

Family of student suspect defends her

by UPI

PERUGIA, Italy - The family of a young Seattle woman charged with killing her English housemate in Italy says she is innocent. Amanda Knox's parents and sister told the ABC news magazine "20/20" the story put together by Italian police about the death of Meredith Kercher does not match what they know. Deanna Knox said her sister, a student at the University of Washington, was determined to spend her junior year in Perugia. "She stayed home, studied and worked, and that's all she did, just so she could afford to go," she said. The family said Knox and Kercher appeared to get along well and enjoy doing things together. Investigators say Knox and her boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, an engineering student, killed Kercher after forcing her to participate in group sex and drug use. But some of the evidence appears to be breaking down, including claims that a knife from Sollecito's kitchen had Knox's DNA on the handle and Kercher's on the blade, the report said. Knox told police she returned home from spending the night with Sollecito to find Kercher's door locked. Police discovered the body after a neighbor found her cell phone in his yard.

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