

Police say accused killer did cartwheels

by UPI

PERUGIA, Italy - A U.S. woman accused of killing British student Meredith Kercher in 2007 did cartwheels after her arrest, an Italian court heard Friday.

In the Perugia trial of Amanda Knox and her Italian boyfriend, Raffaele Sollecito, a police official testified he was told the couple had been "sitting on each other's knees" at the police station after the arrest, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

"I was also told that Amanda did cartwheels and the splits in one of the rooms at the station, and that she started crying at the end of the interrogation," Domenico Giacinto Profazio said.

Both defendants claim they were at Sollecito's house on the night of the slaying.

Kercher, 21, was found semi-naked and with her throat slit in the house she shared in Perugia with Seattle-born Knox and two Italian women.

A third defendant, Ivory Coast national Rudy Guede, 21, was sentenced to 30 years for sexually assaulting and murdering the British exchange student at a separate trial in October.

The prosecution claims Kercher was killed when all three defendants tried to force her to participate in "a perverse group sex game." Prosecutors say Knox cut Kercher's throat while Sollecito and Guede held her down.

Knox, 21, and Sollecito, 24, also are charged with the theft of 300 euros, two credit cards and two mobile phones belonging to Kercher as well as faking a crime scene.

Their legal teams argue that Guede broke into the house and carried out the attack single-handedly while Knox and Sollecito spent the night at Sollecito's house.

Â© 2009 United Press International. All Rights Reserved.