

Alleged Crime Scene Photos Leaked in van der Sloot Case

An unidentified source has leaked what are being identified as crime scene photos of Joran van der Sloot's hotel room in Lima, Peru, where he allegedly killed 21-year-old Stephany Flores. One image is said to show the bloodstained shirt police say he was wearing at the time of the murder; another shows Flores' blue tennis shoes, their laces covered in blood.

The grisly photos -- more than a dozen in all -- were obtained exclusively by [RadarOnline.com](#). Today one of the magazine's reporters, Alexis Tereszczuk, told [CNN's Nancy Grace](#) the photos had come from a source in Peru, but he declined to identify the source.

Flores, a Peruvian business student, was found dead in van der Sloot's hotel room on June 2, setting off a police manhunt that ended with the [arrest](#) of the 22-year-old Dutchman in Chile the following day. He was subsequently extradited to Peru and charged with first-degree murder and theft. If convicted, he faces 15 to 35 years in prison.

Van der Sloot is equally infamous for his longtime association with the disappearance of [Natalee Holloway](#), an 18-year-old Alabama woman who vanished on a trip to Aruba in 2005. She was last seen leaving a nightclub with van der Sloot, then a 17-year-old honors student living in Aruba. Her body has never been found.

[Steve Cron](#), a criminal defense attorney from Santa Monica, Calif., said the Flores crime scene photos were probably leaked by a police official -- a move he claims could eventually hinder the investigation.

"It's really unusual for a police department to put evidence like this out there," Cron told AOL News. "When something like this happens, you generally get people popping out from all over claiming to be a witness or trying to make a deal. And when they've seen the evidence, it makes their stories more difficult to dispute. It can really complicate things."

Cron also finds it unusual that Peruvian authorities have not issued a statement about the release of the images.

"It makes you wonder [whether] they are opposed to it," Cron said, adding, "Perhaps they are trying to inflame the passions of the people or attempting to show the world what a good job they are doing."

In his [alleged confession](#) to Peruvian police, van der Sloot said he elbowed Flores in the face and "grabbed her from the neck and strangled her for a minute." But Cron said the amount of blood seen on items in the photos is indicative of someone being "very brutal" with the victim.

Meanwhile, Joran van der Sloot's mother is expected to meet with her son today at Miguel Castro

Castro Prison, where he is being held. Anita van der Sloot has refused to discuss her son's arrest with the media. However, [ABC News](#) has obtained an e-mail that she reportedly sent to her son's ex-girlfriend, Melody Granadillo.

In the e-mail, Anita says her son is "not a murderer" and instead suggests he is being set up.

"He is not the monster they like the world to see," the e-mail reads. "He is traumatized, depressed and has an addiction. He is not a murderer. It stinks and feels like a big trap set up for him."

Tonight Granadillo herself will be [sharing details](#) about her romantic involvement with the Dutch murder suspect when she appears on ABC's "20/20." According to a promo for the show, Granadillo knew van der Sloot as a "personal prince charming."

"He was amazing. ... He was romantic," said Granadillo, 23. "It was very playful, very honest. We could sit and talk for hours. We liked looking into each other's eyes."