

Bodies of 2 BBC Newsmen in Iraq Identified

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Nick Della Casa

Two bodies found in a remote area of northern Iraq last month have been identified as those of BBC journalists who disappeared along the Turkish-Iraqi border in March. A third member of the BBC team is still missing, and the British authorities say they have no definitive leads in the case.

The three were covering the Kurdish refugee crisis when they disappeared. They were last seen March 23.

The two bodies, found on May 23, have been identified as those of Nick Della Casa, 31 years old, and his brother-in-law, Charles Maxwell, 38.

British soldiers in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey are searching for the other member of the crew, Mr.

Della Casa's wife, Rosanna, 31.

After a British newspaper, The Guardian, reported last week that the journalists might have been shot while filming refugees at a camp under Turkish control, the Turkish Government issued a statement denouncing the paper for publishing "untrue news" and asked for a public apology.

Michael Robinson, a senior BBC editor, recently returned from what he described as an unsuccessful trip to Iraq in search of clues.

"There were so many rumors," Mr. Robinson said in a telephone interview. "We tried to follow up on every one, but we could not substantiate a single rumor."