

MISSING AUSTRALIAN KID MAY BE IN SINGAPORE, SAYS GRIEVING FATHER

An Australian father has sought the help of Crime Library (Singapore) to find his missing four-year-old son.

"He may be in Singapore with his mother," the father said in an email from Sydney. "Please help me to find him. "

Mr Ken Thompson, who is the Fire Brigade Deputy Commissioner of New South Wales, told the Singapore non-profit organization that his son Andrew has been missing since April 24 last year. He added that he has made appeals worldwide for information on his missing son and even posted a video on YouTube on the child.

According to Mr Thompson, his estranged wife Melinda Margaret Thompson flew out of Sydney with Andrew on a Singapore Airlines flight on April 24, 2008. "I have not heard of them since," he told Crime Library. "He has been snatched away from everything he knows and I fear for his safety."

He said Melinda took the SIA flight with Andrew to Frankfurt via Singapore. They disappeared in Frankfurt.

Mr Thompson said Melinda and Andrew could now be in Singapore as a number of letters and emails have been sent by her to family members in Australia from Singapore.

"Family members have told police that the letters give no information about Andrew's or his mother's whereabouts but indicate that Andrew has been enrolled in a pre-school or kindergarten," Mr Thompson said.

He added that it is possible Andrew's fair hair may have been dyed to disguise his identity.

He told Crime Library his wife is known to have visited Singapore previously and has friends in Singapore or Malaysia who could be helping her.

He said Andrew was flown out at a time when matters were before the Family Court of Australia. "This is a criminal offence in Australia and an arrest warrant has been issued for Melinda," he said. According to him, Interpol alerts have been issued for Andrew and his mother in 187 countries, including Singapore.

Mr Thompson told Crime Library the Family Court, in a rare move, had issued a publication order after Australian and German police exhausted their efforts to find Melinda, who may be using her maiden name of Stratton.

The court document warns anyone recognizing her or her son not to approach them as 46-year-old Mrs Thompson may pose a danger to herself and her young son. Anyone recognizing or seeing them have been asked instead to contact police.

Mr Thompson said the court gave the warning because of concerns raised in a report by a psychiatrist before Andrew's disappearance about the mental condition of Mrs. Thompson and potential for harm to Andrew or for self-harm to the mother.

Mr Thompson said he has been hurt terribly by the breakdown in 2007 of his six-year marriage and devastated by his son's disappearance. He said the kid was too young to probably know what was happening to him.

He described the emotional damage done to his son as "absolutely shocking." He also said he was particularly worried as he was unsure of his wife's mental stability.

He told Crime Library his estranged wife and Andrew are Australian citizens. Mrs. Thompson is fluent in German and French.

"I will be grateful for any information on my son," he said. "Please help me in any way you can."

Crime Library promised to give publicity to the case. "We will do whatever is possible to get information on the child," Crime Library chief Joseph Tan said, noting that his organization's mission was to offer help in such cases.

Since it was founded in 2001, Crime Library has been actively engaged in efforts to find children and others who go missing and reunite them with their loved ones.

Mr Tan can be contacted at 6293 5250.

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