

Police and Prosecutor Still To Decide on Recourse of Missing American --- *Husband says no News---*



Leta Lynn Cordes

Philipsburg: --- There is no word from the police department concerning the missing 49 year old American Leta Lynn Cordes who vanished on January 11 2008. Even though Chief Police Spokesman Johan Janchi Leonard initiated a search which took place on Sunday for the woman, police is still not releasing information as to what they have gathered during their investigation during the past three weeks.

In an invited comment Chief Prosecutor Taco Stein said that he has to discuss with the police sometime today to see what other recourse they would take since they still don't know what happened to Leta Lynn Cordes. Frank Cordes who rarely speaks to local media was questioned on three occasions but so far the police have not declared the man a suspect into his wife disappearance since they said there is no evidence to suggest that a crime has been committed.

Cordes in an interview with SMN News yesterday said he has no news on his wife's whereabouts. The man said he went to California last week where he intended to spend two weeks but returned to the island within three days time simply because he could not stand being away from the place his wife went missing. He said he had to do business there and felt that he would feel at ease since he is stressed out on all that has been happening since his wife disappearance. He insisted that even though his wife disappeared he still does not feel St. Maarten is a bad island. "This is the reason Leta and I bought a house here a year ago, we strongly believe St. Maarten is a great island and even if some one took his wife that does not represent the entire island." Cordes said that many things he said to the media never made it in the newspaper simply because media house concise information.

Cordes said that he never painted St. Maarten black neither does he think the island and its people are bad. Clearing up earlier statements made to SMN News Cordes said he did not drive his wife to Westin that night instead he said he offered to drop her there but Leta he said refused his offer, he said that this is not the first time his wife walked to the Westin because she did so in December along with another friend. Cordes said on that December night his wife had an altercation with a man who had five dogs. He said that he is bombarded with accusations that suggests that he is involved in the disappearance of his wife something he said is very distressing.

Frank Cordes expressed his appreciation to the island people for all they are doing to find his missing wife. Especially on Sunday when many volunteers went out in large numbers to search for the woman. In the meantime, the distraught husband has retained the services of a local law firm to seek the release of all statements he made to the police. He said he is also trying to see if he could get the surveillance tapes from Westin casino which police claim they reviewed. Cordes said all he wanted is to make sure he and other independent persons get the opportunity to review the tapes. The man said that he is concerned because he was told that his wife had an altercation while in the casino the night she went missing and that claim was later refuted by Westin management. Another concern for Cordes is that in earlier police releases they claim that Leta Lynn Cordes was seen entering the casino but after that the police changed their statements.

Friends of Cordes said that they know the woman well and acknowledged she was having problems in her marriage and may have left her home, but these people who are speaking anonymously said that the woman would never stay away this long without contacting her sons or close friends whom she has a good relationship with.

While the police are not saying anything about their investigations Police Spokesman Johan Janchi Leonard said that the search is continuing on a daily basis. He said that every day the police canine dogs are being used to search several locations but to no avail.