custody , an increasing evidential burden must be met at periodic reviews . According to Dompig , the focus was on these three suspects from the " get @-@ go " . Aruba police corps chief Gerald Dompig stated that surveillance of the three began three days after Holloway was reported missing , and included surveillance , telephone wire taps , and even monitoring of their e @-@ mail . Dompig indicated pressure from Holloway 's family caused them to stop their surveillance prematurely and to detain the three suspects .

As the investigation continued , on June 11 , David Cruz , spokesman for the Aruban Minister of Justice , indicated that Natalee Holloway was dead and authorities knew the location of her body . Cruz later retracted the statement , saying he was a victim of a " misinformation campaign " . That evening , Dompig alleged to the Associated Press that one of the detained young men admitted " something bad happened " to Holloway after the suspects took her to the beach , and that the suspect was leading police to the scene . The next morning prosecution spokeswoman Vivian van der Biezen refused to confirm or deny the allegation , simply stating that the investigation was at a " very crucial , very important moment " .

On Friday , June 17 , a fourth person , later identified as disc jockey Steve Gregory Croes , was also arrested . Van der Straten told the media that " Croes was detained based on information from one of the other three detainees " . On June 22 Aruban police detained Paulus van der Sloot , Joran van der Sloot 's father , for questioning ; Paulus van der Sloot was arrested that same day . Both Paulus van der Sloot and Croes were ordered to be released on June 26 .

During this period the remaining detained suspects ' stories changed . All three suspects indicated that Van der Sloot and Holloway were dropped off at the Marriott Hotel beach near the fishermen 's huts . Van der Sloot stated that he did not harm Holloway , but left her on the beach . According to Satish Kalpoe 's attorney , David Kock , Van der Sloot called Deepak Kalpoe to tell the latter that he was walking home , and sent him a text message forty minutes later .

At some time during the interrogation Van der Sloot detailed a third account , that he was dropped off at home and Holloway was driven off by the Kalpoe brothers . Dompig discounted the story , stating :

This latest story [ came ] when [ Van der Sloot ] saw the other guys , the Kalpoes , were kind of finger @-@ pointing in his direction , and he wanted to screw them also , by saying he was dropped off . But that story doesn 't check out at all . He just wanted to screw Deepak . They had great arguments about this in front of the judge . Because their stories didn 't match . This girl , she was from Alabama , she 's not going to stay in the car with two black kids . We believe the second story , that they were dropped off by the Marriott .

On Monday , July 4 , following hearings before a judge , Deepak and Satish Kalpoe were released , but Joran van der Sloot was detained for an additional sixty days .

= = = Continued search , suspects rearrested and released again = = =

On July 4 , the Royal Netherlands Air Force deployed three F @-@ 16 aircraft equipped with infrared sensors to aid in the search , without initial result . In March 2006 it was reported that satellite photos were being compared with photographs taken more recently ( presumably from the F @-@ 16s ) in an attempt to find unexpected shifts of ground that might be Holloway 's grave .

A small pond near the Aruba Racquet Club close to the Marriott Hotel beach was partly drained

between July 27 and 30 , 2005 , after an individual ( " the gardener " ) came forward . According to Jug Twitty , the gardener claimed to have seen Joran van der Sloot attempting to hide his face , driving into the Racquet Club with the two Kalpoe on the morning of May 30 between 2 : 30 a.m. and 3 : 00 a.m. Nancy Grace described the gardener as " the man whose testimony cracks the case wide open " . Another person , " the jogger " , claimed to have seen men burying a blonde @-@ haired woman in a landfill during the afternoon of May 30 . The police had searched the landfill in the days following Holloway 's disappearance . The landfill was searched three times after the jogger 's statements , including a search by the FBI with cadaver dogs . The searches were fruitless .

On July 25 , 2005 , the reward for Holloway 's safe return was increased from \$ 200 @,@ 000 to \$ 1 @,@ 000 @,@ 000 , with a \$ 100 @,@ 000 reward for information leading to the location of her remains . Following Holloway 's disappearance , a reward of \$ 50 @,@ 000 had been established for her return . In August 2005 , the reward for information as to her remains was increased from \$ 100 @,@ 000 to \$ 250 @,@ 000 .

The FBI announced that Aruban authorities had provided it with documents , suspect interviews , and other evidence . A group from the Aruban police and prosecutor 's office traveled to the FBI central laboratory at Quantico , Virginia , to consult with American investigators . After a piece of duct tape was found with strands of blond hair attached to it , samples were tested both at a Dutch lab and at Quantico . The FBI announced that the hair was not Holloway 's .

The Kalpoe brothers were rearrested on August 26 along with another new suspect . According to his lawyer , 21 @-@ year @-@ old Freddy Arambatzis was suspected of taking photographs of and having physical contact with an underage girl , an incident which allegedly occurred before the Holloway disappearance and in which Arambatzis 's friends Van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers were supposedly involved . Van der Sloot 's mother , Anita van der Sloot , stated , " It 's a desperate attempt to get the boys to talk . But there is nothing to talk about " . While no public explanation was then made for the Kalpoe rearrests , Dompig later said that it was an unsuccessful attempt to pressure the Kalpoe brothers into confessing .

On September 3 , 2005 , all four of the detained suspects were released by a judge despite the attempts of the prosecution to keep them in custody , on the condition that they remain available to police . On September 14 , all restrictions on them were removed by the Combined Appeals Court of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba .

In the months following his release , Joran van der Sloot gave several interviews , expanding upon his version of events , most notably a lengthy interview for Fox News , which aired over three nights in March 2006 . During the interview , Van der Sloot indicated that Holloway wanted to have sex with him , but he did not because he did not have a condom . Van der Sloot stated that Holloway wanted them to stay on the beach , but that he had to go to school in the morning . According to Van der Sloot , he was picked up by Satish Kalpoe at about 3 : 00 am , leaving Holloway sitting on the beach . In August 2005 , David Kock , Satish Kalpoe 's attorney , stated that his client had gone to sleep , and had not returned to drive Van der Sloot home . Van der Sloot stated he was somewhat ashamed to have left a young woman alone on the beach , albeit by her own request , and related that he was not truthful at first because he was convinced Holloway would soon turn up .

The FBI and Aruban authorities interviewed ( or in some cases , re @-@ interviewed ) several of Holloway 's fellow graduates in the United States in January 2006 . On January 17 , 2006 , Aruban police searched sand dunes on the northwest coast of Aruba in search of Holloway 's body , as well as areas close by the Marriott beach . Additional searches took place in March and April 2006 , without result .

Shortly before leaving the case , Dompig gave an interview to CBS correspondent Troy Roberts , which was broadcast on March 25 , 2006 . In that interview , Dompig stated that he believes Holloway probably died from self @-@ consumed alcohol and / or drug poisoning , was not murdered , and that someone later hid her body . Dompig also stated that Aruba had spent about \$ 3 million on the investigation , about 40 % of the police operational budget . Dompig indicated that there is evidence that points to possession ( though not necessarily use ) of drugs by Holloway . Members of her family have denied drug use by Holloway .

On April 11 , 2006 , Dave Holloway published his book recounting the search for his daughter , co @-@ authored with R. Stephanie Good and Larry Garrison , Aruba : The Tragic Untold Story of Natalee Holloway and Corruption in Paradise .

= = = 2006 arrest of new suspects , the Dutch take over the investigation = = =

On April 15 , 2006 , Geoffrey von Cromvoirt was arrested by Aruban authorities on suspicion of criminal offenses related to dealing in illegal narcotics that , according to the prosecutor , might have been related to the disappearance of Holloway . At his first court appearance , his detention was extended for eight days . However , Von Cromvoirt was released on April 25 , 2006 . In addition , another individual with initials " A.B. " was arrested on April 22 , 2006 , but was released the same day .

On May 17 , 2006 , another suspect , Guido Wever , the son of a former Aruban politician , was detained in the Netherlands on suspicion of assisting in the abducting , battering , and killing of Holloway . Wever was questioned for six days in Utrecht . While initially Aruban prosecutors sought his transfer to the island , he was instead released by agreement between the prosecutor and Wever 's attorney .

At Aruba 's request the Netherlands took over the investigation . A team of the Dutch National Police started work on the case in September 2006 following receipt of extensive case documentation in Rotterdam . On April 16 , 2007 , a combined Aruban ? Dutch team began pursuing the investigation in Aruba .

= = = Book , search , and inspection = = =

A book by Joran van der Sloot and reporter Zvezdana Vukojevic , De zaak Natalee Holloway ( The Case of Natalee Holloway ) was published , in Dutch , in April 2007 . In the book , Van der Sloot gives his perspective of the night Holloway disappeared and the media frenzy which followed . He admits , and apologizes for , his initial untruths , but maintains his innocence .

On April 27 , 2007 , a new search involving some twenty investigators was launched at the Van der Sloot family residence in Aruba . Dutch authorities searched the yard and surrounding area , using shovels and thin metal rods to penetrate the dirt . Prosecution spokeswoman Van der Biezen stated , " The investigation has never stopped and the Dutch authorities are completely reviewing the case for new indications " . A statement from the prosecutor 's office related , " The team has indications that justify a more thorough search " . Investigators did not comment on what prompted the new search , except that it was not related to Van der Sloot 's book . According to Paulus van der Sloot , " nothing suspicious " was found , and all that was seized were diary entries of him and his wife , and his personal computer ? which was subsequently returned .

According to Jossy Mansur , managing editor of Aruba 's Diario newspaper , investigators were following up on statements made during early suspect interrogations regarding calls made and emails sent between the Kalpoe brothers and Joran van der Sloot . He also said investigators could be seen examining a laptop at the house .

On May 12 , 2007 , the Kalpoe family home was subject to an " inspection " . The two brothers were detained for about an hour upon objecting to the entry by police and Dutch investigators , but were released when the authorities left . According to Kock , the brothers objected to the search because officials did not show them an order justifying the intrusion . A statement from Van der Biezen did not mention what , if anything , officials were searching for , but indicated nothing was removed from the home . A subsequent statement from Het Openbaar Ministerie van Aruba ( the Aruban prosecutor 's office ) indicated that the purpose of the visit was to " get a better image of the place or circumstances where an offense may have been committed and to understand the chain of events leading to the offense " .

= = = 2007 rearrests and re @-@ releases = = =

With Aruban investigators citing what was described as newly discovered evidence , Joran van der Sloot and Satish and Deepak Kalpoe were rearrested November 21 , 2007 , on suspicion of involvement in " manslaughter and causing serious bodily harm that resulted in the death of Holloway " . Van der Sloot was detained by Dutch authorities in the Netherlands , while the Kalpoe brothers were detained in Aruba . Van der Sloot returned to Aruba and was incarcerated .

In November 2007 , Dave Holloway announced a new search for his daughter , probing the sea beyond the original 330 @-@ foot ( 100 m ) depths in which earlier searches had taken place . That search , involving a vessel called the Persistence , was abandoned due to lack of funds at the end of February 2008 with nothing of significance found .

On November 30 , 2007 , a judge ordered the release of Satish and Deepak Kalpoe , despite attempts by the prosecution to extend their detention . The two brothers were released on the following day . The prosecution appealed the Kalpoes ' release . That appeal was denied on December 5 , 2007 , with the court writing , " Notwithstanding expensive and lengthy investigations on her disappearance and on people who could be involved , the file against the suspect does not contain direct indications that Natalee passed away due to a violent crime . " Van der Sloot was released without charge on December 7 , 2007 , due to lack of evidence implicating him as well as a lack of evidence that Holloway died as the result of a violent crime . The prosecution indicated it would not appeal .

On December 18 , 2007 , prosecutor Hans Mos officially declared the case closed , and that no charges would be filed due to lack of evidence . The prosecution indicated a continuing interest in the Kalpoes and Joran van der Sloot ( though they ceased to be legally suspects ) , and alleged that one of the three , in a chat room message , had stated that Holloway was dead . This was hotly contested by Deepak Kalpoe 's attorney , who stated that the prosecution , in translating from Papiamentu to Dutch , had misconstrued a reference to a teacher who had drowned as one to Holloway . Attorney Ronald Wix also stated , " Unless ( Mos ) finds a body in the bathroom of one of these kids , there 's no way in hell they can arrest them anymore . "

= = = Secret cameras , statements , and stories = = =

On January 31 , 2008 , Dutch crime reporter Peter R. de Vries claimed that he had solved the Holloway case . De Vries stated that he would tell all on a special television program on Dutch TV on February 3 . Beth Twitty 's attorney , John Q. Kelly , told ABC News that he had little faith that the supposed evidence would prove pivotal to the case of her daughter and suggested that it would be quickly debunked .

On February 1 , the Dutch media reported that Joran van der Sloot made a confession regarding the disappearance of Natalee Holloway . Later that day , Van der Sloot stated that he was telling the individual what he wanted to hear , and that he had no role in her disappearance . That same day , the Aruba prosecutor 's office announced the reopening of the case .

The broadcast aired February 3 , 2008 . The broadcast included excerpts from footage recorded from hidden cameras and microphones in the vehicle of Patrick van der Eem , a Dutch businessman and ex @-@ convict , who gained Van der Sloot 's confidence . Van der Sloot was seen smoking marijuana and stating that he was with Holloway when she began convulsively shaking , then became unresponsive . Van der Sloot stated that he attempted to revive her , without success . He said that he called a friend , who told Van der Sloot to go home and who disposed of the body . An individual reputed to be this friend , identified in the broadcast as Daury , has denied Van der Sloot 's account , indicating that he was then in Rotterdam at school .

The Aruban prosecutor 's office attempted to obtain an arrest warrant for Van der Sloot based on the tapes ; however , a judge denied the request . The prosecutor appealed the denial , but the appeal failed on February 14 , 2008 . The appeals court held that the statements on the tape were inconsistent with evidence in the case and were insufficient to hold Van der Sloot .

On February 8 , 2008 , Van der Sloot met with Aruban investigators in the Netherlands . Van der Sloot denied that what he said on the tape was true , stating that he was under the influence of marijuana at the time . Van der Sloot indicated that he still maintains that he left Holloway behind on

the beach .

In March 2008 , news reports indicated that the tables had been turned on Van der Eem , who himself was secretly taped after giving an interview for Aruban TV . Van der Eem , under the impression that cameras had been turned off , kept talking . Van der Eem disclosed that he had been a friend of Van der Sloot for years ( contradicting his statement on the De Vries show that he had met Van der Sloot in 2007 ) , that he expects to become a millionaire through his involvement in the Holloway case , and that he knew the person who supposedly disposed of Holloway 's body ? and that Van der Sloot had asked him for two thousand euros to buy the man 's silence . According to Dutch news service ANP , Van der Eem , who had already signed a book deal , " was furious " after learning of the taping , and " threatened " the interviewer , who sought legal advice . Van der Eem 's book Overboord ( Overboard ) , co @-@ written with E.E. Byars , was released ( in Dutch ) on June 25 , 2008 . Van der Eem was arrested on December 13 , 2008 in the Netherlands for allegedly hitting his girlfriend with a crowbar and engaging in risky driving behavior while fleeing police .

The De Vries broadcast was discussed in a seminar by Dutch legal psychologist Willem Albert Wagenaar , who indicated that the statements did not constitute a confession . Wagenaar criticized De Vries for broadcasting the material , stating that the broadcast made it harder to obtain a conviction , and had De Vries turned over the material to the authorities without broadcasting it , they would have held " all the trumps " in questioning Van der Sloot . Wagenaar opined that not only was the case not solved , it was not even clear that a crime had been committed . Professor Crisje Brants , in the same seminar , also criticized De Vries 's methods .

On November 24 , 2008 , Fox News aired an interview with Van der Sloot in which he alleged that he sold Holloway into sexual slavery , receiving money both when Holloway was taken , and later on to keep quiet . Van der Sloot also alleged that his father paid off two police officers who had learned that Holloway was taken to Venezuela . Van der Sloot later retracted the statements made in the interview . The show also aired part of an audio recording provided by Van der Sloot , which he alleged is a phone conversation between him and his father , in which the father displays knowledge of his son 's purported involvement in human trafficking . According to Mos , this voice heard on the recording is not that of Paulus van der Sloot ? the Dutch newspaper De Telegraaf reports that the ' father 's ' voice is almost certainly that of Joran van der Sloot himself , trying to speak in a lower tone . Paulus van der Sloot died of a heart attack on February 10 , 2010 .

On March 20 , 2009 , Dave Holloway flew a search dog to Aruba to search a small reservoir in northern Aruba , previously identified by a supposed witness as a possible location of Natalee 's remains . Aruban authorities indicated that they had no new information in the case , but that Holloway had been given permission to conduct the search .

On February 23 , 2010 , it was reported that Joran van der Sloot had stated in an interview ( first offered to RTL Group in 2009 ) that he had disposed of Holloway 's body in a marsh on Aruba . New chief prosecutor Peter Blanken indicated that authorities had investigated the latest story , and had dismissed it . Blanken stated that " The locations , names , and times he gave just did not make sense " .

Underwater searches were conducted by Aruban authorities in March 2010 after an American couple reported that while snorkeling they had photographed what they thought might be human skeletal remains , possibly those of Holloway . Aruban authorities sent divers to investigate , but no remains were recovered .

= = = Van der Sloot 's extortion of money from Holloway 's family = = =

On March 29 , 2010 , Van der Sloot contacted John Q. Kelly , legal representative of Beth Twitty , with an offer to reveal the location of Holloway 's body and the circumstances surrounding her death for an advance of US \$ 25 @,@ 000 against a total of \$ 250 @,@ 000 . After Kelly notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation , they arranged to proceed with the transaction . On May 10 , Van der Sloot had \$ 15 @,@ 000 wire transferred to his account in the Netherlands , following the receipt of \$ 10 @,@ 000 in cash that was videotaped by undercover investigators in Aruba .

Authorities state that the information that he provided in return was false because the house in which he said Holloway 's body was located had not yet been built at the time of her disappearance . On June 3 , Van der Sloot was charged in the U.S. District Court of Northern Alabama with extortion and wire fraud . U.S. Attorney Joyce White Vance obtained an arrest warrant and transmitted it to Interpol . Van der Sloot was indicted on the charges on June 30 .

On June 4 , at the request of the U.S. Justice Department , authorities raided and confiscated items from two homes in the Netherlands , one of them belonging to reporter Jaap Amesz who had previously interviewed Van der Sloot and claimed knowledge of criminal activities by Van der Sloot . Aruban investigators used information gathered from the extortion case to launch a new search at a beach , but no new evidence was found . Dave Holloway returned to Aruba on June 14 to pursue possible new clues .

= = = Van der Sloot kills in Peru = = =

On May 30 , 2010 ? five years to the day after Holloway 's disappearance ? Stephany Tatiana Flores Ramírez , a 21 @-@ year @-@ old business student , was reported missing in Lima , Peru . She was found dead three days later in a hotel room registered in Van der Sloot 's name . Van der Sloot was arrested on June 3 in Chile and was extradited to Peru the next day . On June 7 , 2010 , Peruvian authorities said that Van der Sloot confessed to killing Flores Ramírez after he lost his temper because she accessed his laptop without permission and found information linking him to the disappearance of Holloway . Police chief Cesar Guardia related that Van der Sloot told Peruvian police that he knows where Holloway 's body is and offered to help Aruban authorities find it . However , Guardia stated that the interrogation was limited to their case in Peru , and that questions about Holloway 's disappearance were avoided . On June 11 , Van der Sloot was charged in Lima Superior Court with first @-@ degree murder and robbery . On June 15 , Aruban and Peruvian authorities announced an agreement to cooperate and allow investigators from Aruba to interview Van der Sloot at Miguel Castro Castro prison in Peru . In a September 2010 interview from the prison , Van der Sloot reportedly admitted to the extortion plot , stating : " I wanted to get back at Natalee 's family ? her parents have been making my life tough for five years . " Van der Sloot pleaded guilty to murdering Ramirez on January 11 , 2012 , and was sentenced to 28 years in prison .

On November 12 , 2010 , tourists found a jawbone on an Aruban beach near the Phoenix Hotel and Bubali Swamp . Aruban prosecutor Peter Blanken stated that a preliminary examination by a forensic expert on the island determined that the bone was from a young woman . A part of the bone was sent to The Hague for testing by the Netherlands Forensic Institute . On November 23 , 2010 , Aruba Solicitor @-@ General Taco Stein announced that , based on dental records , the jawbone was not from Holloway , and it was not possible to determine whether it had come from a man or woman .

= = = Holloway declared dead = = =

In June 2011 , Dave Holloway filed a petition with the Alabama courts seeking to have his daughter declared legally dead . The papers were served on his former wife , who announced her intention to oppose the petition . A hearing was held on September 23 , 2011 , during which Probate Judge Alan King ruled Dave Holloway had met the requirements for a legal presumption of death . On January 12 , 2012 , a second hearing was held , after which Judge King signed the order declaring Natalee Holloway to be dead .

= = Beth Twitty 's involvement = =

Beth Twitty has alleged in televised interviews that Joran van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers know more than they have told , and that at least one of them sexually assaulted or raped her daughter . Twitty stated that she received copies of police statements stating that Joran van der



Sloot admitted having sex with Holloway at his home and described intimate details of her . She has never released copies of the alleged statement , though she characterizes them as admissions of " sexual assault " and Vinda de Sousa , former Holloway ? Twitty family Aruban attorney , has indicated that no such admission was made . In addition , Dompig denied that any such statement was made , stating that Van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers consistently denied having sex with Holloway .

On June 12 , 2005 , three days after the arrest of Joran van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers , and in response to a nationally televised address by Aruba Prime Minister Nelson Oduber reaffirming Aruba 's commitment to solving the case , Twitty stated , " I 'm not getting any answers " . She added , " I don 't feel any further along than the day I got here " . Twitty stated that her complaints were not addressed specifically at the Aruban government , but arose from frustration at not knowing what happened to her daughter .

On July 5 , 2005 , following the initial release of the Kalpoe brothers , Twitty alleged , " Two suspects were released yesterday who were involved in a violent crime against my daughter " , and referred to the Kalpoe brothers as " criminals " . A demonstration involving about two hundred Arubans took place that evening outside the courthouse in Oranjestad in anger over Twitty 's remarks , with signs reading " Innocent until proven guilty " and " Respect our Dutch laws or go home " . On July 8 , 2005 , and after Satish Kalpoe 's attorney threatened legal action over Twitty 's allegations , which he described as " prejudicial , inflammatory , libelous , and totally outrageous " , Twitty read a statement that said her remarks were fueled by " despair and frustration " and that she " apologize [ d ] to the Aruban people and to the Aruban authorities if I or my family offended you in any way " .

Twitty was criticized for her focus on Joran van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers , to the exclusion of any other theory as to what happened to Holloway . According to the lawsuit filed by the Kalpoe brothers , she has ( on various television programs ) repeatedly accused them , and Joran van der Sloot , of " sexual assault " and " gang rape " of her daughter .

Twitty was also criticized for making what have been deemed to be inconsistent and contradictory statements ( for example , as to whether there were operating security cameras at the Holiday Inn ) . According to Julia Renfro , U.S.-born editor of the Aruban tourist @-@ oriented newspaper , Aruba Today , who befriended Twitty in the early days of the investigation , Twitty pandered to tabloid television and her " behavior was odd from the get @-@ go " . Renfro noted that " Twitty immediately concluded that her daughter had been kidnapped and made no effort to check hospitals or police " , adding that within a couple of days , after fixing responsibility on Joran van der Sloot , Twitty " was telling TV interviewers that she knew her daughter had been gang @-@ raped and murdered " .

Her book Loving Natalee : A Mother 's Testament of Hope and Faith , was published on October 2 , 2007 under the name " Beth Holloway , " which she resumed using following her December 2006 divorce from Jug Twitty .

What we want is , we want justice . And you know ? and we have to recognize the fact that , you know , this crime has been committed on the island of Aruba , and we know the perpetrators . We know it 's these suspects , Deepak and Satish Kalpoe and Joran Van Der Sloot . And you know , we just have to , though , keep going , Nancy , because the only way we will get justice for Natalee is if we do keep going . I mean , if we give up , absolutely nothing will happen . Nothing .

Following the airing of the De Vries program , Beth Holloway , adhering to the position that the tapes represent the way events transpired , told the New York Post that she believes her daughter might still be alive if Van der Sloot had called for help . She contends that Van der Sloot dumped Holloway 's body , possibly alive , into the Caribbean . Holloway also alleges that the individual Joran van der Sloot supposedly called that evening was his father , Paulus , who , according to Holloway , " orchestrated what to do next " . She , and Dave Holloway , alleged that Joran van der Sloot was receiving " special legal favors " . After the court decision not to rearrest Van der Sloot was affirmed , Beth Holloway stated , " I think that what I do take comfort in , his life is a living hell " , later adding , " I 'd be good with a Midnight Express prison anywhere for Joran . "

In response to her daughter 's disappearance , Beth Holloway founded the International Safe Travels Foundation , a non @-@ profit organization designed " to inform and educate the public to

help them travel more safely as they travel internationally ". She has marketed herself as a for @-@ fee speaker through the Nashville Speakers Bureau . In April 2010 , Holloway announced plans for a service called " Mayday 360 " , to intervene immediately when young people get into trouble overseas . She stated that if necessary , former federal agents with specific knowledge of a country could be dispatched there . In May 2010 , she announced that the Natalee Holloway Resource Center would open at the National Museum of Crime & Punishment . Located in Washington , D.C. , the center opened on June 8 to aid families of missing persons .

Though Beth Holloway made television appearances as new developments arose in the case , she is under FBI direction not to discuss her daughter 's case or that of Stephany Flores Ramírez .

= = Criticism of the investigation = =

The Twittys and their supporters criticized a perceived lack of progress by Aruban police . The Twittys ' own actions in Aruba were also criticized , and the Twittys were accused of actively stifling any evidence that might impugn Holloway 's character by asking her fellow students to remain silent about the case and using their access to the media to push their own version of events . The Twittys denied this .

While initially the Twittys discouraged a travel boycott of Aruba , this changed by September 2005 . Beth Twitty urged that persons not travel to Aruba and other Dutch territories because of what she stated were tourist safety issues . Alabama Governor Bob Riley , joined by the Twittys , urged Alabamians and others to boycott Aruba on November 8 , 2005 , in a news conference . Riley also wrote to other United States governors seeking their support ? the governors of Georgia and Arkansas eventually joined in the call for boycott . The Philadelphia , Pennsylvania , city council voted to ask the governor of Pennsylvania to call for a boycott . The governor did not join in the call for a boycott , and no federal support was given .

The boycott was supported by some of Alabama 's Congressional delegation , including both senators and Congressman Spencer Bachus ( R @-@ AL ) , who represents Mountain Brook . Senator Richard Shelby ( R @-@ AL ) voiced his support for the boycott in a letter to the American Society of Travel Agents . Shelby stated , " For the safety , security and wellbeing of our citizens , I do not believe that we can trust that we will be protected while in Aruba " . Prime Minister Oduber stated that Aruban investigators have done their best to solve the mystery , and responded to the call for boycott , " This is a preposterous and irresponsible act . We are not guerillas . We are not terrorists . We don 't pose a threat to the United States , nor to Alabama " .

Members of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association , the Aruba Tourism Authority , the Aruba Hospitality and Security Foundation , the Aruban Chamber of Commerce and government figures , including Public Relations Representative Ruben Trapenberg , formed an " Aruba Strategic Communications Task Force " to respond collectively to what they perceived to be unfounded and / or negative portrayals of the island . The group issued press releases and sent representatives to appear in news media . They joined the Aruban government in opposing the calls for a boycott of the island .

= = = Skeeters tape and Dr. Phil ; lawsuits = = =

On September 15 , 2005 , the Dr. Phil television show showed parts of a hidden @-@ camera interview with Deepak Kalpoe in which Kalpoe seems to answer " She did . You 'd be surprised how easy it was " to a suggestion that Holloway had sex with all three men . The taping had been instigated by Jamie Skeeters , a private investigator . When the tape was broadcast , news reports indicated an expectation of a rearrest , which Dompig termed a " strong possibility " if the tapes were legitimate .

Aruban police subsequently provided a fuller version of the relevant part of the tape in which Kalpoe 's response differed from the Dr. Phil version , apparently due to editing that may have altered the meaning of what was said . An unofficial Aruban @-@ affiliated spokesperson and commentator on the case said videotape showed Kalpoe had shaken his head and said " No , she didn 't . " , thereby

denying that Holloway had sex with him and the other two men . According to an MSNBC report , the crucial words are inaudible , and presenter Rita Cosby questioned if it could be substantiated that Kalpoe had ever made the statements attributed to him in the Dr. Phil version 's transcript of the secret recording .

In December 2006 , the Kalpoes filed a slander and libel suit against Dr. Phil and Skeeters ( who died in January 2007 ) in Los Angeles . Beth Twitty and Dave Holloway responded by filing a wrongful death lawsuit against the Kalpoes in the same venue . The wrongful death suit was dismissed for lack of personal jurisdiction on June 1 , 2007 ; the libel and slander case was initially set for trial on October 12 , 2011 but was later set for April 2015 . An earlier lawsuit had been filed in New York City by the parents against Paulus and Joran van der Sloot and served on them on a visit to New York . The case had been dismissed in August 2006 as filed in an inconvenient forum .

On November 10 , 2005 , Paulus van der Sloot won an unjust detention action against the Aruban government , clearing him as a suspect and allowing him to retain his government contract . The elder Van der Sloot then brought a second action , seeking monetary damages for himself and his family because of his false arrest . The action was initially successful , but the award of damages was reversed on appeal .

= = = Amigoe article = = =

The Amigoe reported on interviews with Renfro and Dompig in which they said that Aruban authorities had been systematically obstructed in their investigation by US officials . They also said that within a day of Holloway being declared missing , a medjet , unauthorized by Aruban authorities , had arrived on Aruba and had remained for several days for the purpose of covertly taking Holloway off the island without notifying local authorities . Renfro also said she and Beth Twitty received a phone call from an unknown woman on June 2 , 2005 asking for money in return for her giving Holloway 's location , and asserting that Holloway was unwilling to return to her mother . According to Renfro , she and another American went to a drug house where Holloway supposedly was , bringing money , but found that Jug Twitty had already been to the area , spreading " a lot of uproar and panic in the direct vicinity " , and nothing could be accomplished . The Twittys disputed Renfro 's accounts , Beth describing Renfro as " a witch " .

= = = Film adaptation = = =

On April 19 , 2009 , Lifetime Movie Network aired Natalee Holloway , a television film based on Beth Holloway 's book Loving Natalee . Starring Tracy Pollan as Beth Holloway @-@ Twitty , Grant Show as George " Jug " Twitty , Amy Gumenick as Natalee Holloway and Jacques Strydom as Joran van der Sloot , the film retells events leading up to the night of Holloway 's disappearance in 2005 , and the ensuing investigation in the aftermath . It was shot in South Africa .

The movie does not solve the case , but stages re @-@ creations of various scenarios , based on the testimony of key players and suspects , including Van der Sloot . The broadcast of the film attracted 3 @. @ 2 million viewers , garnering the highest television ratings in the network 's 11 @-@ year history . Although it set ratings records for Lifetime , the movie received mixed reviews from critics . Alec Harvey of The Birmingham News called the movie " sloppy and uneven , a forgettable look at the tragedy that consumed the nation 's attention for months " . However , Jake Meaney of PopMatters found the film to be surprisingly " calm and levelheaded " , and praised Tracy Pollan 's portrayal of Holloway 's mother . A follow up film , Justice for Natalee Holloway , aired in mid @-@ 2011 on the Lifetime Movie Network . This film picks up in 2010 , on the five year anniversary of Natalee 's disappearance . It continues to center on the investigation and what exactly happened to the Alabama teen .

= = Media coverage = =

U.S. television networks devoted much air time to the search for Holloway , the investigation of her

disappearance , and rumors surrounding the case . Greta Van Susteren , host of Fox News Channel 's On the Record , and Nancy Grace on her eponymous Headline News program were among the most prominent television personalities to devote time to the incident . Van Susteren 's almost continuous coverage of the story caused On the Record to get its best ratings to date , while Grace 's show became the cornerstone of the new " Headline Prime " block on Headline News , which ran two episodes ( a live show and a repeat ) every night during prime @-@ time . As the case wore on , much of the attention was given to Beth Twitty and her statements . Aruban government spokesman Ruben Trapenberg stated , " The case is under a microscope , and the world is watching . "

The saturation of coverage triggered a backlash among some critics who argued that such extensive media attention validates the " missing white woman syndrome " theory , which argues that missing @-@ person cases involving white women and girls receive disproportionate attention in the media compared with cases involving white males or people of color . CNN ran a segment criticizing the amount of coverage their competitors gave to the story despite what they characterized as a lack of new items to report , with CNN news anchor Anderson Cooper calling the coverage " downright ridiculous " .

Early in the case , political commentator and columnist Arianna Huffington wrote , " If you were to get your news only from television , you 'd think the top issue facing our country right now is an 18 @-@ year @-@ old girl named Natalee who went missing in Aruba . Every time one of these stories comes up , like , say , Michael Jackson , when it 's finally over I think , what a relief , now we can get back to real news . But we never do . "

In March 2008 , El Diario commented , " But if doubts persist about cases involving missing Latinas , there are reasons why . These cases rarely receive the attention and resources we see given to other missing persons . The English @-@ language media , for example , appear to be focused on the stories of missing white women , such as with the disappearance of Natalee Holloway in Aruba . Cases of missing Latina and African American women often remain faceless , when they are even covered . "

CBS senior journalist Danna Walker stated , " There is criticism that it is only a story because she is a pretty blonde ? and white ? and it is criticism that journalists are taking to heart and looking elsewhere for other stories . But it is a big story because it is an American girl who went off on an adventure , and didn 't come back . It is a huge mystery , it is something people can identify with . "

Good Morning America anchor Chris Cuomo was unapologetic of his program 's extensive coverage of the Holloway case . " I don 't believe it 's my role to judge what people want to watch ? If they say , ' I want to know what happened to this girl ' ? I want to help them find out . "

Holloway 's family , however , instead criticized the lessening of coverage of the young woman 's disappearance . The saturation coverage of Holloway 's disappearance by the American media was largely eclipsed in late August 2005 by Hurricane Katrina . Beth Twitty and Dave Holloway alleged that Aruba took advantage of the extensive coverage of the hurricane to release the suspects . However , the deadline for judicial review of Joran van der Sloot 's detention was set long before the hurricane .

Lamented Dave Holloway in his book ,

Hurricane Katrina had left the door open for the boys to be sent on their way with little publicity and few restrictions because it took the world 's focus off of Natalee , but only for a brief time . The huge amount of publicity had waned and , during that time of quiet for us , Joran and the Kalpoe brothers were sent home ... All of the news shows that had followed our every move only a day before had now become fixated on the next big ratings grabber : the victims of Hurricane Katrina .