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Tuesday, September 6, 2005

*In the case of missing U.S. teen Natalee Holloway*

## Aruba's PM vows investigation 'will not cease'

*Joran van der Sloot leaves Aruba to study in Holland*

ORANJESTAD, Aruba - The prime minister of Aruba said Monday that the investigation into the disappearance of a U.S. teen "will not cease" despite the weekend release of the three suspects.

Prime Minister Nelson Oduber, who has previously said Aruban authorities made mistakes in the early part of the Natalee Holloway

investigation, added that he could appreciate the "dismay" of the missing teen's mother over the setback in the high-profile case.

"After a summer of investigation, searches, and extended detentions the case has not been solved. But, the case is not concluded. And we will continue to demand that the search for answers into what happened to Natalee will not cease," Oduber said in a statement released Monday.

The remarks from the prime minister, who is running for re-election this month, are the first since the release Saturday of Joran van der Sloot, an 18-year-old Dutch resident of the island, and two Surinamese brothers.

The prime minister has declined repeated requests for interviews about the Holloway case. "We want the Holloway-Twitty family

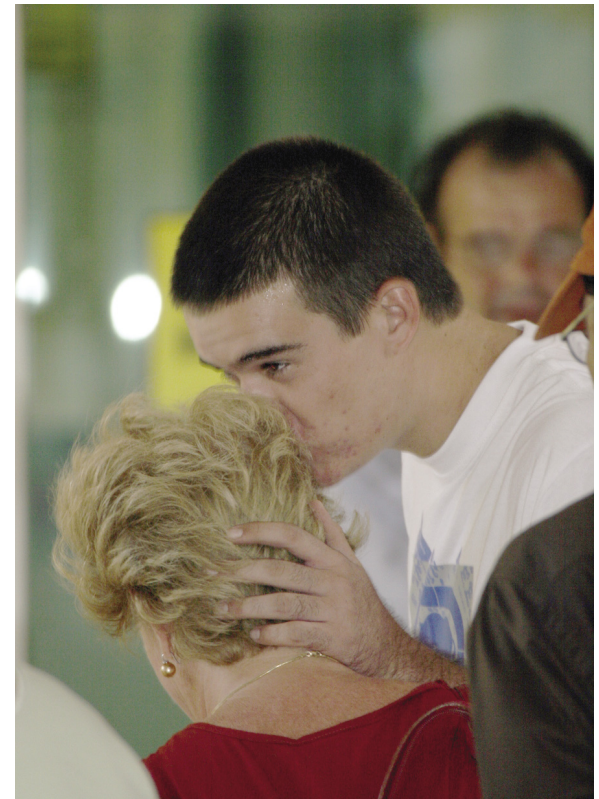
to know that we understand and share their dismay that they leave Aruba without the answers they so dearly want," Oduber said in the statement.

"I pledge to them that there will be a conclusion."

Holloway's mother, Beth Holloway Twitty, left Aruba for her home in Mountain Brook, Alabama on Sunday, saying she had "exhausted all my avenues" after pressuring authorities since shortly after the teen disappeared on the final day of a high school graduation trip to the Dutch Caribbean island.

Holloway was last seen leaving a bar with van der Sloot and the two brothers, Satish and Deepak Kalpoe early on May 30 - hours before she was the board a flight back home. Extensive searches of the island have failed to find any trace of her.

Her family has often been



Joran van der Sloot is pictured kissing his mother Anita just before departing for Holland last evening. After spending nearly 3 months in jail under suspicion in the disappearance of missing U.S. teen Natalee Holloway, Joran was granted permission from the Judge of Instruction to attend college in Holland.

*Aruba Today photo/Jason Inesia*

critical of local authorities, who did not detain van der Sloot and the Kalpoe brothers as suspects until 10 days after she was reported missing. Twitty said she would return to Aruba on Thursday to pack the remainder of her belongings, and will return to the island in the future, but would seek justice for her daughter from the United States.

"I will not be living in Aruba, but the Holloway-Twitty family will never leave Aruba without Natalee. This is not the end, it is just the beginning," she told The Associated Press by phone from the United States.

Parliamentary elections will be held Sept. 23, and Oduber's governing party stands to lose its slim majority in the face of growing discontent over the rising cost of living. The prime minister said he plans to make efforts to increase tourism and ensure that Aruba is "still a safe and hospitable place for visitors."

"The tragedy of one family's loss has touched all of us." Nevertheless, "we cannot delay the plans we have for Aruba's future. It is time to focus anew on the issues that will continue the economic growth of our country," Oduber said. □

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