

## Currents halt Quincy quarry body search

By Dave Howland, Associated Press writer

Posted Nov 23, 1997 at 12:01 AM

Updated Jan 11, 2011 at 12:44 AM

QUINCY -- Currents stirring silty water deep inside Quincy's Granite Rail Quarry forced divers yesterday to suspend efforts to film and remove two bodies found more than 150 feet below the surface.

Standing under a cold mist at the edge of the graffiti-scared quarry, Norfolk County District Attorney Jeffrey Locke said one of the bodies appears to be that of a female homicide victim who divers began looking for more than a week ago.

"I'm not saying what that homicide case was," Locke said. "It appears the first body was the subject of our search."

Close by stood the family of Karen Hammond, a 21-year-old woman who disappeared near her home in the Dorchester section of Boston in January 1995.

"That may be our daughter down there, and we're going to be here until we find out one way or the other," said the woman's mother, also named Karen Hammond.

Authorities also have not identified the second body, found lying flat and partially covered by silt about 30 feet away from the first.

Locke refused to comment on published reports that the search was sparked by information from one of three men charged with the killing of a prostitute whose body was tossed into the same quarry.

In the fall of 1994, the body of Sonia Leal of Stoughton was found underwater on a quarry ledge, bound with rope and weighed down with cinder blocks.

Two men -- Kevin Lynch, 32, and Robert Larkin, 23, both of Quincy -- have been convicted of Leal's murder. The trial of a third suspect, 22-year-old Shawn Kane of Weymouth, has been delayed because of a plea agreement, according to court documents. Prosecutors would not comment on specifics of the agreement.

Divers yesterday turned back after reaching 130 feet because their visibility was obscured by silt,

according to John Perry Fish, a Cataumet oceanographer contracted to help with the search.

Fish said the water was also too murky to operate his company's small, unmanned submersible, equipped with a video camera.

Searchers came across the second body while using the machine to relocate the first, which had been marked using a rope anchored to the bottom. But currents moved the rope and its wooden anchor, leading searchers instead to the second body.

"It's not entirely clear whether it's a male or a female," Locke said. "It appeared to be partially clothed in some way."

The family of P.J. McDonagh, an Irish teen-ager who disappeared more than three years ago after leaving a Dorchester bar, also kept a vigil at the quarry. They believe his body is there, too.

Locke said investigators had hoped yesterday to videotape the first body. He said they would likely return Tuesday to continue working.

Because both bodies are partially decomposed and fragile, investigators will have to recover them carefully, perhaps using a mesh hammock, Locke said.



### **SIGN UP FOR DAILY E-MAIL**

Wake up to the day's top news, delivered to your inbox

---

### **MOST POPULAR STORIES**

