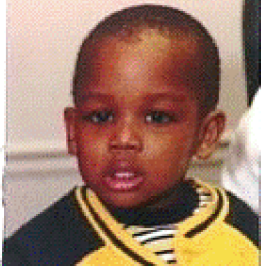


01/25/06

Mother Pleads for Missing Boy's Return



Ahmad King



Loved ones are passing out flyers.

Three-year-old Ahmad King is still missing. He disappeared more than 24 hours ago from his mother's car in the Jesup Wal-Mart parking lot off US Highway 84 in Wayne County. At this point, police do not have any specific leads and are still looking at a host of options, from the child simply wandering away to an actual abduction, either of which took place in the seconds his mother was away from the car.

Mary Jane King retraced her steps for us today--a short distance from her parking spot to the corral where she'd gone to get a buggy--wondering if she could have anything differently. "It's not like I just walked away and left him," she said. "I went right to get a buggy like I normally do."

But in the seconds it took her to do that, she says three-year-old Ahmad disappeared. King is certain this was a planned abduction. "I don't want to say that it's planned, but it just seems that way, for it to have happened so quick," she told us.

Store security cameras were too far away to see anything.

"We hope the public, somebody's going to come forward with some information that will give us a break," said Special Agent Greg Harvey with the GBI. "So far that hasn't happened. To be frank with you, we're very long on speculation and we're very short on facts."

As police continued to search, loved ones from Alma came to pass out flyers with Ahmad's image in the parking lot.

Meanwhile a mother's fear turned to desperation. "Just bring him back, please, just bring him back or just leave him with somebody," she said. "Leave him at a store, something. We just want him back."

We're expecting police and GBI agents to bring us an update this evening. We'll have the latest tonight on THE News at 11.

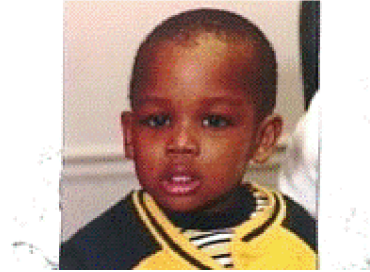
If anyone has information, they're asked to call the Jesup Police Department at 912.427.1300.

Reported by: Dal Cannady, dcannady@wtoc.com

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01/27/06

Ahmad King's Body Found, Mother Charged



Ahmad King



The search ended today with the discovery of the three-year-old's body.

State and local officers have some closure tonight in the case of a missing little boy. His mother, Mary Jean King, falsely reported Ahmad King missing from Jessup Tuesday night, then yesterday confessed to killing him.

Today investigators found his body after searching along Highway 121 near Highway 203 in Appling County, and charged his mother with his murder.

"Ahmad's body was located probably about five to six miles from where the search teams were actually, physically at today," said Special Agent Jeff Evans with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Investigators are not giving any details on what led them to that location.

This comes after a three-day search in Bacon, Wayne, and Appling Counties. Deputies and volunteers from three counties were already exhausted from a mission of search and rescue when it turned to recovery. They combed acres and acres looking for Ahmad's body.

"Trying not to leave any stone unturned," said Dep. Charlie Beach of Appling County during today's search, adding he was very optimistic they'd find him.

They searched from the air, on foot, and on paw. Cadaver dogs crisscrossed the rows of planted pines. "They're taught to range back and forth in front of us, so they can cover the area in front of us," said K-9 handler Angela Batten.

By mid afternoon, the army of searchers came out of the woods only after a find miles away, in the forest along Mars Road off of Highway 121. It was a heartbreaking discovery that meant the tragic search was finally over.

"Mary Jean King has been arrested and charged with murder in Bacon County and concealing the death in Appling County," said Agent Evans. "At this point, authorities have no reason to believe that anyone else is involved in the death or assisted in concealing Ahmad's body."

The body will be taken to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for an autopsy.
Reported by: Dal Cannady, dcannady@wtoc.com

Pasted from <<http://www.wtoctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=4421017>>

01/26/06

Mother of Missing Boy Confesses to Killing Him



Mary Jean King



Agents searched a wooded area of Appling County between Jesup and Alma this morning.

There's been a shocking arrest in the case of Ahmad King, the three-year-old reported missing from Jesup. Police now think his mother killed him. It all began around 4pm Tuesday afternoon in the Jesup Wal-Mart parking lot when Ahmad's mother reported him missing. Today, the investigation and search carried over into Bacon County, where authorities updated us on the case at the courthouse in Alma. Police say information they obtained in the Kings' house after a search and countless interviews with the parents have led to this arrest. They believe Mary Jean King, who adopted Ahmad just a few months ago, is guilty of his murder. King had pled for her son's kidnappers to return him safely ([Mother Pleads for Missing Boy's Return](#)). Now police say that was all a hoax to cover up another crime. They searched the family's Bacon County home today. "Pursuant to this action, warrants are pending against 34-year-old Mary Jean King for the offense of murder," said GBI agent Jeff Evans at the briefing in Alma today. Authorities now believe Ahmad was killed before King drove to Jesup and reported him abducted from a shopping center parking lot. They say she has confessed, but they haven't charged her yet. "Georgia law requires that a person arrested without a warrant can be charged at least within 48 hours," explained district attorney Rick Curry. "So we're still within our time frame."

Agents searched a wooded area of Appling County between Jesup and Alma this morning, where they believe King may have hidden the body.

"She's cooperating, she's upset," said Evans. "Somewhat relieved, she said."

At this point, they can't say why she would kill a child she and her husband have cared for for two years, and just adopted last fall. "They were very active in the community, as far as taking children in," said Evans. "This was not the first or one of the first children that they had taken into their home."

Three days of deceit and nonstop searching have made agents frustrated but determined.

"We're very physically tired, but we're not going to give up until we find the body," said Evans.

The GBI is still looking for the site where the body is hidden. They're asking for the public's help. Anyone who may have seen a gold Toyota Camry on Highway 203 Tuesday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm is asked to contact authorities in Bacon, Wayne, or Appling Counties.

Reported by: Dal Cannady, dcannady@wtoc.com

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