

'Dead' canoeist, wife disowned by sons

by UPI

HARTLEPOOL, England -- The sons of a British man and woman accused of faking his death have disowned their parents and been cleared as suspects by police. Police in the northeastern city of Hartlepool said Mark Darwin, 32, and his brother Anthony, 29, had been questioned during the weekend, Sky News reported Monday. "The result of these lengthy interviews was that there was nothing to suggest they are anything other than witnesses and, of course, victims in the case," a police spokeswoman said. Afterward, the brothers issued a statement disowning their parents, John And Anne Darwin over what prosecutors suspect was a scheme to claim insurance money on a staged death. "How could our mom continue to let us believe our dad had died when he was very much alive?" the brothers' statement said. Their father, 57, disappeared while canoeing in 2002, but photos of he and his wife surfaced and he turned up claiming to have amnesia. He is charged with dishonestly obtaining \$50,000 and making an untrue statement to procure a passport, while his wife is charged with taking more than \$300,000 in insurance claims.

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